

Mental Health Capacity Building in Schools Initiative

The Mental Health Capacity Building in Schools Initiative (MHCB) is led by Alberta Health Services in collaboration with Alberta Education, and funded through grants from Alberta Health and Wellness. The purpose of the initiative is to establish projects that provide the staffing and support required to implement an integrated, school-based community mental health promotion, prevention, and early intervention program. The projects are locally planned, coordinated and implemented through partnerships with Alberta Health Services Zones, school jurisdictions, parents, community agencies and other regional service providers.

The intended outcomes of the Mental Health Capacity Building in Schools Initiative are to:

- develop and enhance collaborative practices among inter- and cross-sectoral prevention and service providers in school settings;
- reduce barriers and stigma;
- engage students, parents, partners, and community members in the development, implementation, and progress of their projects;
- support easier access to services as requested by service providers, students, parents and school staff; and
- increase effectiveness while reducing the need for more intensive mental health and crisis services in the long-term.

Quick Facts

- The MHCB initiative serves children and youth under age 19, and their families.
- The MHCB initiative was initially funded in 2006, beginning with 5 pilot sites around the province.
- There are currently 38 projects in 47 communities and 119 schools, throughout Alberta.
- The diversity of approaches and programming are reflective of the needs and resources of individual communities, including engagement of traditionally under-served populations.
- The MHCB initiative has been selected by the School-Based Mental Health and Substance Abuse Consortium for inclusion within their national scan of the practice landscape on behalf of the Mental Health Commission of Canada.
- The cornerstone elements of the initiative dovetail with the goals identified by Alberta Health and Wellness and Alberta Health Services to improve access to addiction and mental health treatment, and to increase the emphasis on prevention and health promotion in the community.

For further information, please contact:

Tracey Trudeau – Provincial Manager
Children, Youth & Families Intervention
Alberta Health Services – Addiction & Mental Health
tracey.trudeau@albertahealthservices.ca 780.638-4048

Marni Pearce - Director
Cross Ministry Services
Alberta Education
marni.pearce@gov.ab.ca 780.422-5045

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/2754.asp>

Mental Health Capacity Building In Schools Initiative - Project Sites



38 projects in 47 communities and 119 schools in Alberta:

- Airdrie/Chestermere
- Banff/Canmore
- Brooks
- Calgary -Independent
- Calgary - Francophone
- Camrose
- Central Métis (Gift Lake/ Grouard/Peavine)
- Drayton Valley
- Edmonton Francophone
- Edmonton Jasper Place
- Edmonton Mill Woods
- Edson/Hinton/Niton
- Fox Creek
- Ft. Chipewyan
- Hanna
- High Level
- High Prairie
- Janvier
- Lac La Biche /Kikino/ Caslan/ Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement
- Leduc/Beaumont
- Lethbridge
- Medicine Hat Catholic
- Medicine Hat Secondary
- Medicine Hat Elementary
- Olds
- Oyen
- Peace River
- Redcliff
- Sherwood Park
- St. Paul/Ashmont
- Stettler
- Swan Hills
- Taber/Grassy Lake/Vauxhall
- Vegreville
- Vermilion
- Wainwright
- Wetaskiwin
- Whitecourt

* Updated September 2011