



Annual Training 2014

Evidence Informed Practices – What Does this Mean to Service Providers?

We talk a lot in the addiction field about evidence-informed practices, but not so much about what this means to Service Providers for their jobs. Evidence-informed practices are commonly defined as “those [practices] that reflect the deliberate and systematic use of the best available evidence, acquired through research and evaluation of practice. This is combined with a distillation of the experience of experts where that evidence is not available, to inform clinical decision making, program development and policy creation” (<http://www.bcmhsus.ca/evidence-informed-practices>). But is this as straight forward as it sounds? The training day will focus on the research through to evaluation aspect of evidence-informed practice. It will also touch on what it means to Service Providers when evidence is not yet available.

The **goals** of the training day are to:

- (1) familiarize Service Providers with the concept of evidence-informed practices, and specifically address the question of ‘what is evidence’?
- (2) challenge Service Providers to reflect on how they may be able to incorporate more ‘evidence’ in their practices, and
- (3) offer Service Providers an opportunity to become familiar and work with some of the latest ‘evidence’ released by the office of the Research Chair in Substance.

The expected **outcomes** from the training day are that Service Providers will:

- (1) be able to articulate the importance of engaging in evidence-informed practices and have resources to draw upon to assist them with accessing and assessing current ‘evidence’,
- (2) be familiar with key products from the office of the Research Chair in Substance Abuse and how they can use them in their work, including an evaluation workbook, and
- (3) serve as a point of contact between their Health Region representative and the office of the Research Chair to both access research-related support and engage in the dissemination of the Chair’s research findings.

AGENDA

Wednesday -- February 26, 2014

6:00 Networking Supper – The Samurai Japanese Restaurant, 601 Spadina Crescent E
Reservation under University of Saskatchewan

Thursday -- February 27, 2014

Parktown Hotel, 924 Spadina Crescent E, South Dining Room (is the back of the restaurant on the main floor of the hotel)

7:30 – 8:30 Hot breakfast

8:30 – 9:00 Let's get started! Introduction to the day & welcoming exercise

MORNING THEME – RESEARCH

9:00 – 10:10 *Evidence-informed practice.* Drawing on publications released by the office of the Research Chair, this opening session will share information and engage participants in a discussion that focuses on evidence-informed practice. Four basic questions will be addressed:

1. What is evidence-informed practice?
2. Whose evidence are we paying attention to?
3. How do we determine if the evidence is credible?
4. Where can we find credible evidence?

10:10 – 10:30 Health Break

10:30 – 11:15 *Case in Point: Evaluating Child and Youth Mental Health & Addiction Services in Saskatchewan.* This session will review the aims of the CAFAS & ASIST for agencies and what the client outcome indicators are revealing. Service Providers will be encouraged to discuss how this evidence can inform their practice.

11:15 – 12:00 *Case in Point: What's Your Cap?* Members of the *What's Your Cap?* initiative will share how both research and evidence is guiding their nationally-recognized University of Saskatchewan campus binge drinking prevention initiative. Service providers will be asked to brainstorm how this evidence-informed practice can and cannot be applied to non-campus settings and groups.

12:00 – 1:30 *CCENDU Lunch – Canadian Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use* CCENDU Saskatchewan will host a lunch to information share about the national and provincial CCENDU network and how easy and valuable it is for Service Providers to get involved.

AFTERNOON THEME – EVALUATION

1:30 – 2:30 *First Steps First – A Community-Based Workbook for Evaluating Substance Abuse and Mental Health Programs in Saskatchewan.* This session will review the basics of program evaluation and how the *First Steps First Workbook* can help

easily fill some of the pitfalls Service Providers face with evaluation. Service Providers will be encouraged to share the strengths and limitations of evaluation that they have encountered and experiences people have had with the workbook.

2:30 – 3:00 Health Break

3:00 – 4:00 *Study Scenario – Assessing the Evidence* Three scenarios from the Office of the Research Chair will be used to review what questions should be asked when determining whether to implement an ‘intervention’ that comes across their desk (From Stilettos to Moccasins: A Guide for Group Discussion Workshop), what evidence should be sought when developing an intervention (ExChanging Conversations: Aboriginal Culture in the Journey of Healing from Addictions), and what to do with an innovative practice where there is little evidence yet accumulated in the addictions field (PAWSitive Support: Applying Animal Assisted Therapy in the Treatment of Addictions & Mental Health). Service Providers will share their assessments with the group.

4:00 – 4:30 Wrap up & next steps for linking the training day with the 2014 DTFFP funding aims.