



INSTITUTE OF
HEALTH ECONOMICS
ALBERTA CANADA

Alberta Government



Consensus Development Conference on IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH TRANSITIONS

NOVEMBER 4-6 2014

How can we improve community based care for those with mental illness? International experts will explore the following topics:

- The social, economic and legal consequences of severe and persistent mental illness
- Effectiveness of current interventions
- The role of primary care
- Information systems and tools
- International examples
- Further research requirements

www.transitions2014.ca

Improving Mental Health Transitions

The Transition of services for those with severe mental illness from institutions to the community: are the mentally ill being well served?

The last 50 years have seen the substantial elimination of mental hospitals, with care provided in the community and in general hospital settings in most Western countries. While this has also been a period of rapid pharmacological developments, the question remains of how best to serve both the patients and society in this rapidly changing system.

The reduction in the number of psychiatric beds, with a decreasing length of stay associated with some expansion of community services, has corresponded with growth in homelessness and incarceration in prisons with no improvement in outcome for people with schizophrenia, which has changed little with modern management. Despite the fact that mental illnesses account for up to 40% of disability in developed countries, in Canada only 5% the health budget is spent on mental health.

This deinstitutionalization (or as some refer to it, trans-institutionalization) has been a mixed blessing. Most people appreciate the additional freedom of being able to live in the community, but the anticipated improvement in outcomes is not being achieved. Increasing numbers of the mentally ill are to be found in the prisons and the homeless population. The recent evidence that the lives of those with schizophrenia, even when treated, are bleak, suggests that a review of the way in which we do things is in order.

This conference is a three-day juried hearing of evidence and scientific findings. It allows for the engagement and collaboration of experts, policy makers in government and the health system, and stakeholders in addressing key questions around community based care for adults with severe, persistent mental illness.



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This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and approved by the University of Calgary Office of Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development. Participants can claim up to a maximum of 13.5 study credits.

JURY CHAIR

Alain Lesage, MD, FRCPC (C), MPhil, DFAPA



Alain Lesage is currently a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Montréal. He is a scientist focusing much of his work around mental health and addiction services. He is also the medical director of the Mental Health Technology and Interventions Assessment Unit at the Institut universitaire en santé mentale de Montréal, and the Associate

Director of the Québec Research Network on suicide, mood disorders and associated disorders. He was formerly the Editor-in-Chief of Santé mentale au Québec, and was the past President of the Canadian Academy of Psychiatric Epidemiology. Lesage graduated in medicine from the University of Sherbrooke and completed his postdoctoral training at the Institute of Psychiatry and Maudsley Hospital in London, England; and the Istituto di psichiatria in Verona, Italy. He was an invited scholar at the Harvard School of Public Health in 2005 and has recently been invited to join the executive board of the European Network of Mental Health Service Evaluation (ENMESH). He continues to train the next generation of mental health and addiction researchers in collaboration with Quebec, Canadian and international colleagues. He is an active member on the Mental Health Commission of Canada Advisory Council.

Conference Venue

The Westin Edmonton
10135 100th Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 0N7

Registration Fees

All fees are in Canadian Funds

EARLY BIRD GROUP RATE (available until October 4, 2014 11:59:59 MST)
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SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE CHAIR

Roger C. Bland C.M. MB, ChB., FRCPC, FRCPsych



Rodger Bland is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Alberta and was Chair from 1990 to 2000. He completed medical training at Liverpool University in England followed by internships and then five years in general practice in England and in northern Manitoba before joining the psychiatry residency program at the University of Alberta. His research interests have included psychiatric epidemiology, the long-term outcome of mental disorders, familial distribution of disorders, suicidal behaviors and primary care mental health. He has held a number of administrative positions in mental health with the

Government of Alberta, including Assistant Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Medical Director with the Alberta Mental Health Board. Clinically he has worked in rehabilitation psychiatry, general hospital psychiatry, community clinics, primary care psychiatry, crisis services and diversion programs. He has received a number of awards including: the Michael Smith Award from the Schizophrenia Society of Canada; the Alberta Medical Association Medal for Distinguished Service, the Canadian Academy of Psychiatric Epidemiology and Canadian Psychiatric Associations' Alex Leighton Award in Epidemiology; and the Research Award of the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention. In 2012 the Governor General appointed him a member of the Order of Canada.

