



BEP Symposium 2008

Biographies –Session Presenters and Facilitators

Andrea Adams, St. Clare’s Multifaith Housing Society

Andrea Adams is the Operations Manager for St. Clare’s. She has 15 years of development and property management experiences in the Co-op and Non-Profit Sector. Andrea has a BA in Political Studies from Queens University

Neemarie Alam, Frontline Partners with Youth Network

Neemarie Alam has worked as frontline staff in organizations throughout Toronto. Her experiences range from implementing and developing pre-teen programs, to advocacy, to housing. Currently employed as a Youth Outreach Worker, Neemarie juggles full-time work with being a part-time student at York University. She sits on several Board structures for innovative youth initiatives, and is keenly interested in developing policy and organizational structures that recognize and respect frontline workers. Neemarie is an avid participant in Frontline Partners with Youth Network, and is part of committee that helped form the Network’s governance structure.

Kim Bell, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch

(Coming soon..)

Scott Bowler, Mount Sinai Hospital

Scott Bowler is a social worker, providing outpatient psychotherapy at the Clinic for HIV-Related Concerns within the Department of Psychiatry at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. He has worked in both community-based and hospital-based HIV services since 1990. He is a founding member of the Coalition on HIV and Mental Health.

Nick Boyce, Ontario HIV and Substance Use Training Program

Nick Boyce went to high school in Toronto and then obtained a B.Sc. in Psychology from Dalhousie University in Halifax. While there he was involved with the underground rave scene and, after moving back to Toronto in 1999, became a trained volunteer with the TRIP! Project (formerly the Toronto Raver Info Project), providing safer sex and safer drug use information and supplies to people in Toronto's rave and nightclub scene.

At that time he was working as a Research Assistant in the Department of Epidemiology and National Surveillance at Canadian Blood Services. He then worked with the Terry Fox Foundation managing the volunteer coordinators for the Ontario Terry Fox Run sites, while continuing to volunteer with the TRIP! Project.

He then spent three and a half years as the ‘Gay Men’s Harm Reduction Coordinator’ with the AIDS Committee of Toronto. While there he was a member of the City of Toronto lead ‘Research Group on Drug Use’ (RGDU) and was actively involved with the ‘Toronto Gay/Bisexual Men’s Crystal Meth Task Force’.

For the past two years he has been a member of the grant review panel for the City of Toronto’s Drug Prevention Community Initiatives Program and currently works as the Provincial Trainer with the Ontario HIV and Substance Use Training Program.

Spencer Brennon, Ontario Self-Help Network

Spencer Brennon is the Coordinator for the Ontario Self- Help Network. He has worked as an addiction therapist and adult educator for over 25 years. Spencer holds a degree in adult education. His specialty is in “Empowering Facilitation Training Model” which enables people to work cooperatively in group format to share leadership and support each other in the process. He has presented workshops on a variety of topics in Canada, the U.S. and Australia. Spencer has trained volunteers in facilitation, business meetings, and support groups. Spencer has helped many groups to transition from a professionally led group to a self-help/mutual aid model.

September 5, 2008

Njeri Damali Campbell

Njeri Damali Campbell is an anti-oppression trainer, and diversity practitioner presently working in Peel Region. A Master's candidate with degrees in Political Science & Sociology, Njeri's academic interests revolve around creating learning environments for youth and adults that promote social inclusion. In her consulting practice, Njeri delivers equity training with adult educators in diversity, equity, and human rights.

Dr. Adriana Carvalhal, McMaster University

Dr. Adriana Carvalhal is an Assistant Clinical Professor with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University and a psychiatrist with the Special Immunology Services Clinic at the McMaster University Medical Centre. Dr. Carvalhal's research and clinical work focuses on psychiatric disorders in HIV-infected people, neurocognitive disorders associated with HIV, Hepatitis C and HIV co-infection, adherence to antiretroviral treatment and health service delivery for HIV-positive populations. Dr. Carvalhal is the co-Principal Investigator of the wHEALTH project.

