

Tuesday, May 28th – 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

GL-6: Become a Data Explorer – Understanding Canadian Substance Use Costs and Harm Using Data Visualization

Presentation Description:

Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops. This workshop will provide an overview of methods and findings from the recent study of Canadian substance use costs and harms. Facilitators will demonstrate the functionality of an online data visualization tool, including explanations of the different study measures (e.g., counts, rates, costs) and outcomes (e.g., hospitalizations, deaths, policing).

Workshop Objectives:

1. Participants will explore the available data and analyze the appropriate datasets to answer their unique questions about substance use costs and harms in Canada.
2. Participants will create customized data visualizations for use in their own work, including data tables and different types of figures, using the online visualization tool.
3. Participants will understand trends in substance use costs and harm, interpret results to their context, and apply data to make the case for public policies and programs.

Presenter Bio:

Matthew Young, PhD - Dr. Young has worked in the field of substance use and addiction for over 20 years, has chaired scientific committees and facilitated symposia and workshops.

Jill Fairbank, MSc - Ms. Fairbank has 10 years of experience in the field of knowledge mobilization. Her facilitation experience includes advisory committee and integrated knowledge mobilization meetings.

Bridget Hall, MPH - Ms. Hall has designed and led workshops for policy makers and program decision makers in the fields of education, program evaluation, and public health.

HEALTH PROMOTION AND WELLNESS

HP-6: Optimizing HIV Prevention and Treatment for People with Substance Use and Mental Health Challenges

Presentation Description:

Dramatic changes in the science of HIV have created optimism about ending the epidemic, but substance use and mental health challenges are a significant barrier to prevention and treatment services. This session will explore the role mental health and addictions workers can play in optimizing HIV prevention and care.

Workshop Objectives:

1. Participants will discuss research on the latest in HIV prevention and care options
2. Participants will explore the context of mental health and problem substance use for people living with and affected by HIV
3. Participants will explore the ways mental health challenges and problem substance use limit engagement in HIV prevention and care services

Tuesday, May 28th – 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

4. Participants will discuss how mental health and addictions services can be better integrated with HIV prevention and treatment services to achieve positive health outcomes for clients

Presenter Bio:

Jack Mohr works with community, non-profit, and government stakeholders to develop new initiatives to end the HIV epidemic in Ontario.

Shawn Pegg has over 20 years' experience developing research and policy ideas to address poverty, stigmatization, and the physical and mental health of vulnerable populations.

Rahim Thawer is a queer social worker/psychotherapist, consultant, post-secondary instructor, and community organizer.

Eliot Winkler is a member of the HIV Mental Health Network Steering Committee and has experience in research coordination, mental health programming, and health advocacy.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING 1

IP1-6a: A High Tech, High Touch Approach to Mental Health Care

Presentation Description:

How do we strengthen the connection to at-risk individuals? Using an innovative platform approach, mental health professionals provide distance coaching, combining high-tech digital management with high-touch personalized services. This session focuses on how technology effectively reaches at-risk populations with service delivery, engagement, and case management, breaking down barriers to care.

Workshop Objectives:

1. Participants will identify technological approaches to health and wellness coaching.
2. Participants will describe the ways technology can increase engagement and coaching program completion for at-risk populations.
3. Participants will design a holistic behavioral health and wellness program for mental health resources.

Presenter Bio:

As Chief and EVP of Behavioral Health Programs for VetAdvisor® Services, Jennifer implements and directs proactive coaching and counseling programs for at risk populations.

IP1-6b: A Mental Health and Addiction Navigation Mobile App

Presentation Description:

The ConnexOntario Mobile App is a navigation tool that is designed to inform the general public about HOW and WHERE to access mental health and addiction services in the surrounding area. The application will prompt the user to answer a short series of questions and will yield results for specialized services.

Workshop Objectives:

1. Participants will observe the application.
2. Participants will identify application improvements.

Tuesday, May 28th – 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

3. Participants will discuss the value of the mobile app in their respective environments.

Presenter Bio:

Ashley Simeron-Tial – After graduating with a Master's of Health informatics, Ashley strives to enhance the accessibility of mental health information and resources, especially for low income populations.

Derek Carroll – Derek aims to develop tools that can aide individuals in the Mental Health & Addiction sector, particularly in the Health & Information stream.