Advance Program

Day 1: Tuesday, November 4, 2014

7:30 am – 8:15 am **Continental Breakfast and registration**

8:15 am - 8:30 am - **Greetings from The Minister of Health**

8:30 am – 8:50 am **Opening Remarks - Roger Bland C.M. MB, ChB., FRCPC, FRCPsych
Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychiatry, University of Alberta
*Mental health transitions; an overview***

8:45 am – 9:50 am **Question 1: What is severe and persistent mental illness
(SPMI) and it's social and economic consequences?**

• **What is the magnitude of the problem?**

*Scott Patten MD, FRCP(C), PhD
Professor, University of Calgary, AB*

• **Living with mental illness; a personal perspective.**

*Austin Mardon PhD, CM, LLD(Hon.)
Assistant Adjunct Professor, John Dosssetor Health Ethics Centre, University of Alberta,
Edmonton, AB*

Question time

9:50 am – 10:10 am **Break**

10:10 am – 11:40 am **Question 1 (continued)**

• **Social impacts of mental illness on individuals and families**

*Sara Lapsley
Counsellor, Group Clinician and Peer Support Co-ordinator, Forensic psychiatric
Hospital, BC*

• **What are the connections between mental illness and homelessness?**

*Tim Aubry PhD, MA, BA
Chairholder, Faculty of Social Sciences Research Chair in Community Mental Health
and Homelessness; Professor, School of Psychology and Senior Researcher, Centre for
Research on Educational and Community Services, University of Ottawa, Ontario*

• **Implications of mental illness for corrections**

*Howard Sapers
Correctional Investigator of Canada, Office of the Correctional Investigator,
Ottawa, Ontario*

Panel Question time

Advance Program

11:40 am – 12:40 pm **Lunch**

12:40 pm – 2:40 pm **Question 2: What is the effectiveness of current interventions to improve mental health transitions?**

- **Outcomes of long term medications.**

Thomas Raedler MD

Associate Professor, University of Calgary, Alberta

- **How effective are psychosocial interventions?**

Thomas Becker

Medical Director & Chairman, Department of Psychiatry II, Ulm University, Germany

- **How effective are psychological therapies?**

Philippa Garety MA, MPhil, MA(Ed), PhD, FBPSS

Professor of Clinical Psychology, Clinical Director, Psychosis Clinical Academic Group (CAG), South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, United Kingdom

- **The role of Assertive Community Treatment.**

Gerrit van der Leer

Director, Mental Health and Addictions, Ministry of Health Services, British Columbia

- **Community Crisis care in England and Wales: evidence and implementation**

Dr. Oliver Mason,

Senior Lecturer in Clinical Psychology, University College London

Panel question time

2:40 pm – 3:00 pm **Break**

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm **Question 3: What is the evidence for the role of other support systems, including primary care in effective interventions?**

- **What are the alternatives to hospital care for people with SPMI?**

Richard Warner MB, DPM

Professor of Psychiatry and Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado

- **Integrating Crisis and ACT teams.**

Dan Cohen MD PhD

Department Chronic Psychiatry, Mental Health Care North-Holland North, Heerhugowaard, The Netherlands

Advance Program

- **How can family physicians best support people with SPMI in the community?**

Linda Gask

Professor of Primary Care Psychiatry, National Primary Care Research and Development Centre (NPCRDC), University of Manchester, UK.