Cindy Cepparo, The Vitanova Foundation

Cindy Cepparo is a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Social Work, and a Master of Social Work. She was the very first person hired by The Vitanova Foundation, and has been employed as a program manager with the agency for over fifteen years.

In 2005, she completed an internship program at York Region Abuse Program.

As part of her MSW practicum placement, she is currently involved in a research study in the Women's Mental Health Program at Women's College Hospital, an exploratory phenomenological study reporting on the outcome of a mixed group setting for those suffering from chronic pain conditions.

Katherine Chislett, City of Toronto

Katherine Chislett is currently the Director of Housing and Homelessness Initiatives for the City of Toronto. This section supports homelessness drop-ins, housing help and eviction prevention projects, and street outreach activities.

Prior to this, Ms. Chislett was a principle planner and manager of the City's Community Planning unit, with a specialization in housing policy. She was the lead City witness on rental demolition cases in Toronto after repeal of the Rental Housing Protection Act, and responsible for development of housing policies for the new official plan. Katherine worked as a Policy Officer in the social housing division for the Province of Ontario, worked with the Cornell Development Group to plan one of Canada's first new 'urbanist' development in Markham, and managed rent control programs across Northern Ontario. Ms Chislett has an M.A. in geography from the University of Western Ontario, where she specialized in statistical analysis and housing program evaluation.

Ron Claus, Missouri Institute of Mental Health

Ron Claus, Ph.D. is a Research Associate Professor at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health, University of Missouri School of Medicine. His research interests center around addiction and recovery from alcohol and drug problems. In particular, he has focused on the treatment of substance use and co-occurring disorders; co-occurring capacity at treatment agencies; and gender-sensitive treatment for women. Motivation, self-help and spirituality in individuals with substance use disorders are long-standing areas of interest. Before joining MIMH in 1996, he worked for 10 years as a counsellor and clinical supervisor in the substance abuse treatment field.

Ashton D'Silva, (Project C.A.N.O.E), Frontline Partners with Youth Network

Ashton has worked as counsellor with children and youth across the Greater Toronto area through youth shelters, high schools, treatment facilities and outdoor programs. He is a member of the Ontario Association for Child and Youth Counsellors. Currently, Ashton is the Youth Development Director for Project C.A.N.O.E.; a charitable organization that uses the outdoors as a vehicle for developing resiliency factors with adolescent

youth. He has been a presenter at the Council for Outdoor Educators annual conference and will be presenting a workshop at the National Child and Youth Care conference in October 2008.

Christopher Mark D'souza, Faculty of Education-York University

Chris has been an educator for over 19 years, the last five as the Equity and Diversity Officer for a large GTA school board. He has conducted over 700 workshops to educational institutions and social services sectors. Chris is Founder and Chairs the Equity Summit Group, representing 17 school boards and Universities in Ontario. In September 2008, he will be teaching at York University's Faculty of Education.

Tammy Décarie, Queen West Community Health Centre

Tammy Décarie currently works as a Health Promoter at Queen West Community Health Centre, a CHC that specializes in inner city health. She has a passion for the not-for-profit sector and believes in the responsibility to proactively respond to local and global issues. Her work and life experiences have deepened her understanding of income struggles, international migration, community health, and the environment.

Cathy Dyer, The New Mentality

Cathy Dyer is a 26 year-old survivor of the child welfare and mental health systems. She is a graduate of the University of Toronto. As the Project Coordinator for The New Mentality, she works alongside youth who are raising awareness about mental illness in their communities. Cathy brings vitality and vision to wherever she goes and believes that youth are powerful agents for positive change.

