

CBR in BC Quarterly Minutes  
October 7, 2013  
Noon - 3:00 pm

Location: **McLaren Housing's new Howe Street site's meeting room at 1249 Howe Street.**

In Attendance: Janice Duddy, Andrea Langlois, Joanna Mendell, Marcie Summers, Chuck Osborne, Terry Howard, Darren Lauscher, Sarah Kesselring, Ross Harvey, Patrick MacDougall, Surita Parashar, Valerie Nicholson, Allison Carter, Claire O'Gorman, Evin Jones, Jasmine Gurm

Via Telephone: Sandy Lambert, Carlene Dingwall, Cathy Worthington, Sherri Pooyak, Katrina Jensen

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Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Previous Minutes
3. Current Project Updates
  - a. **Positive Living Positive Homes** – Andrea Langlois and Cathy Worthington  
This project is using a case-study design to look at HIV and housing in BC; specifically in Vancouver, Kamloops and Prince George. PAN has received institutional eligibility and can now hold the funds awarded by CIHR. We are in the process of hiring a study coordinator, and will be presenting at The Pacific Housing Research Network Symposium at the University of Victoria in a few weeks.
  - b. **CHIWOS (Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study)** – Allison Carter  
CHIWOS was officially launched on October 1, 2013. The first participant was enrolled in August, and as of today there are 15 participants. Over the course of the last few months have been working with and supporting PRAs to get the study up and running as well as working out survey issues. The study is slowly moving into communities across BC in phases to be able to properly support PRAs. The study should be in communities across the province within a couple of weeks. There will be a Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting Thursday October 10, which is a good opportunity to introduce the larger team and new PRAs.
  - c. **ENGAGE** – Sarah Kesselring and Chuck Osborne  
This study is enrolling people who are HIV+, have been on treatment for less than 6 months, and have never been on ART before. The survey has been finalized and has been submitted to ethics for approval. Once approved the survey will be available online. Recruitment will hopefully

begin in one month's time. The study aims to understand this cohort's relationship with their doctors, what has influenced their decision to start treatment, what are the reasons for delay of treatment and other questions about late engagement and beginning HIV treatment.

d. **Spirituality and Land-based Practices: Urban Aboriginal Narratologies of Resilience and Mental Health Wellbeing** – Carlene Dingwall

Have been working with an urban aboriginal working group in Prince George to develop a proposal looking at developing an organizational protocol to help facilitate research and partnerships and to help organizations build capacity to respond to the large number of research requests. This may culminate in trying to establish and set up an urban aboriginal research ethics board.

**Mental Health, Substance Use, HIV, HCV advisory group-**

Formulating research question, and discussing how we will proceed – Linking in with REACH and CBR collaborative and using this project as a way to increase our skills and knowledge about grant proposals.

e. **Peer Worker Industry Support Standards and other pieces** – Terry Howard

Two focus groups have been held: one for peer workers (PRAs, Peer Counsellors, Peer Health Ambassadors, and Peer Navigators) and one for researchers and people in programs that employ peer workers. Focus groups helped inform the team of the challenges and benefits of working with peer workers, where the gaps are, what supports are and should be available, as well as difficulties encountered by people in the various peer worker roles. Compiling all the information and developing a “toolkit” for people looking to start working with Peer Workers. Will be an online resource and possibly a book if funding is available.

Have received Café Scientifique grant to hold an event most likely in the first week of December. The event will be open to HIV workers, researchers, and program coordinators. There will be a panel: “Peer worker standards and support,” and then discussion will be opened up to the room.

f. **Momentum – Gay man's health study** – Terry Howard

Looking at practices of men who have sex with men. 650+ participants enrolled so far.

g. **Positive Deviance** – Terry Howard

Eric Roth has developed a research proposal using The Positive Deviance approach (adapted from study in the states working with people who use injection drugs) and applying it to HIV prevention in gay men. Study will look at resilience practices in HIV prevention among gay men. *What are the prevention practices that people engage in themselves?* Study explores ideas around this. Funding decision in March.

- h. **Dr. Peter Centre Evaluation** – Patrick MacDougall  
Mixed methodology survey: virtual cohort, arts-based approach, and secondary analysis i.e. LISA study. Have engaged Terry Howard as a peer mentor and have worked on hiring 3 peer workers who will be administering surveys and are going to start training at the start of November (there were 49 applicants and it was an involved process to go through the selection process). Survey has been compiled, but needs to be reduced, will hopefully be in place by end of October.
- i. **“The Way I See It”** Surita Parashar and Valerie Nicholson  
Spoke on panel at North American Housing Summit and their video is going on Homeless Hub website. The team is mentoring someone in the US who is interested in this project. Would like to continue project with more cameras and more money, but are wrapping up this phase of this study. Question: This brings up the question of how do we wrap up CBR projects? What is involved in moving on to the next phase?  
Phase 2: McLaren Housing Evaluation: There is funding for next phase: using people’s stories to evaluate experiences with the McLaren housing project. Will be hiring PRAs for this evaluation.
- j. **Building Bridges (used to be “Bridging the Gap”)-** Valerie Nicholson  
There will be three talking circles with ceremony to be held with a small group that will discuss how to identify questions within the CANOC data set, starting in January or February. Dr. Hall and research assistants will be included in the talking circles.
- k. **Western Canadian Housing Service mapping** – Patrick MacDougal  
Project conducting qualitative interviews in Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver looking at gaps and barriers in housing. Have compiled information and presented at the HIV & Housing Research Summit in Montreal. Would like to provide service maps/tables but there are concerns that the information will out of date very quickly (*maybe create a wiki? Who will manage the updates?*). There is a possibility of writing a paper on this research. Possible collaboration with careregistry.ca.  
**ASO 411 – care registry – “careregistry.ca”** – Chuck Osborne  
Two pronged resource: for professionals/service providers and for people requiring services to find resources themselves. So far have province wide listings of clinics, nutrition services, dentists, etc. No listings for housing resources so far.
- l. **Mothering Study** – Val Nicholson  
Project is led by Saara Greene, taking place in Ontario and Quebec. Two focus groups will be held October 24, inviting mothers to discuss discrimination, social services, facilitation of services etc.
- m. **Gay Men & Aging project**– Darren Lauscher  
Peer led support groups for positive and negative men aged 60 and older. Study is being led by Robert Ablenas. Two focus groups have been conducted in Vancouver and Victoria, and study will be coming to Prince

