



Consumer/Peer Research Network Development (CPRND) Project

“Creating a network ensuring principle involvement of persons with lived experience in mental health and substance use research”

Project Objective:

To enhance the capacity of consumer/peer researchers across Canada; to network with each other in meaningful research initiatives addressing significant mental health and substance use issues and by doing so, facilitate mutually beneficial relationships between community and academic researchers, and others interested in advancing mental health research.

Development Project Research Activities:

The early development work will include steps aimed at identifying international models as well as needs and preferences of Canadian key stakeholders for the establishment of a consumer/peer research network.

Project Participants:

Key stakeholder groups targeted are:

- individuals with lived experience who would like to become more involved in research as research personnel or participants
- researchers *with direct* lived experience of mental health issues from both academic and community settings
- researchers *without* lived experience or *with indirect* lived experience but with related research interests (e.g. participatory action research with people with lived experience, peer research processes)

Current Status/Next Steps:

- We are completing a summary of online Canadian and international consumer/peer mental health and substance use research initiatives;
- The above summaries, as well as input from the project committee, will be used to inform the development of key stakeholder interview schedules and survey questionnaires, as well as to compile a list of stakeholders in provinces and territories to contact over the next few months;
- We will be hosting a national visioning meeting at the November 2009 “*Into the Light: Transforming Mental Health in Canada Conference*” www.intothelightcanada.com, which along with the findings

from the key stakeholder interviews and survey questionnaires, will begin to inform a long term strategic plan.

Project Lead and Manager:

Elliott Goldner (Project Lead)

Brenda Jamer (Project Manager)

bjamer@mentalhealthcommission.ca

Timeline:

Focus groups and interviews. August/September 2009

Presentation of Research Findings. November 2009

National Visioning Meeting. November 2009

Development of Strategic Plan: January/February 2010

Launch of the Consumer/Peer Research Network: March 2010

ABOUT THE MHCC

The Mental Health Commission of Canada was established by the federal government in 2007 to focus national attention on mental health issues and to improve the health and social outcomes of people living with mental health and substance use issues. The MHCC has acknowledged the importance of including those with lived experience of mental health and substance use issues in research.

FOR MORE INFORMATION Visit the website:

<http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/Pages/Science.aspx> or contact **Brenda Jamer**
bjamer@mentalhealthcommission.ca

ABOUT THE CPRND PROJECT COMMITTEE

The Mental Health CPRND Project Committee is supported in its work by the MHCC Science Advisory Committee and is guided by a Project Committee that includes individuals who represent all of our target stakeholders, as well as representing important diverse perspectives. Project Committee Members include: Elliot Goldner (Project Lead) Susan Hardie (MHCC Associate Research Officer II), Barbara Brown, Carol Adair, Janice Popp, Crystal Hazen, Gillian Mulvale, Phil Upshall, Hajera Rostam, Jijian Voronka, Kwame McKenzie, Dave Gallson, Terri-Lynn Langdon, and Brenda Jamer (Project Manager).