Michelle Firestone, St. Michael's Hospital, Centre for Research on Inner City Health (CRICH)

Michelle Firestone obtained a Masters degree in Health Sciences from The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health with a focus on Social and Behavioural Interventions in 2003. Presently, she is pursuing a doctoral degree at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Ms. Firestone's previous work experience included two years as a project director at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) where she coordinated a multi-site research project on risks for HIV and HCV among Mexican drug users along the Mexican/U.S. border. From 2005 to 2007, Ms. Firestone worked as a research coordinator at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) where her research centered primarily on illicit drug use, infectious disease transmission and social determinants of addiction. Currently, as a doctoral student, Ms. Firestone works closely with her supervisor Dr. Patricia O'Campo at the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital where her research is focused mainly on concurrent mental health and substance use disorders among marginalized, urban populations.

Kara Gillies, Voices of Positive Women (VOPW)

Kara Gillies is the Executive Director at Voices of Positive Women (VOPW), a community-based, member-driven agency that provides free and confidential support and advocacy to HIV positive women throughout Ontario. Kara has over five years executive management and programming experience in social and health care services, fifteen years of support and advocacy work in the field of HIV/AIDS, is committed to the value and importance of peer-directed organizations and is dedicated to working within a feminist, anti-oppression and anti-racist framework. Kara is representing VOPW, a stakeholder on the wHEALTH research team.

Tahira Gonsalves, Research Coordinator, University of Toronto

Tahira Gonsalves is the Research Coordinator on the Newcomer Youth Mental Health project. She is currently pursuing a PhD in sociology at York University, and is interested in immigrant health, integration, and settlement issues. She has previously conducted research in the areas of international development, gender and peace building (specifically with a South Asian focus), and in national social and economic policies affecting women and marginalized communities in Canada.

Melanie Goroniuk, University of Alberta

Melanie Goroniuk joined the University of Alberta in 1998 and is the Manager of the Health Promotion & WorkLife Services. Today the Health Promotion & WorkLife Services unit provides services and support to both

September 5, 2008

Academic and Support staff members on Campus in the areas of early illness intervention and disability management, workplace accommodation, individual and organizational health promotion and wellness, Employee & Family Assistance Program and work life services. A key focus of the unit is on workplace based health promotion. One of the new initiatives in 2008 is Facing Facts, a program designed to tackle the stigma surrounding mental illness in both staff and student populations.

Melanie currently serves on both Benefit Advisory committees as well as the Workload Work Life Task Force, is chair of an interdisciplinary advisory committee on health promotion and was a member of a University Senate appointed Task Force on Wellness.

Shayla Gutzin, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Shayla Gutzin, MSW, RSW has been the Deputy Administrative Director in the General Psychiatry/ Centralized Assessment, Triage and Support (CATS) Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) since 2002. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated her leadership in program development initiatives and partnership development with numerous community agencies. Shayla has held a number of clinical and management positions in Mental Health, Addictions and Concurrent Disorders Programs at CAMH. Her clinical experience includes individual and group interventions with many populations of clients, including those who were homeless. Over the past two years, Shayla has taken the lead on behalf of CAMH in partnership development with the Multidisciplinary Outreach Program (MDOT). Over the past fourteen years, she has had many opportunities to provide training and education to community organizations, clinical and outreach staff, in small groups and at workshops.

Michele Heath, Fred Victor Centre

Michele Heath, MSW, RSW, has worked in community-based agencies for the past 18 years, dealing with issues of homelessness and poverty. During this time, she has worked with homeless and low-income youth and adults in a variety of programs that focus on assisting individuals to gain the skills and support needed to stabilize their lives and leave homelessness behind. Michele has also participated in a number of research initiatives, creating reports, audio-visual and educational materials. Currently, Michele is Director of Community Services at Fred Victor Centre, a community based multi-service agency in downtown Toronto that promotes health, community development, equity and social justice for people living in poverty.

Lynn Hillman, Concurrent Disorders Support Services

Lynn Hillman, MSW, RSW, is the Manager of the Concurrent Disorders Support Services, which is an initiative of the Concurrent Disorders Transitional Support Partnership of 16 agencies, led by Fred Victor Centre. Lynn has led a number of partnerships, including an access center for 8 agencies under the auspices of Supportive Housing In Peel, a protocol development for 13 agencies in the Dufferin County Domestic Assault Review Team, a research project of volunteer services led by the Children's Aid Society of Peel Region and an inter-agency treatment program called Children Living in Violent Environments. In her last, agency-based position, Lynn was Director of Services at Supportive Housing In Peel.

