

MANITOBA HARM REDUCTION NETWORK BULLETIN

June 2005

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.

June Events:

- 6/21 Policy and Practice Task Group Meeting
- 6/27 Hard Night Out Planning Committee Meeting

July Events:

- 7/5 Support/Outreach Task Group Meeting
- 7/19 Communication Task Group Meeting
- 7/26 Coordinating Committee Meeting

Conferences

First National Conference on Meth, HIV & Hepatitis

August 19th & 20th
Salt Lake City, Utah
www.harmredux.org

CUExpo2005: Community-University Research Partnerships, Leaders in Urban Change

September 15-18, 2005
Winnipeg, Manitoba
cuexpo.uwinnipeg.ca

Partnership in Prevention: Working with High Risk Youth- A multidisciplinary Workshop

September 28, 2005
Saskatoon Saskatchewan
www.usask.ca/nursing/custodycaring
Phone: 306-966-8360

Canadian AIDS Society Skills Building Symposium

October 27 – 30th, 2005
Montreal, QC
www.hivaids-skills.ca

Update

- Planning for **Hard Night Out 2005** is in full swing and seeking network members interested in helping out. Hard Night Out, an event sponsored by the MHRN, pairs up a public personality with a field guide, challenging them to spend one night out on the street with no ID, and only one cigarette and a loonie. This allows participants to gain a perspective of street life that they otherwise would not have had a chance to experience. Last year this highly successful event attracted a great deal of media attention. This year, the coordinating group hopes to sustain public interest and effect even more positive changes for people living on the street. The group looks to expand the network of partners in the event, inviting Winnipeg Harvest, members of the Downtown BIZ and Canada World Youth to name a few. In an attempt to increase the involvement of public officials, the planning committee is aiming at holding the event in September. Some may lament that it isn't cold enough in September, but as the dark season looms, the harm reduction network will be there to remind politicians and media that the issues of poverty and homelessness still exist. The planning committee needs your input and assistance.
- The Nine Circles Community Health Centre Board of Directors recently announced that Michael Payne has accepted the position of Executive Director. The board is looking forward to working with Michael as Nine Circles continues to provide services and respond to the needs of the community. Michael brings a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience to his new position. His leadership and vision will be an asset to Nine Circles and the community. The Manitoba Harm Reduction Network would like to join with the board of the Nine Circles CHC in welcoming Michael to his new position.
- The MHRN Communication Task Group has been formed to assist the network in the important task of managing public information and external communications. The new group recently met, reviewed its mandate, and prioritized the work set to it by the membership at large. The primary goals of this task group will be to review and develop standardized media messages for the network and to identify media specialists (or point-persons) to whom the media will be referred to on specific topics. Once developed, these messages will be sent to all network members for feedback and ratification.
- Wasting no time, the Communications Task Group has already responded, in the form of a letter to the editor, to the City of Winnipeg's plan to amend current panhandling by-laws by criminalizing 'obstructive pan-handling'. The network has raised the point that punitive measures, in the form of fines and/or jail terms for panhandlers, 'does nothing to address the root causes of panhandling' and 'will only further marginalize

17th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm

April 30 - May 4, 2006
Vancouver, Canada
www.canadianharmreduction.com

and discriminate against those who already lack services and resources.' The Manitoba Harm Reduction Network will be monitoring the issue and exploring other ways of participating in the public dialogue including presenting before council, circulating action alerts and possibly supporting the National Anti-Poverty Council in launching a legal challenge to the proposed by-law.

- In an effort to address the current syphilis outbreak, rising HIV rates, and reinvigorate STI prevention efforts for MSMs (men who have sex with men) a working group of health services organizations and business owners catering to the LGBT community has formed to brainstorm and implement prevention strategies. The Manitoba Harm Reduction Network is participating in these discussions and encourages its members with expertise in this area to get involved.

MHRN 2005-06 Meeting Schedule

All task groups meet
Tuesday's from 1-3 pm @
Nine Circles Community Health Centre
705 Broadway

Coordinating Committee:

Last Tuesday of every second month
Next meeting: July 26th

Education Task Group:

First Tuesday of every second month
Next meeting: August 2nd

Policy & Practice Task Group:

Third Tuesday of every second month
Next meeting: June 21st

Support/Outreach Task Group:

First Tuesday of every second month
Next meeting: July 5th

Communication Task Group:

Third Tuesday of every second month
Next meeting: July 19th

Toll-free Conference Call-in numbers for all meetings are:

Phone: 1-877-579-4178
Pass code: 857940#

Coordinator Contact

Daryn Bond
(204) 228-8114
dlbond@mts.net

New and Useful Harm Reduction Resources

- The Sexuality Education Resource Centre (in association with the Public Health Agency of Canada) has released the seventh in its series of straight-talking information pamphlets on sexual and reproductive health. For copies of the new syphilis brochure or more information visit www.serc.mb.ca

Employment Opportunities

- Strategic Quality Initiatives Analyst: .5 EFT. Deadline June 24th, Klinik Community Health Centre www.klinik.mb.ca
- Team Leader and Operations Manager Non-Clinical Programs. FT. Deadline June 24th, Nine Circles CHC. www.ninecircles.ca
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Tuberculosis Program Specialist. FT. Deadline June 27th, Manitoba Health www.gov.mb.ca/csc/jobs/health_social/15011.html

Memberships and Associations

- The Manitoba Harm Reduction Network has submitted its contact information to the Canadian Hepatitis C Information Centre with the purpose of participating in a pan-Canadian community-based communication network.
- The Harm Reduction Training Session in Brandon resulted in expansion of the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network. 50 new members from the Brandon and Assiniboine regions were added to the network contact list.
- In addition, members of the Manitoba First Nations AIDS Working Group agreed to join the network increasing the network's rural and Northern membership.

The Manitoba Harm Reduction Network extends a warm welcome to our new members.