- **How have Mental Health Courts, Diversion Programs, and alternative sentencing been able to assist people with mental illness?**

Richard Schneider BSc, MA, PhD, LLB, LLM, CPsych,

Adjunct Professor, University of Toronto, Ontario

- **What role do non-government organisations play in effective support systems?**

Orrin Lyseng

Executive Director, Alberta Alliance for Mental Illness and Mental Health (AAMIMH), Edmonton, AB

Panel question time

5:00 pm **Closing Remarks**

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Reception**

[Day 2: Wednesday, November 5, 2014](#)

7:30 am – 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast and Registration**

8:30 am - 8:45 am **Opening Remarks**

8:45 am – 10:40 am **Question 4: What are the effective systems for supporting people with severe and persistent mental illness?**

- **Long-term mental health care: for whom, how and where?**

Giovanni de Girolamo MD, PhD

Department of Mental Health, AUSL di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

- **What is the role of Federal Government in planning and funding mental health strategies?**

Steve Lurie, BA, MSW, MM

Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association Toronto Branch, Ontario

Advance Program

- **How important is continuity of care and integration in the provision of effective support?**

Carol Adair, MSc, PhD

Associate Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary, Alberta

- **What are the effects of supported employment strategies for people with mental illness?**

Eric Latimer , PhD

Researcher, Douglas Institute and Professor, Department of Psychiatry, McGill University, Quebec

Panel Question time

10:40 am – 11:00 am **Break**

11:00 am – 12:30 pm **Question 5: What information tools are required for high quality system management?**

- **Basic support decision tools for mental health system improvement**

Luis Salvador- Carulla, MD, PhD

Professor of Disability and Mental Health, The University of Sydney, Australia

- **The use of information systems for improving quality of care in severe mental illness.**

Antonio Lora , MD

Mental Health Department, Lecco General Hospital, Lecco, Italy

- **What are the most effective forms of knowledge transfer to improve quality of care?**

Elliot Goldner , MD, FRC(P), MHSc

Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia

Question time

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm **Lunch**

Advance Program

1:30 pm – 2:40 pm **Question 5 (continued)**

- **Financial incentives - the role of provider payment mechanisms in relation to the quality of mental health care.**

Heinz Katschnig, MD

Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry, Medical University of Vienna, and CEO, IMEHPS. research, Vienna, Austria

- **A road map for mental health research.**

David McDaid

Research fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK

Panel question time

2:40 pm – 3:00 pm **Break**

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm **Question 6: What further research is needed?**

- **Introduction and Chair Discussion**

Jitender Sareen, Professor of Psychiatry, Professor of Psychology & Community Health Sciences; Director of Research and Anxiety Services, University of Manitoba

Panel Discussion

What are the priorities for research and spending in this field?

4:00 pm **Closing remarks and summary of days proceedings**

Day 3: Thursday, November 6, 2014

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast and registration
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Reading of the draft Consensus Statement
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Open discussion
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Break
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Jury Chair Final Comments
11:15 am – 11:30 am	Closing Remarks
11:30 am	END OF THE CONFERENCE
11:30 am	News conference/Media availability

Accommodations and Travel

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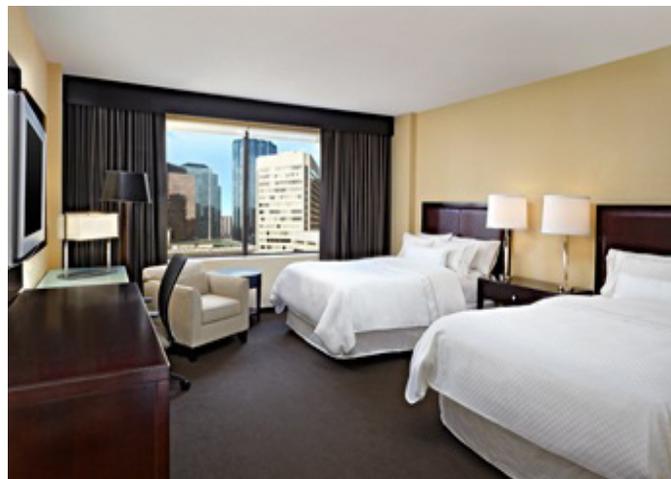
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Accommodations and Travel