George and Kelowna. What is arising thus far is that as gay men age, there is an increasing sense of loss in this community following huge numbers of peers who have passed, and the sense of isolation that is becoming more apparent in this demographic. Taking a pulse of what is out there in the broader community with the goal of creating an action plan.

- n. **HIV and Aging:** The Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation, with Susan Kirkland (PI) along with many partners are working to get a national survey of people living with HIV/AIDS funded. There is also currently a service scoping underway, visit the PAN website to respond to the survey.
- o. **AIDS Vancouver Island**  
Received Café Scientifique grant from CIHR in partnership with PAN. The topic for 2 cafes in the New Year will be “The End of AIDS: What will it take?”
- p. **Moving Mountains** – PAN and UNBC-led CBR development planning process and meeting to be held next year in Northern BC.

#### **4. Update from CBR Centres:**

- a. **REACH CBR Collaborative Centre** – Evin Jones  
Knowledge to Action CBR event and the work of the BC Core Team have allowed us to identify research priorities and capacity building needs in the province. The BC Core Team will be meeting early in the New Year. Housing and food security have been identified as priorities for the CIHR CBR Collaborative. As well other national priorities have been identified:
  - 1. **Stigma** – will be a national signature project – an operating grant will be applied for to implement the already existing stigma index (that has been used in 50+ countries). This work will be peer led, Andrea is working on pulling together people in BC to be involved in helping to guide how the index roles out.
  - 2. **Point of Care Testing Working Group** – is working with a University Without Walls fellow to do a scoping review of POC testing programs across Canada and in similar countries.

CIHR CBR Collaborative has coordinators in provinces/regions across the country – meeting weekly to share tools in supporting CBR across the country, how different regions are using similar but different paths, and to come together whenever and however it makes sense to.

- b. **AHA Centre** – Sherri Pooyak  
Is slowly hiring PRAs. Governing council is meeting next week. CAAN CBR Journal: there are 4 or 5 submissions to the journal so far, and they are looking for peer reviewers. National Aboriginal Research Council is being set up to look at areas of focus and what direction research should go. There is a lot of community interest, but they are hoping for more professional/clinical/epidemiological interest.

## 5. Updates:

- a. **Honoraria and compensation working group** – Andrea Langlois  
Over the summer we hired a research assistant to look at the issues around honoraria and compensation. Looking at tips/discussions to have with research teams regarding how to provide honorariums, links for people to go, names of policies to look at when they are making decisions etc. Will be developing a number of fact sheets/tip sheets to help start discussion and to provide organizations points to think about/discuss.
- b. **Wise Practices Conference** – Sandy Lambert  
There was a strong presence from academia but not as much presence from APHAs. Talked about peer mentoring, decolonizing through storytelling, harm reduction strategies etc. There were many good workshops and a holistic medicine wheel. Shortcomings were apparent in the resources available to people living with HIV in Saskatchewan. *How do we start getting the help that is needed in Saskatchewan?*

## 6. Other Agenda Items

- a. **Upcoming conferences**
  - i. CAHR – will be holding 2 CBR workshops (Terry Howard)
    1. Mid November in Toronto – CBR in Northern Canada
    2. Vancouver – focusing on Peer Workers, bring PWs from across Canada, tips they may have, the work they are doing etc.
  - ii. New researcher workshop – will be in the community, mid-level researchers (3-5 years up to year 10) about community engagement
  - iii. May 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> CAHR conference in St John's, Newfoundland
- b. **Guideline Policy Working with PRAs** – Allison Carter  
PRAs come with various levels of experiences and tensions exist around meeting people where they are, but also having expectations of them in a professional setting. *Are there guidelines and/or policies that can be presented to PRAs to make expectations clear to keep good standing as a PRA? And what should these expectations be?* Codes of conduct exist with ASOs which could be used as a resource, but expectations likely need to be different for PRAs than for people working within ASOs. PRAs come from a community and have experienced many of the questions asked in surveys in order not to trigger PRAs some surveys have decided to alter survey questions. Also PRAs can feel that they are the “receptacle

of so many community secrets” which can be a heavy burden. It is very difficult to have consistent standards and expectations. A peer mentor can help with these issues and can also be a resource for PRAs to ask questions that they may not feel comfortable asking the research team. Coaching, debrief and supportive interventions can help support PRAs in their roles. This is a bigger question that needs a more fulsome conversation and should be addressed at a later meeting.

**c. Grief and Loss – what supports are in place within projects?**

Support systems for research team members that experience grief or loss can be written into grant and can be a very important resource. Eg. CHIWOS has a counsellor on call – *discussion on how to ensure that this type of resource is acceptable.*