

WELCOME TO CRNCC

e-Newsletter 1: May 2005

This marks the first e-newsletter of the Canadian Research Network for Care in the Community (CRNCC)

ABOUT CRNCC

CRNCC was launched at the “From Idea To Action: Community Services in the Continuum of Care” Symposium held in Toronto on March 31, 2005. The Symposium, which featured Dr. David Challis, Director, Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Manchester, was presented by the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto and Senior Link-Neighbourhood Link, Toronto, in collaboration with the Medicare to Home and Community (M-THAC) Research Unit, University of Toronto, and the Department of Politics and Public Administration, Ryerson University.

The CRNCC is supported in its initial year by the Medicare to Home and Community (M-THAC) Research Unit at the University of Toronto. M-THAC is funded under the Community Alliances for Health Research Programme of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR).

CRNCC aims to promote new knowledge and knowledge transfer knowledge about community services within the broader continuum of care.

CRNCC MEMBERS

CRNCC membership is voluntary and free-of-charge.

Over 80 individuals and organizations have indicated an interest in joining the CRNCC. They represent a mix of charitable foundations, community service agencies, Community Care Access Centres (CCACs), consumer organizations, planning bodies, government agencies, hospitals, long-term care facilities and educational institutions.

With the help of its members, we anticipate that CRNCC will:

- Help set a research agenda
- Advise on community services research
- Find sites for research
- Find host organizations for students doing research
- Identify relevant (and often elusive) evidence about costs and outcomes
- Assist with the analysis of research findings
- Work to ensure that new knowledge is communicated widely to the field

The most frequently mentioned research topics include:

- Assessing the needs of seniors and ways seniors can participate in their own care
- Connections between housing and health of seniors
- Political advocacy strategies
- Effective models of service delivery
- Standardized assessment tools, measuring outcomes, indicators, benefits of integrated service delivery and enhanced client outcomes, benchmarking
- Support for caregivers
- Care in rural areas
- Relationship between long-term care facility beds and demand for community services

We expect this list to evolve and grow with input from CRNCC members.

WHAT'S NEW

As CRNCC's first deliverable, we have placed presentations from the *Idea to Action* Symposium on the M-THAC website at <http://www2.m-thac.org/cgi-bin/WebObjects/mthac.woa/wa/DetailDirect/researchTraining?id=1000040>

Please feel free to take a moment to view many other research projects and opportunities that may be of interest to you on the M-THAC website.

The research report titled, "When Home is Community: Community Support Services and the Well-Being of Seniors in Supportive and Social Housing" by Lum, Ruff and Williams, is now available at:

<http://www.senior-link.com/PDF/United%20Way%20Final%20Report.pdf>

It presents recent research findings, which show that in spite of multiple health and social risks, seniors in supportive housing in Toronto maintain their independence while using relatively inexpensive support services.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

As a work-in-progress, the CRNCC needs your ideas and support.

We think the Network can play an important role in demonstrating the crucial role that community support services can play in maintaining the independence and well-being of individuals and communities, while moderating demand for more costly health care.

We would be happy to hear your comments and suggestions or accept links to relevant documents, data and websites at crncc@utoronto.ca

THE FINE PRINT

If you would to be removed from this list, or know someone who would like to be added, please contact us at crncc@utoronto.ca

Even though this e-mail is being sent through a university listserve, it goes without saying (and therefore they want us to say) that the views and contents of this message do not necessarily represent the thoughts and opinions of the University of Toronto.