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For further information on the hotel, please go to the main hotel website: www.thewestinedmonton.com

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Scientific Chair



Roger C. Bland C.M. MB, ChB., FRCPC, FRCPsych

The last 50 years have seen the substantial elimination of mental hospitals with care provided in the community and in general hospital settings in most Western countries. While this has also been a period of rapid pharmacological developments, the question remains of whether patients are better served in this system (or non-system) of community care.

To provide some background, we looked at the number of beds available for the mentally ill in Canada over recent times, at reports regarding the growth of homelessness, the increase of the mentally ill in the prison system and the outcome for people with severe persistent mental illness.

We found that Canada has had a massive reduction in the number of psychiatric beds per thousand population with a decrease in the length of stay. There has been considerable expansion of community services, but also a growth in homelessness and incarceration in prisons. Unfortunately there has been no corresponding improvement in outcome for people with schizophrenia, for which the outcome has changed little with modern management. Despite the fact that mental illnesses account for up to 40% of disability in developed countries, in Canada only 5% the health budget is spent on mental health.

We conclude therefore that deinstitutionalization has been a mixed blessing. Most people appreciate the additional freedom of being able to live in the community, but the anticipated improvement in outcomes is not being achieved. The recent evidence that the lives of many of those with schizophrenia, even when treated, are bleak, suggests that a review of the way in which we do things is in order. Our home Canadian province of Alberta can serve as a good example: oil-revenue fed comprehensive health-care system, relatively advanced ideas, and inexpensive (for the patient) treatment, and an income support system to ensure, at least, a minimum level of food and housing. Nonetheless, our long term follow up data, drawn from residents of Alberta shows that, once diagnosed, over half of the people with schizophrenia can expect a life characterized by moderate to severe symptoms and disability.

This Consensus Development Conference brings together a substantial number of speakers from a wide variety of countries who have experience of both the problems and potential solutions to the problems being experienced both by those with severe persistent mental illness and the systems that are intended to help them. It is hoped that their collective wisdom of the speakers, the insights of the jury and the audience questions can lead to clear directions about the best path to follow and that this will help guide policymakers, administrators, clinicians and last but not least, consumers and family members in ensuring the best services and programs with the available funding.

The Jury



Chair - Alain Lesage, MD

FRCP (C), MPhil, DFAPA

Alain Lesage is currently a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Montréal. He is a scientist focusing much of his work around mental health and addiction services. He is also the medical director of the Mental Health Technology and Interventions Assessment Unit at the Institut universitaire en santé mentale de Montréal, and the Associate Director of the Québec Research Network on suicide, mood disorders and associated disorders. He was formerly the Editor-in-Chief of Santé mentale au Québec, and was the past President of the Canadian Academy of Psychiatric Epidemiology. Lesage graduated in medicine from the University of Sherbrooke and completed his postdoctoral training at the Institute of Psychiatry and Maudsley Hospital in London, England; and the Istituto di psichiatria in Verona, Italy. He was an invited scholar at the Harvard School of Public Health in 2005 and has recently been invited to join the executive board of the European Network of Mental Health Service Evaluation (ENMESH). He continues to train the next generation of mental health and addiction researchers in collaboration with Quebec, Canadian and international colleagues. He is an active member on the Mental Health Commission of Canada Advisory Council.



Katherine Aitchison BA(Hons), BM BCH, FRCPsych, PhD.