Jenny Katz, Frontline Partners with Youth Network

Jenny Katz has worked in a number of community and social service organizations over the last 10 years. As a result, she has learned about the shelter, youth justice, school, child protection, and children's mental health systems from the inside. In her previous position, she worked from a trauma framework as a therapist with young women with assault charges. Feeling the need to respond to the gun violence of summer 2005, she called a get-together to find out how other people working directly with youth were coping. This gathering marked the birth of the Frontline Partners with Youth Network.

Jenny continues to connect the experiences of the individuals, families and groups with whom she works, with the systemic issues that greatly contribute to, exacerbate or cause their problems. Her interest in open discussions about power and its influence on individual, organizational, and systemic relationships continues to influence all aspects of her work.

September 5, 2008

Dr. Nazilla Khanlou, University of Toronto

Dr. Nazilla Khanlou: is the Ontario Women's Health Council Chair in Women's Mental Health Research in the Faculty of Health at York University and an Associate Professor in its School of Nursing. Her overall program of research is situated in the interdisciplinary field of community-based mental health promotion in general, and mental health promotion among youth and women in multicultural and immigrant-receiving settings in particular. She has received major peer-reviewed grants from federal and provincial research funding agencies, and conducted policy informing research. She has published numerous articles, books, and reports on youth, immigrant health, and mental health promotion.

Maritt Kirst, Centre for Research on Inner City Health, St. Michael's Hospital

(Coming soon...)

Laura Klie, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Laura Klie is a social worker at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, HIV Clinic in Toronto and has been a member of the Coalition on HIV and Mental Health since its inception. She provides both outpatient and inpatient counselling. She has worked at the HIV Clinic since 1999 and prior to this worked for several years as a counsellor at the Addiction Research Foundation.

Deborah Konecny, Family Service Toronto

Deborah is currently the coordinator of the Families Are Important Resources Project where developing capacity and exploring partnerships and community readiness is a cornerstone of her work. As a single parent, she brings her lived experience as someone from the margins to both her work at Family Service Toronto and her graduate studies at Ryerson University.

Luis Lama, Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment (CAAT)

(Coming soon...)

Dr. Alan Li, Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment (CAAT)

(Coming soon...)

Sarah Marsh, Centre for Community Based Research

Sarah Marsh is a researcher at the Centre for Community Based Research. She currently coordinates the Taking Culture Seriously in Community Mental Health CURA – working closely with multiple partners to carry out the five year collaborative research study. Her journey in community development, in work and in studies, has led to interesting and rewarding work with a wide range of community organizations and individuals from various cultural and social backgrounds.

Susan Meikle, Toronto North Support Services

Susan Meikle is currently the Executive Director of Toronto North Support Services. Trained as an Occupational Therapist, she has worked extensively in mental health, both in the hospital and community sectors. Susan has held a number of management positions in community mental health, including serving as the Director of Adult Services for LOFT Community Services, where she had responsibility for a variety of programs serving individuals with mental illness, addictions and HIV/AIDS. In 2001 she joined Toronto North Support Services and since then has overseen the growth and diversification of their mental health services to include a number of partnerships to provide case management and supportive housing to a group of high needs clients. She has also developed a strong interest in providing programs to serve homeless individuals and has worked closely with the City of Toronto and other homeless service providers to address some of the gaps and barriers to service. Toronto North Support Services provides the lead organization function for the Multi-disciplinary Outreach Team (M-DOT), and in her role as ED, Susan co-chairs the Oversight Committee for that project.

Baldev Mutta, Punjabi Community Health Centre

Baldev Mutta is the Executive Director of the Punjabi Community Health Centre. An advocate for never giving up on a great idea, he was a committed volunteer leader of the PCHC for years. Now that it has recently grown, he is leading the organization on a full time basis in the development of increased programs and services.

