

MANITOBA HARM REDUCTION NETWORK BULLETIN

August 2006

The mandate of the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network is to provide consultation and make recommendations regarding the development, implementation and evaluation of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C prevention initiatives based on the principles of harm reduction for affected communities in Manitoba.

MHRN 2006 Meeting Schedule	Updates From the Network Task Groups
<p style="text-align: center;">All task groups meet Tuesdays from 1-3 pm @ Nine Circles Community Health Centre 705 Broadway</p> <p>August Meeting Schedule</p> <p>08/08 Communication Task Group</p> <p>08/22 Policy Task Group</p> <p>September Meeting Schedule</p> <p>09/01 Support and Outreach Task Group</p> <p>09/26 Coordinating Committee</p>	<p>Coordinating Committee- A 'Terms of Reference' agreement has been signed between Manitoba Health and the Sexuality Education Resource Centre (SERC) regarding funding for the Network. MB Health has committed to supporting the network financially, while SERC has agreed to administer the funds to the network. As a result the Terms of Reference for the coordinating committee of the network have also been amended to include a financial management representative from SERC. The Coordinating Committee welcomes Shereen Denetto of SERC-WPG to this position.</p> <p>Policy and Practice- The P + P task group is working on developing a strategy to promoting the Network's harm reduction policy (check it out on the website!) to the general membership as well as other organizations and agencies. They are also working to increase the profile of harm reduction policy and practice with frontline healthcare providers such as doctors and nurses.</p> <p>Support and Outreach - After two successful years with the Hard Night Out campaign the Support and Outreach committee are setting their sights on new projects including (but not limited to!) developing a resource to support street-involved people new to the city in accessing services such as housing, healthcare, and other services providing basic needs and support. This task group meets again at the beginning of September for a planning meeting.</p> <p>Education- The education task group is putting the final touches on the Harm Reduction curriculum and the "An Essentials to Harm Reduction" Facilitator's Guide. This committee plans to launch this material in early spring. This living document provides educators with a background of the Network as well as an introduction to a harm reduction philosophy. It also includes several modules that can be used to help integrate harm reduction philosophy and policy into your workplace, organization, or agency.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Toll-free Conference call-in numbers for all meetings are:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Phone: 1-877-579-4178</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pass code: 857940#</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">NEW! (In September)</p> <p>Starting next month the MHRN would like to begin working with members to keep the network updated on the local work of various Manitoba organizations and agencies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SO...</p> <p>♦If you or your organization is interested in providing an update on harm reduction initiatives in your area, giving a short interview</p>	

about your organization, or writing a brief paragraph introducing your work to other members please contact the coordinator.

Conferences

Partners in Caring - On the Right Track

October 18th - 20th, 2006.
Winnipeg, MB. See registration package sent out to MHRN members list August 2, 2006.

PTSD Addiction & Mental Health

October 22-24, 2006.
Winnipeg, MB. For further information and registration details...

www.plannersplus.ca/afm

Walking Together - HIV and Co-existing Conditions

November 27 + 28, 2006.
Winnipeg, Manitoba.
For Information Email - bthomson@sbgh.mb.ca
or phone: 204.237-2231

Beyond the Epidemics - From Knowledge to Action

November 30 and December 1, 2006. Regina, Saskatchewan.
www.allnationshope.ca

MHRN Membership Review

Thank you to those of you with whom I have spoken. Contact list updates are ongoing. I hope to have spoken with/contacted the majority of members by the end of September. Look for an e-mail or phone call in the coming months.

Communication - The communication task group will be meeting August 8th to discuss plans for a media training workshop in late fall as well as a number of other items related to ongoing media work and planning for the task group. If you are interested, please feel free to join us at this meeting.

Harm Reduction Research and Studies

♦ *Homelessness, Housing, and Harm Reduction: Stable Housing for Homeless People with Substance Use Issues*

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effectiveness of innovative housing programs for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who use substances (e.g. drugs, alcohol or other substances). The research specifically examined which housing interventions and factors that incorporate a **harm reduction approach** best help this population access and maintain stable housing..

Perhaps the most significant finding that emerges from this study is the degree of success that can be achieved with the "housing first" approach (direct provision of permanent, independent housing to people who are homeless. Central to this idea is that clients will receive whatever individual services and assistance they need and want to maintain their housing choice). The case studies show that most people who are homeless, even if they have substance use issues and concurrent disorders, can be successfully housed directly from the street if they are given the right supports when they want them..

There is increasing awareness of the concept of harm reduction, yet it is not widely understood. **This report recommends greater education and information about harm reduction and how it can work...**As more policy makers are informed about the potential for harm reduction to achieve positive outcomes, this approach should receive greater support and acceptance.

Excerpt from:
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). (2005). Homelessness, housing and harm reduction: Stable housing for homeless people with substance use issues.
Produced by CMHC
www.cmhc.ca

Contact Information

To receive further information or copies of the materials mentioned in this bulletin, email or phone:
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Attention

The MHRN bulletin is now available via fax. If this is a more convenient method of receiving your monthly update, please feel free to e-mail or call to be added to the fax list.

"Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read.

You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.

We have seen the future, and the future is ours."

Cesar Chavez



◆ UNAIDS and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network are pleased to announce the joint publication Courting Rights: Case Studies in Litigation the Human Rights of People Living with HIV. This discusses groundbreaking court cases related to the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. Canadian and International case studies are presented in this document launched in mid-June. Go to <http://www.aidslaw.ca/new.htm> for full document.

◆ YOUTH JUSTICE RENEWAL FUND

Deadline for Application: August 31, 2006

The Department of Justice Canada (Youth Justice Policy) is interested in funding projects that enable greater citizen/community participation in the youth justice system (including within Aboriginal communities); to encourage partnerships among traditional and non-traditional youth justice partners; and to encourage collaborative responses to a number of youth justice needs, within a community, by working with other funders and/or community organizations. For application details and further information please e-mail the MHRN.

◆ *Listening to Your Voices: Women Prisoners and Access to Justice in Manitoba*

Little is known about the ability of women prisoners to "access justice," in the sense of having adequate and accessible means to ensure that they are treated fairly and in line with the law when they are in jail. In Manitoba, the vast majority of women prisoners are Aboriginal women - a group whose cultural practices and ways of understanding justice and healing have often been marginalized by mainstream culture and law.

This study seeks to address this deficit by interviewing women who have been in jail in Manitoba in the past two years and who believe they have experienced issues related to possible violations of their rights, whether they have made use of any of the existing legal processes (e.g., grievances, Ombudsman) or not.

If you or someone you know would like to participate in an interview (honorarium available), please contact Kathy Bent at:

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