



Access to Care, Treatment & Support for Improving Mental Health

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Research studies and community knowledge and wisdom tell us that people living with HIV (and co-infected hepatitis C) are affected by a range of mental health challenges. For some, these challenges were there before their HIV diagnosis, and continue on. For others, the experience of living and aging with HIV and other chronic health issues has raised challenges for their mental health and overall wellbeing.

This interactive workshop will engage participants in discussion and exchange of knowledge about mental health challenges faced by PHAs, including Aboriginal people, women, older folks, and people who use drugs. We will review some research-informed recommendations and strategies for improving access to mental health care, treatment and support. Right at home, BC is currently reviewing its “Healthy Minds, Healthy People” (2010) strategy to address mental health and substance use—let’s talk about PHA experiences under that strategy. Finally, CTAC wants your help identifying gaps and barriers that you and your peers face when trying to access mental health and addictions services related to HIV, and HIV/HCV co-infection.