Joanna Ochocka, Centre for Community Based Research

Joanna Ochocka is the Executive Director of the Centre for Community Based Research, and she is the Principle Investigator of the Taking Culture Seriously in Community Mental Health Community University Research Alliance (CURA), a five year research study based in Toronto and Waterloo Region. Joanna has an academic background in Sociology (Ph.D.) and is Adjunct Faculty in the Psychology Department at Wilfrid Laurier University. She teaches graduate students part-time, advises students on their theses, and sits on the WLU Ethics Appeal Board. She is author of numerous academic articles and is co-author of the book: Shifting the Paradigm in Community Mental Health.

Maureen Owino, Committee for Accessible Aids Treatment (CAAT)

(Coming soon...)

Nancy Pereira, New Mentality

Nancy Pereira is the Knowledge Transfer and Evaluation Lead for The New Mentality. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree from the University of Guelph and majored in Sociology. In 2007, Nancy authored the report "Ready...Set...Engage! Building Effective Youth-Adult Partnerships for a Stronger Child and Youth Mental Health System", a 70-page literature review and manual to teach child and youth mental health professionals how to engage youth as volunteers within an organization.

Vince Pietropaolo, COSTI Immigrant Services

Vince Pietropaolo, M.A., is the General Manager of COSTI Family and Mental Health Services. In his current position he has worked with ethno cultural communities in program development and implementation in the area of mental health, domestic violence and problem gambling. Vince currently sits on the, CAMH Problem Gambling Advisory committee and the Ontario Resource Group on Gambling, Ethnicity and Culture. The York Region Violence against Women Coordinating Committee, North York Specialized Courts Advisory Committee and is a member of the High Risk Consultation Team.

Roya Rabbani, Self-Help Resource Centre

Roya Rabbani is the Self-Help Resource Centre's Executive Director. She has worked with diverse communities in urban and rural settings in Jamaica, Brazil, Pakistan, Iran and Canada. She holds a B.Sc. from University of Guelph and a Master of Social Work from Wilfrid Laurier. In Canada, she has been the Executive Director of Jamaican Self-Help, managing CIDA-run projects in Jamaica, Executive Director of Ontario Council for International Cooperation, and a consultant with Foundation for International Training. Utilizing the self-help/mutual aid methods for building social capital and multi-stakeholders partnership, Roya has developed innovative projects, such as Diversify the Source Enhance the Force; Mutually Ours, Building Wholesome Communities Everywhere; and Empowering Stroke Prevention.

Michael Renner, Missouri Foundation for Health

Michael Renner, MSW, is a Program Officer with the Missouri Foundation for Health, where he leads the Mental Health and Substance Abuse funding program, providing \$7 million in grants and technical assistance to Missouri organizations delivering services to people with co-occurring disorders and substance abuse treatment and prevention services to youth.

Edward Riedel, Missouri Institute of Mental Health

Edward Riedel, LCSW

2008 Current Position: Co-Occurring Project Coordinator for the Missouri Institute of Mental Health in Saint Louis, Missouri, a division of The University of Missouri, Columbia

September 5, 2008

1997-2007 Vice President Community Programs East Central Missouri Behavioural Health Services, including Adult Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Supported Employment, and Co-Occurring services.

1993 Masters of Social Work, University of Missouri Columbia

1995 Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Missouri

Certifications:

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Master trainer

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Trainer

Memberships:

State of Missouri Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee

Kelly Robinson, Canadian Mental Health Association –Toronto Branch

Kelly Robinson is a community-member, mental health worker, student and teacher. She has worked in the mental health field for over ten years and has recently joined the Mood and Psychosis Early Intervention Team at the Canadian Mental Health Association, Toronto Branch as a Family Worker. She has a BA in Psychology from Trent University and an MA in Adult Education and Community Development from the University of Toronto. Kelly is interested in community based research and participatory research that explore social determinants of health. She is committed to facilitating the equitable creation of knowledge through authentic community/institution partnerships.