Alberta Centennial Addiction & Mental Health Research Chair

Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Medical Genetics, University of Alberta

Dr. Aitchison serves as an Alberta Centennial Addiction & Mental Health Research Chair. She is Professor of Psychiatry and an Adjunct Professor of Medical Genetics at the University of Alberta, and a Consulting Psychiatrist with the Edmonton Early Psychosis Intervention Clinic. She obtained her BA and BM BCH (MD equivalent) from the University of Oxford, psychiatry specialist training from the Maudsley Hospital, and PhD (Wellcome Trust funded) in pharmacogenetics from King's College London. The latter included a Travelling Fellowship to the National Institutes of Health and the University of Colorado (USA). Her Chair program of work is in Mental Illness and Addictions, with a secondary focus on Suicide Prevention: translational medicine, in order to lead change and support evidence-based practice, resulting in health care innovations. Her publication areas include human genetics, pharmacogenetics, psychopharmacology, and mental health outcomes. She coauthored a book entitled "First Episode Psychosis" that has been used worldwide and translated into Korean; a updated handbook intended for a wide range of readers including carers is in progress. Dr Aitchison served on the Faculty of King's College London from 2001-2011, and joined the Faculty of the University of Alberta in September 2011. She co-led a multicentre international pharmacogenetic study (GENDEP), a Workpackage on establishing biological sampling methods for children and adolescents for the STOP grant (<http://www.stop-study.com/>), and serves on Committees including the Canadian Scientific Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse, the Alberta Psychiatric Association Executive Committee, and previously served on the AHE Health Quality Council of Alberta Initiative Steering Committee.



Rupert Arcand

Rupert Arcand is Cree and comes from the Alexander First Nation in Central Alberta. Rupert is a pioneer in the area of Native men's issues and is currently the Executive Director of the Yellowhead Tribal Council Justice Society. Rupert has worked extensively in communities across Canada and the United States, in both Native and Non-native environments. In the last number of years his work has been in the area of restorative justice. Rupert has considerable experience working in the healing field, specializing in areas of Adult Children of Alcoholics, Community Development, Life Skills, and Relationship Building.



Dr André Delorme

Dr André Delorme is a psychiatrist and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He is National Director of Mental Health for the Ministry of Health and Social services of Quebec. He was previously Head of the psychiatry department at the Montreal University Health Center and medical director of the Granby Hospital. He still works as a clinician in a PACT team which offers treatment and rehabilitation to schizophrenic and bipolar patients. Dr Delorme produced the Quebec Mental Health Plan of Action in 2005. This plan followed and built on a major overhaul of the public health network by the provincial government introducing a new organization of primary care

The Jury

facilities across the province. It also promotes a model of care shared between family doctors, mental health primary care professionals and secondary care mental health specialists. This new network should have a major impact on mental health promotion and service delivery.



Dr. David Goldbloom Dr. Goldbloom was born in Montreal and raised in Quebec and Nova Scotia. He completed an honours degree, majoring in Government, at Harvard University and then attended the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar where he obtained an M.A. in Physiological Sciences. He trained in medicine and psychiatry at McGill University and is a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. Dr. Goldbloom's activities have been recognized and awarded by his peers and students. He has authored numerous scientific articles and book chapters and has provided talks and lectures to student, professional and public audiences. He maintains an active clinical and teaching role at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health where he serves as Senior Medical Advisor. He is also Chair of the Mental Health Commission of Canada. In addition to his professional activities, Dr. Goldbloom is

immediate past Chair of the Board of Governors of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival of Canada. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada.



Kaj Korvela

Kaj Korvela (BA Art History; BA Fine Arts; BA Education) is Executive Director (2003-present) of the Organization for Bipolar Affective Disorder, a consumer driven non-profit that focuses on mood disorders with a particular emphasis on bipolar disorders, as well as a board member/coach and mentor for Opportunity Works, a non profit providing entrepreneurship skills to mental health consumers. He is active in the mental health community including Alberta Health Services (AHS) Strategic Clinical Network, Alberta Alliance for Mental Illness and Mental Health, AHS Patient Engagement Reference Group, Calgary Mental Health Network and the Mental Health Housing Sector. A successful fundraiser through appeal to private and corporate patrons, gaming and other events Kaj is an advocate for

