



Manitoba Harm Reduction Network Bulletin

September 2008

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Network News

The MHRN is gearing up for a busy fall – all of our task groups have met, following the Annual Planning Meeting in May, and our Action Plan has been finalized. Here are the projects that the MHRN will be working on this year:

Education and Communication Task Group: This Task Group is focusing on developing resource materials for the MHRN – this group will be developing pamphlets for the network as well as Harm Reduction Table Kits for conferences, festivals and other events. This Task Group is also working on an Outreach training module for outreach worker as well as for agencies looking to integrate an outreach team into their agency.

Policy and Programs Task Group: This task group will be working to develop a Harm Reduction and Human

Resources toolkit to assist agencies in ensuring that Harm Reduction principles are used applied in performance reviews. This toolkit will include templates for job postings, interview questions, and staff evaluation forms. This task group will also continue to support member organizations who are developing, implementing, and adopting Harm Reduction Policy, Position Statements and Standards.

Peer Forum: The Peer Forum will be wrapping up the research project and getting ready to present at a number of conferences this fall. This group will spend this year working on a presentation for community groups and neighbourhood associations on harm reduction approaches to working with their neighbours who use drugs.

A New Home for the Network!

This summer the network got some great news regarding new funding. The National Hepatitis C Program will be supporting the network in the development of a pilot project (til 2010) that aims to support the capacity of Peer based organizations by acting as a secretariat for various MHRN members. Essentially Peer members will have the opportunity to house their organization at the MHRN as well as access the resources of the network including evaluation, support developing funding proposals, and other planning tools.

This is a new adventure for the network and its members. We will be evaluating this project and the model that we come up with for working cooperatively with various organizations and we will also be assessing its use for potential implementation in other practice settings.

This means that the MHRN is looking for a physical space to set up shop! If you know of a space that might do the trick please feel free to call or e-mail the network with your suggestions.

MHRN Harm Reduction Conference – Mark Your Calendars!



The Manitoba Harm Reduction Network has set the dates for the 08-09 Annual Meeting. This year we will be hosting an evening of networking, and two days of harm reduction training, updates and community consultation.

Feedback from this year's meeting showed that members found networking and information sharing to be the most beneficial aspect of the skill building and planning meeting. With this in mind the Coordinating Committee is planning a different type of event this year.

The goal this year is to provide you with reports on the work of the MHRN as well as updates on new and innovative harm reduction projects happening around Manitoba.

The conference will take place on the evening of the 24th and all day on the 25th and 26th of February, 2009.

So, although it is hard to imagine snow and winter at this time of year, make sure to mark your calendars now so that we can see you in February!

The Homeless Hub - a new web-based research library and information

To find the Homeless Hub, simply go to:
www.homelesshub.ca



The Homeless Hub was created to address the need for a single place to find homelessness information from across Canada. Most of the information is disparate and difficult to find. The mission for the Canadian Homelessness Research Clearinghouse Project is to provide a single online tool for homelessness stakeholders from across Canada to use, to find the research, strategy and policy information they need to make informed decisions when creating effective solutions.

As a one-stop-shop, the homeless Hub is a place where community services providers, researchers, government representatives, people who have experienced homelessness and the general public can access and share research, stories, and best practices. The Homeless Hub provides an opportunity for people and organizations to better understand, develop and promote creative and collaborative response to homelessness and housing instability.

CACHCA National Conference Winnipeg October 5-7, 2008

If you haven't registered yet, Here are 'Three Good Reasons' to do so now!

- 1) It's an opportunity to share the experiences of CHCs across Canada that have demonstrated that community empowerment improves health

- 2) You can have some fun, network with peers in community health and be challenged all at the same time.
- 3) The registration deadline is FAST approaching: September 15, 2008.

Check out the registration package at http://www.cachca.ca/local/files/reg_package.pdf



Social Enterprise:

Social enterprises are businesses with primarily social or health objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested in the furtherance of those objectives, in the business, or in the community. They are not driven by the need to maximize profit for shareholders and owners.

Social Enterprise – Harm Reduction Style

Exchange Supplies is a unique social enterprise set up by drug workers in the U.K. to improve the harm reduction response to drug use by developing innovative quality products, publications, and conferences for drug services, needle exchanges, and injecting drug users, and providing employment and training opportunities for drug users.

This social enterprise is at the forefront of the harm reduction response to illicit drug use, and is committed to preventing blood-borne virus transmission, drug related deaths, and improving the health of drug users.

As well as developing the nevershare syringe: the world's first syringe designed specifically for injecting drug users (with coloured plungers to reduce accidental sharing) Exchange Supplies also supply quality injecting paraphernalia (citric and vitC sachets, water ampoules, stericups, and sterifilts).

Check out this website to order supplies or learn more about safer drug use and social enterprise.

www.exchangesupplies.org

Learning From Each Other: Enhancing Community-based Harm Reduction Programs and Practices in Canada



Have some extra time today?

Go to:

www.rubberlover.org.uk

and play this great safer sex video game!

The Canadian Harm Reduction Network and the Canadian AIDS Society conducted focus groups with people with drug-use experience and site visits at community-based organizations in nine Canadian cities (including Winnipeg) that offer harm reduction programs and services. The results of these consultations are compiled in this document, in the hope of enriching the practice of harm reduction in Canada.

The focus group participants shared their experience of what works well for them and what does not, the impact of harm reduction on their lives, and ideas about what is needed to improve programs and services. The site visit interviews provided information on their harm reduction

programs and practices and revealed the lessons learned in their development and implementation that would be of benefit to others.

Whether you are a person who uses or has used drugs, a frontline service provider an administrator, a program developer, a researcher, a public servant, an advocate, or a combination of the above, you will find this document useful.

To access this tool go to www.cdnaids.ca/learning_from_each_other

OR

www.canadianharmreduction.com/project

Manitoba
Harm
Reduction
Network

Phone: (204) 228-8114

Email:
harmreductionmb@yahoo.ca

The Manitoba Harm Reduction Network is a broad and diverse network of peers, service providers, administrators, and policy-makers collaborating to provide province-wide access to services, materials and resources rooted in the principles of harm reduction.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.harmreductionnetwork.mb.ca

MHRN Meeting Dates and Times

The following is a list of the dates and times of all Task Group meetings. If you are interested in getting more involved in the MHRN we would love to have you! Please feel free to contact the Coordinator or simply show up at a meeting! We will see you there!

**The Education and Communication task Group AND Policy and Practice Task Group are both open to any member of the MHRN

**The Peer Forum is open to any Peer/Experiential Member of the MHRN

Meetings are held in the Boardroom at 705 Broadway - Nine Circles Community Health Centre

Policy and Programs

September 9th, 2008 1-3pm

November 18th, 2008 1-3pm

Education and Communication

October 14th, 2008 1-3pm

December 9th, 2008 1-3pm

Peer Forum

October 28th, 2008 1-3pm

December 19th, 2008 1-3pm