

Giving Voice: Advocacy & Mental Health

Monday, November 9, 2009

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lister Conference Centre

**University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta**

**A one-day forum on changes to
Alberta's mental health legislation**

Advocacy means “to give voice to”

Organizing Committee

Conference Co-Chairs:

Tracey M. Bailey

Executive Director, Health Law Institute, University of Alberta

Sandra Harrison

Alberta Mental Health Patient Advocate

Members:

Mary Marshall

Lawyer, Alberta

Dr. Lorraine Breault

Associate Dean, Community Engagement and Social Responsiveness, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta

Karin Kellogg

Project Manager/Research Associate, Health Law Institute, University of Alberta

More Information:

Phone: 780.492.8343

<http://www.law.ualberta.ca/centres/hli/events/givingvoice>

Registration

Fee Schedule

Regular \$68.25 (\$65.00 + \$3.25 GST)

Student \$42.00 (\$40.00 + \$2.00 GST)

All registration fees include 5% GST and are listed in Canadian Dollars (CAD)

The Giving Voice Conference is hosted by the University of Alberta.

GST # 108102831RT0001.

Advance registrations will be accepted until November 4, 2009.

After November 4, 2009, registrations will only be accepted on site.

For Registration details please visit:

<https://secure.buksa.com/ei/getdemo.ei?id=84&s= 2940X0GWK>

Accommodations

Hotels on campus

Lister Conference Centre (780) 492-6056

Campus Tower (780) 439-6060

Hotels Close to Campus (~10 minutes by car, 20-25 minutes on foot)

Metterra Hotel on Whyte (780) 465-8150

Varscona Hotel (780) 434-6111

Downtown Hotels (Campus is accessible by a short Light Rail Transit [LRT] ride)

Coast Edmonton Plaza (780) 423-7540

Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe (780) 428-6611

Delta Edmonton Centre Suite (780) 429-3900

Fairmont Hotel MacDonald (780) 429-6416

Holiday Inn Express (780) 423-2450

Matrix Hotel (780) 429-2861

Sutton Place Hotel (780) 428-7111

Westin Hotel (780) 426-3611

Transportation & Parking

Parking

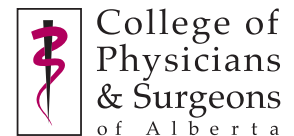
There is parking located outside the Conference Centre in Lot M for guests using the meeting facilities. The rate is \$11.40 per day with permits being purchased at the dispenser in Zone M (adjacent to the building). Additional pay parking is available in Zone R (next to Lister Centre) and in Zone T (behind the residence towers), as well as across the street in Varsity Field or next door at the Jubilee Auditorium. For more information, visit the University of Alberta's Parking Services website. <http://www.ualberta.ca/PARKING/>

Public Transportation

Attendees staying downtown can access University campus via a short ride on Edmonton's Light Rail Transit [LRT]. Edmonton Transit also operates numerous bus routes throughout the city. Information and schedules for both bus routes and the LRT can be found on Edmonton Transit's website. <http://www.edmonton.ca/transportation.aspx>

Sponsors

Alberta **LAW**
FOUNDATION



Giving Voice: Advocacy & Mental Health

8:00 - 8:30 am

Registration/Coffee

8:30 - 8:45 am

Welcome/Overview of Day

Co-Chairs: Tracey Bailey and Sandra Harrison

8:45 – 8:50 am

Greetings

Dr. Raj Sherman, M.L.A.

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Alberta Health and Wellness

8:50 – 9:05 am

A Voice of the Mental Health Community

Speaker:

Tom Shand

Chair, Alberta Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health

Summary:

Tom Shand will discuss mental health advocacy based on his experiences with the Alberta Division of Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and as a representative of the Alberta Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health. He suggests that there is no effective mechanism in Alberta to handle many of the concerns and complaints of the vast majority of Albertans living with mental illness, or their families. Learn more about this void and the advocacy role of organizations such as the CMHA to address this gap.

9:05 - 9:45 am

Keynote Address

When Advocacy Becomes a Right

Introduction:

Fred Horne, MLA, Edmonton-Rutherford

Chair, Standing Committee on Health

Moderator:

Sandra Harrison

Mental Health Patient Advocate, Province of Alberta

Speaker:

Louise Bradley

Chief Operating Officer (COO), Mental Health Commission of Canada

Summary:

When true advocacy is hampered by thoughts, attitudes and beliefs, it becomes necessary to address those issues and become better informed. It has been stated by several people with a mental illness that the stigma and discrimination often outweigh the effects of the illness itself, even at its most extreme. This discussion will examine these concepts and explore ways to mitigate these negative results through looking at what health care providers, professionals in the legal community, and the general public can do to be responsible and informed advocates.