the mentally ill through public events and presentations, community consultation and promotion. He also produces educational materials, including the widely recognized and employed "A Guide to Recovery". Research affiliations and designations include national and international CDRIN, CREST BD - Psychosocial issues in Bipolar Disorders, Certified Peer Specialist, Kaj is also affiliated with Calgary Association of Self Help. As a practicing fine artist, Kaj maintains a studio from his home base in Calgary and is a supporter of Catalyst Contemporary Art, Calgary Philharmonic and local arts groups. He is winner of the 2014 Lt. Governor's True Grit Award.



Gloria Laird

Gloria Laird is a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta and is one of the Elders for the Métis Regional Council, Zone 4. She has one son and two beautiful granddaughters who live at her home part time. She was appointed and served on 3 different Mental Health Boards for the Province of Alberta, advocating for Aboriginal Services within the Mental Health System. At the end of her 6th year and last term, the Board appointed a Wisdom Committee to advocate and guide Aboriginal Mental Health Services and ensure there were opportunities to incorporate Traditional and Spiritual Healing Practices in the Mental Health System. The Wisdom Committee was in existence for about 8 years. Gloria served as Co-Chair on this Committee for the duration of that time, being reappointed by the Committee to continue to co chair. Gloria has also trained in a number of healing modalities, and is a Reiki Master

(Reiki means Universal Life force (hands on Healing) Gloria has worked in the Aboriginal Community, Oil Industry, Federal Government and presently for the Provincial Government, Children's Services, and currently works as an Aboriginal Consultant at Yellow head Youth Centre.

She has recently been appointed to Alberta Health Services Wisdom Council as one of the Metis Representatives, and is one of the Four Co-Chairs on the Council.

The Jury



Glenda M. MacQueen, PHD, MD, FRCPC

Vice Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary

Glenda M. MacQueen, PhD, MD, FRCPC is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She is also the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Calgary. Dr. MacQueen earned her PhD in Psychology from McMaster University and her MD from McMaster University Medical School, where she also completed her residency in psychiatry. Dr. MacQueen's research focuses on the neurobiology and clinical features of mood disorders. She was a founding member of the Brain Body Institute and is a member of the Hotchkiss Brain Institute and the Mathison Centre for Mental Health Research and Education. Dr. MacQueen is an associate editor of the

Canadian Journal of Psychiatry and the Journal of Psychiatry and Neuroscience. Dr MacQueen was the 2011 recipient of the Douglas Utting award for studies in depression and is the 2014 recipient of the Heinz Lehmann award from the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology.



Fay Orr

Fay Orr was Alberta's fourth Mental Health Patient Advocate from May 2010 until October 2013. In that role Fay was mandated under the Alberta Mental Health Act to investigate complaints and concerns from or relating to mental health patients in Alberta under certificate or community treatment orders. As Advocate, Fay acted as a resource to health care providers on the proper application of the Mental Health Act and provided advocacy perspectives and information to the Minister and the Ministry of Health to assist in the development of policy and legislation. She had articles about Alberta's mental health legislation published in several journals including the Health Law Review and Health Law Canada.

During her time as Advocate, Fay helped to establish the Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction. The Circle works to prevent stigma by enhancing awareness and understanding about mental health issues and recognizing significant achievements in mental health and addiction treatment and programming. The Circle administers and hosts the annual Lieutenant Governor's True Awards for Mental Health and Addiction. Fay continues to serve as a director on the LG's Circle. Over the past 21 years, Fay has held several senior positions within the Government of Alberta including: Deputy Minister of Alberta Children and Youth Services; Deputy Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture; Deputy Minister of Community Development; Deputy Minister of Government Services; Managing Director of the Alberta Public Affairs Bureau; and, Communications Director of the Premier's Office. Fay was a journalist before joining the government in 1988. Fay is currently the vice-chair of the Board of Directors for the United Way, Alberta Capital Region.