Nerin Kaur – Nerin completed a Master's of Health Informatics with the aim of deploying tools that can bridge service gaps in the Mental Health & Addiction sector.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING 2

IP2-6: Busting a Fire and Changing a Life – The Impact of Wilderness Therapy

Presentation Description:

Experiential learning meets quantitative and qualitative research in this workshop to demonstrate the benefits of Wilderness Therapy. Participants will 'bust a fire', then debrief related therapeutic impact. We will review qualitative client reflection on 'moments of change' and quantitative findings that demonstrate increases in therapeutic readiness and mental health during Wilderness Therapy.

Workshop Objectives:

1. Participants will experience and debrief the therapeutic impact of experiential land-based skill acquisition.
2. Participants will learn about the client experience of wilderness therapy by way of self-reported 'moments of change'.
3. Participants will learn and dialogue about: quantitative health changes related to Wilderness Therapy; Wilderness Therapy as a viable treatment modality; and, the paucity of Wilderness therapy in Canada.

Presenter Bio:

Dr. Laura Mills is the Director, Research & Evaluation at Pine River Institute. She strives to impact treatment effectiveness by fostering engagement with outcomes evaluation.

Suzy Pollard is the Wilderness Therapist at Pine River Institute. She fosters the maturity of youths and helps them recognize the need for change in their lives.

PEER AND FAMILY SUPPORT

PS-6: My Voice. My Story.

Presentation Description:

Our experiences have shaped who we are and storytelling is a powerful way to share your experiences with the world. For those with mental health and addictions, storytelling can be very influential for peoples healing and most importantly reducing the stigma that surrounds it.

Workshop Objectives:

1. Participants will identify the personal stories important to them.

Tuesday, May 28th – 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

2. Participants will be able to recognize why these stories should be told and what impact they could have.
3. Participants will be taken through the process of creating their own story and have an opportunity to observe a story being told by the facilitators.

Presenter Bio:

Aubrey Andrus – Aubrey's passion is helping people find ways to bring healthy coping into their lives. Through her own lived experience she knows that there is no single approach to this process and that stigma can be a barrier for people to ask for help. She has worked in the Mental Health and Addictions for 8 years in various programs and is currently working for Durham Mental Health Services as the Peer Support Program Manager.

Lori Lane-Murphy – Lori is a comedic storyteller and counsellor with a passion for mental health advocacy, particularly stigma reduction. Her goal in life is to show people that living with mental illness are no different than people living with any other physical illness.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

QI-6: Benefits and Burdens - Peer Fidelity Assessment in Early Psychosis Intervention

Presentation Description:

Presenters will outline their experience developing and implementing a Peer Fidelity Assessment model. Participants will have hands-on experience scoring their own practice to experiment with fidelity measurement items. In discussion, participants will consider Peer Fidelity Assessment as a case example of what might be useful in their own, or other MHA sectors.

Workshop Objectives:

1. Participants will gain an understanding of potential costs and benefits of a peer fidelity assessment model.
2. Participants will experience the complexity and utility of innovative fidelity measurement.
3. Participants will explore ideas for future fidelity assessment work in their own context.

Presenter Bio:

Avra Selick – Has been a CAMH / EPION partnership project team member since 2012 , Avra leads the research design, model development, and implementation strategy of the Peer Fidelity Assessment.

Shannel Butt – As a dedicated EPI clinician and program manager, Shannel brings the direct service perspective as both a Peer Assessor and Host of a Peer Fidelity Assessment.

Gordon Langill – In EPI since 2003, Gord works with EPION and the Fidelity project team to foster uptake of Fidelity assessments in EPI across Ontario.

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS

SH-6: Developing a Supportive Housing Growth Plan for Toronto

Presentation Description:

A supportive housing plan is a major initiative of the Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness. Now under way, this effort is relevant to needs in most Ontario communities. TAEH believes that evidence- and consensus-based planning can help governments make necessary decisions while galvanizing community action.

Tuesday, May 28th – 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Workshop Objectives:

1. Participants will gain an understanding of the supportive housing plan process in Toronto.
2. Participants will hear ideas they can adapt to their own local community.
3. Participants can contribute ideas to help build momentum on supportive housing in Ontario.

Presenter Bio:

Kira Heineck is Executive Lead of the Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness. She previously held executive director positions in child care and municipal sector organizations.

Steve Lurie is Executive Director of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Toronto Branch, and a leader in the community mental health sector.

Dana Granofsky is an independent consultant, specializing in public policy and collaborative strategies in housing and in social/community/health services.

Greg Suttor is a senior researcher at the Wellesley Institute, involved in policy research on affordable and supportive housing.