9:45 – 10:15 am

**The Mental Health Act Exposed:
Everything you want to know about changes to
the Mental Health Act in Alberta**

Moderator:

Tracey Bailey

Executive Director, Health Law Institute, University of Alberta

Speaker:

Mary Marshall

Lawyer, Alberta

Summary:

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the history of the Mental Health Act, with particular attention to recent developments and the need to address concerns related to restrictive committal criteria, and patients who are caught in the “revolving door syndrome”. In particular, changes to the committal criteria; provisions for community treatment orders; provisions for disclosure of information upon discharge; changes to the mandate of the Mental Health Patient Advocate; and the expansion of the role of the Mental Health Review Panel will be addressed.

10:15 - 10:30 am

Health Break

10:30 – 12:00 pm

The Mental Health Act Exposed (Continued)

Moderator:

Tracey Bailey

Executive Director, Health Law Institute, University of Alberta

Speakers:

Laurie Beverley

Executive Director, Community Treatment and Support, Addiction & Mental Health, Alberta Health Services

Dr. Doug Watson

Medical Lead, Mental Health Amendment Act and Community Treatment Orders, Alberta Health Services, and Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Calgary

Dr. Patrick J. White

President Elect, Alberta Medical Association, and Clinical Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Alberta

Mary Jane Dykeman

Partner, Dykeman Dewhirst O’Brien LLP, Toronto, Ontario

Summary:

Planning in Alberta in anticipation of the amendments to the Mental Health Act and the anticipated implementation and impact will be covered. The session will conclude with the lessons learned based on case examples from Ontario, where broadened committal criteria and community treatment orders have been in place for some time.

12:00 – 12:45 pm **On-Site Networking Lunch**

12:45 – 1:30 pm **How Might Ethics Help?**

Moderator:

Scott Baerg

Director, Mental Health, Edmonton Acute Care, Covenant Health

Speakers:

Dr. Thomas Maddix

Vice President, Mission, Ethics & Spirituality, Providence Health Care, British Columbia

Dr. Eric Wasylenko

Executive Director, Clinical Ethics, Alberta Health Services

Summary:

In this panel presentation and discussion, using the language of clinical and organizational ethics, Dr. Tom Maddix and Dr. Eric Wasylenko will attempt to answer the question - “As the law changes, what do health care providers, managers, systems planners and those we interact with need to bring to bear in order to feel we are acting as ethically as possible for vulnerable people with addictions and mental illness, and for society?”

1:30 – 2:00 pm

The Mental Health Act and the Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act: Principle Based Legislation

Moderator:

Heather Loughlin

Clinical Counsel, Legal & Privacy, Alberta Health Services

Speakers:

Sandra Harrison

Alberta Mental Health Patient Advocate

Brenda Lee Doyle

Provincial Director, Office of the Public Guardian

Summary:

What is “principle based legislation”? How do the Mental Health Act and the Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act protect the rights of vulnerable Albertans, and how are others able to intervene when things go wrong?

2:00 – 2:15 pm

Health Break

2:15 – 3:00 pm

**Justice and Mental Health -
Drug & Mental Health Courts**

Moderator:

Kurt Sandstrom

*Assistant Deputy Minister, Safe Communities and Strategic Policy, Alberta
Justice and Attorney General*

Speakers:

Hon. A.H. Lefever

Deputy Chief Judge, Provincial Court of Alberta

David Hill

Lawyer, Crown Prosecutors Office, Alberta Justice and Attorney General

Summary:

Individuals suffering from mental illness appearing in criminal court present unique challenges and opportunities. Traditional approaches to these individuals have begun to change in recognition of the underlying illness. The Alberta Diversion Project is one of those changes that seeks to address the mentally ill accused in a new way. This panel will discuss the Project, how it originated, what has happened to date, and what future changes might occur.

3:00 – 3:30 pm

**Making Mental Health Part of Your Legal Practice:
How can you get Involved? What others should know.**

Moderator:

Wayne Renke

Vice Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta

Speakers:

Wanda Fish

Vice President, Client Services, Legal Aid Alberta

Mary Jane Dykeman

Partner, Dykeman Dewhirst O'Brien LLP, Toronto, Ontario

Summary:

This session will address the representation of clients at Review Panels; and mental health as a dynamic area of legal practice.

3:30 - 3:45 pm

Highlights of the Day/Closing Remarks

Co-Chairs: Tracey Bailey and Sandra Harrison