John McSorley

Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, a child of what was known as "the troubles" which took the lives of over 3000 people in a vicious sectarian civil war that lasted almost 40 years. We were all traumatised by this experience and that more than anything made me determined at the age of 15 years to leave Ireland and to become a family doctor just like my father. I came to Canada, to Coronation, Alberta for 2 years and then moved to Airdrie in 1994 where I have been ever since.

In my time here I have served on the board of our Primary Care Network since its inception and was the physician lead in our PCN complex care clinic for several years. I also teach medical students and international medical students at the University of Calgary. It is no exaggeration to say that I truly love this work. If I was asked to pick a favourite aspect of my work as a family physician I would say it would be working alongside patients who are experiencing overwhelming stress in their lives whether it is from their own or a loved one's illness. My own experience with clinical depression a few years ago, though awful at the time, has taught me more than any textbook about the devastating effect of mental illness on the individual and their family. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to the AMA Physicians and family support programme for helping me through that challenging time in my life. Medicine, my Catholic faith and my family are the first loves of my life but I also love to hike, kayak, play soccer, read poetry, modern history and last but definitely not least, is spending time with my dog, Seamus.

The Jury



Tom Shand

Tom Shand has been working in healthcare field in Alberta and BC for more than 30 years, including the past eight focused on mental health in Alberta. Tom is currently the past chair of the Alberta Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health, having served six years as its chair. He is also a founding director, and now past chair of the Lt. Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction, and was Executive Director of the Alberta Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association for eight years, leaving last April. He is also a core member of the AHS Strategic Clinical Network for Addiction and Mental Health as well as on mental health research projects through CDRIN and CRISM. Tom has played a key role in the development of such significant directions as the introduction of Community Treatment Orders in Alberta and the creation of Creating Connections, the strategic plan for mental health and addiction in Alberta. Tom is a strong advocate for the need for increased emphasis and support for mental health with increased collaboration between community service providers, various arms of government and the private sector. He believes that the field also requires more research and a stronger voice for those living with mental illness and their families. Given that perhaps only a third of mental health needs are actually clinical in nature, the linkages with such areas as employment, social services, housing, education and justice are vitally important to improving supports and helping to better meet mental health needs. Tom has a background in journalism, fund development and organizational development for NGOs. A graduate of Queen's University, in human geography and a minor in economics, Tom and his wife Sheila have two adult daughters, one working as a contemporary dancer in Israel and the other in a marketing position in Montreal.



Michel Simard

Criminologist and theologian, MA

Michel Simard has worked with homeless people for more than 25 years. He is the Executive director for Centre Le Havre de Trois-Rivières, a front line organisation for homeless men and women. Le Centre le Havre has developed emergency, transitional and long term (permanent housing, work) services. He has also contributed to the development of an innovative interorganisational program for chronicle homeless people. He his one of the founders of a Quebec homeless network: Réseau solidarité itinérance du Québec. He has been the president of the Quebec Psychosocial Rehabilitation Association. He is a member of the advisory board on the homeless policy and the research committee on homelessness in Quebec for the Quebec Government. He contributes to the global development of services for homeless people, including aboriginal people, in Val-D'Or, Québec. He makes a significant contribution to the transformation of services at Old-Brewery Mission in Montréal. The largest homeless shelter in Quebec. He has also participated in many conferences and published many texts related to homelessness.



Sharon G. Sutherland

Longtime Mental Illness/Health Advocate motivated by my son's mental illness and the need to connect with people with similar issues. The Schizophrenia Society of Edmonton provided that connection and important support. Goals have been to ensure people with mental illness, their families and caregivers have a voice with the policy makers, the development of support programs and resources, changing public perceptions and identifying gaps in the system. Nothing is simple if you have a mental illness or if you are involved in its treatment.