Hajera Rostam, UBC Doctoral Student in Counselling Psychology

Hajera Rostam is a doctoral student in Counselling Psychology at UBC. She was recently awarded a training fellowship through the Integrated Mentorship Program for Addiction Research Training (funded by CIHR, BC Women's Hospital and UBC), as well as the University Graduate Fellowship (Basant Singh and Harnam Kaur Singh Fellowship). Her research focuses on the help-seeking experiences of Canadian immigrant and refugees with mental health and addictions. Hajera is a refugee from Afghanistan, who settled in Canada in 1996 (supported by a scholarship and sponsorship through the World University Services of Canada for refugee students). She has also worked as an addictions counsellor serving diverse communities in Vancouver.

Dr. Amy Salmon, Canada Northwest FASD Research Network

A sociologist of health education, Dr. Amy Salmon's research focuses on factors that inform access to and provision of health information, maternity care, and primary healthcare for substance-using women. She is currently conducting several community-based, participatory research projects including: a study of substance-using women's experiences of primary healthcare in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES); 2 studies tracking outcomes for substance-using mothers accessing harm-reduction oriented housing and maternity care programs; a knowledge synthesis project to produce evidence-based health information resources with and for women substance users in the DTES; and a collaborative pilot project examining the ethical dimensions of participatory health research.

Subha Sankaran, Health Nexus (Nexus Santé)

Subha Sankaran is a Health Promotion Consultant at Health Nexus working with two of its key programmes - Prevent Stroke and the Health Promotion Hub. She is interested in issues of inclusion and health equity, community and organizational development, and broader issues of social justice and public policy. Most recently, she has completed a project with a colleague, Primer to Action: Social Determinants of Health. She has been Chair of the board of the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians and Executive Director of the Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention in Toronto. She is a member of the board of directors of the Health Equity Council, and also sits on the Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Committee of Central LHIN. She holds degrees in Economics and Sociology, and prior to her move to Canada 9 years ago, taught Sociology at the university level in India.

Peggy Schultz, Health Nexus (Nexus Santé)

Peggy Schultz, long-time Health Promotion Consultant with Health Nexus (Nexus Santé), builds on her earlier clinical and managerial roles as occupational therapist in both institutional and community mental health. Her work includes consultation, facilitation and methods of dialogue to support different aspects of system-based

September 5, 2008

change. Peggy holds a Master of Health Sciences Degree, health promotion specialization, from the University of Toronto.

**Dr. Yogendra Shakya,
Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services**

Dr. Yogendra Shakya is the Manager of Research and Evaluation at Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services. His areas of expertise include community development, social determinants of health for newcomers and racialized groups, government-assisted refugees, community-based research, and globalization. He is also the coordinator of a number of community-based research working groups/projects at Access Alliance, including the Income Security, Race, and Health project and Racialized Groups and Access to Health Care project.

Charles Shames, Ontario HIV and Substance Use Training Program

Charles Shames is the Director of the Ontario HIV and Substance Use Training Program. He recently was on a secondment with the Public Health Agency of Canada, Ontario Region with their AIDS Community Action Program. He was the Education Coordinator for Peterborough AIDS Resource Network working with gay men and youth and people who use injection drugs developing programs and interventions to prevent the spread of HIV. He facilitated support groups and developed and delivered numerous trainings on HIV, Harm Reduction and anti-stigma and discrimination. He has been involved with the AIDS movement in Ontario for over 20 years, both as a volunteer and a worker. He formerly worked in mental health promotion and prevention education for CMHA-Peterborough, delivering trainings and workshops on mental illness and wellness in schools and other venues.

Roslyn Shields, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Roslyn Shields is a Community Support, Development and Research Specialist in the Community Support and Research Unit (CSRU) at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). In this position, Roslyn is responsible for developing, maintaining and evaluating housing and support partnerships for people with serious mental illness, as well as providing direct housing assistance to clients of CAMH. She is also a member of CSRU's Community Research Planning and Evaluation Team (CRPET). Roslyn holds a M.A. in Community Psychology from Wilfrid Laurier University.

