

PROJECT SUMMARY

Best Practice in Seniors' Mental Health Program and Policy Design

The Population Health Fund, Public Health Agency of Canada has awarded funds to carry out a three year project September 2005 - October 2008 Best Practice in Seniors' Mental Health Program and Policy Design, sponsored by the British Columbia Psychogeriatric Association. The Seniors Psychosocial Interest Group (SPIG) will be responsible for national dissemination and the sustainability of the project. Dr. Penny MacCourt is the principle investigator

Objective: (1) To develop the capacity of communities across Canada to promote and support seniors' mental health through adoption of the Seniors Mental Health Policy Lens (SMHPL) as a best practice in seniors mental health program and policy design. (2) To positively affect knowledge, practice and policy.

Activities: Across five sectors, six provinces, five regions: 1- pilot and evaluate the implementation of the SMHPL. 2 - validate that the SMHPL is a best practice. 3 - promote the uptake of the SMHPL.

Relevance to Seniors Mental Health Priority and Theme of Best Practices.

This proposal focuses on **“strengthening the evaluation component of a completed project that has the potential to be identified as a best practice.”** The SMHPL is an analytical tool, made up of a set of questions intended to raise awareness about factors that impact seniors' mental health, to guide analyses of policies and programs from a seniors' mental health perspective, and to help identify their potential direct or indirect, repercussions on the mental health of all older adults.

Expected Results: The SMHPL will be adopted across sectors throughout Canada for routine use as a best practice, against which programs and policy pertaining to seniors are measured, resulting in improved quality of care and program accountability.

Measurement Tools: Surveys, key informant interviews, focus groups, questionnaires.

Deliverables:

The SMHPL, a best practice in seniors mental health program and policy design “tool”; a synthesis of literature; pilot site findings; program examples that promote/support seniors' mental health, and strategies for guiding key decision makers in SMHPL use.

Dissemination via the project's and partners' web sites and newsletters. Print copies for partners and key stakeholder. Presentations locally, provincially and nationally.

Partners: Fifteen partners from six provinces; six are national and four provincial. There are: three seniors' organizations, two government organizations, three universities, and five

service providers (one ethnocultural and another substance misuse). [See Partners for more information.](#)

Partners

The following organizations are partners in the Best Practice in seniors Mental Health Program and Policy Design project.

Health Promotion Division, Veteran Affairs

Nova Scotia Senior Citizens Secretariat

CLSC Rene Cassin Social Gerontology Centre

Queens University

Congress of National Seniors Organizations

Ontario Psychogeriatric Association

Canadian Coalition for Seniors Mental Health

Canadian Ethnocultural Council

Manitoba Network of Psychogeriatric Program Specialists

Canadian Mental Health Association

Older Persons Mental Health and Addictions Network

Centre on Aging, University of Victoria

Gerontology Centre, Simon Fraser University

National Advisory Council on Aging

Senior Peer Counselling of British Columbia Association