Wayne Skinner, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Wayne Skinner, MSW, RSW, is the Deputy Clinical Director, Addictions Programs, at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), where he leads the Concurrent Disorders Capacity-Building Team and oversees problem gambling initiatives. Wayne is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Adjunct Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto. He also directs the Addictions Studies Program in Continuing Education at St. Michael's College (U. of T.) and teaches at the School of Social Work at York University. Wayne is currently involved in research on supporting families affected by concurrent disorder.

Sunder Singh, Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women

Sunder Singh has an Honours Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Windsor, with a major in accounting and business administration. She has fifteen years of experience in the community non-profit sector, serving diverse communities and ethnic groups, mainly from South Asia, in both Windsor and Toronto.

Currently the executive director of the Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women, she started a community enterprise on behalf of EHCW called Riverdale Interpreters, commonly known as "RivInt", which---from 12 interpreters speaking 5 languages has grown to a roster of 450 interpreters speaking 60 languages, serving all major hospitals across the GTA.

Stewart J. Smith, Family Service Association of Toronto

Stewart J. Smith works for Family Service Association of Toronto as the Tenant Support Coordinator at the Leonard Avenue site. Stewart is a social worker with twenty-five years work experience in human services.

September 5, 2008

Stewart has a B.A. from Waterloo University, a B.S.W. from York University and a M.S.S. from the University of Toronto.

Helen Song, Centre for Community Based Research

Helen Song played a key role as a community researcher in the Taking Culture Seriously in Community Mental Health Community University Research Alliance (CURA). She engaged members of the Mandarin-speaking Chinese community in Waterloo Region to contribute to the data collection for the study, and also to the community engagement process for envisioning next steps for demonstrating practice. Helen immigrated from China and has been living in Waterloo for over three years. She was a University teacher in China. Currently, she is teaching Mandarin at Conestoga College and she has two young children: a boy and a girl.

Colleen Tessier, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Colleen has been at CAMH for more than 15 years and has been involved in a wide variety of regional and provincial health promotion initiatives, including developing partnerships and providing consultation to the public health and education systems. Colleen's work for the Project is focused on promoting awareness of issues related to problem gambling within helping professionals in Ontario and on the development and dissemination of customized resources and training.

Cathy Thompson, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Cathy Thompson has worked at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health as a Program Consultant in the Halton Region for over 8 years. Cathy works with a number of local coalitions in the areas of tobacco control, suicide prevention, concurrent disorders and other health promotion initiatives. Her main area of interest is with VALIDITY, a provincial project about young women and depression.

Kinsi Warsame

I am a Community Health Worker with East Mississauga Community Health Centre. I have over five years experience in volunteering and working in outreach and community development.

I have had significant experience and accomplishments working with the community and pioneered a first of its kind program in Brampton. This specialized program was designed to teach Muslim women, many of whom had never swam in their lives, to gain the skills necessary to swim with competency. In spearheading the project, I recruited what turned out to be enthusiastic participants, and co-ordinated resources and facilities that would meet the cultural, religious values and requirements of the group. The result was a long running program that is still well received with a waiting list. Due to my initiative and involvement in the program I was awarded a certificate for Outstanding Service and Commitment to Diversity and Inclusiveness. I am also an active member of Health & Racism Working Group. I have been involved in the day to day running of the group in organizing events and advocating for the community.

Jocelyn Watchorn, AIDS Committee of Toronto

Jocelyn Watchorn is a registered social service worker, providing counselling to people infected and affected with HIV/AIDS. Jocelyn has worked at the AIDS Committee of Toronto since 2002. Jocelyn also works as a trainer for ACT, and also in the community.

Jocelyn has been a member of the Coalition on HIV and Mental Health since 2005.

Josephine Wong

(Coming soon...)