

Good/Better/Best/Emerging Practices in
Police Education/Training Related to Mental Illness

The Mental Health and the Law Advisory Committee of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, in conjunction with the Human Resource Committee of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, is interested in hearing from people involved with providing in-service education and training about mental illness to police officers. This might be annual training, a series of training sessions or a single session of training. It might also be training for all first responders or specialized training for officers who will be assigned to mental health crisis teams or other specific mental-health related duties—or for communications personnel. Based on feedback, it is our intent to develop recommendations about desirable practices in this area.

If you are involved in this kind of training/education, we'd like to hear from you. Specifically, we'd like to know.

- Your police service: size (number of officers), rural or urban location, First Nations, any unique characteristics
- The nature and extent of the training/education: who is the target audience, how long is the training, who is involved in the teaching including police, mental health workers, people with mental health problems, representatives of community groups such as the Canadian Mental Health Association, Schizophrenia Society etc
- The content of the training/education—if a course syllabus or outline is available, we'd be delighted to have a copy
- Any evidence of the program effectiveness: how do you **know** the program is working? What effect do you **think** it is having and why do you come to that conclusion?
- Your own assessment of what makes this program effective: why do you think your program is good or not?
- Limitations: what else would you like to see in place? What does your program NOT accomplish?
- Anything else you think we should know about your program

We hope you will take the time to respond to us on this very important issue. If you have a good program but don't have the time to write it up for us, send us whatever you have—or even just let us know and we'll try to help out with collecting the information.

For further information, or to make a submission, email us at pmhl@nintu.net. We'd like to hear from you by June 15, 2009.

We will be pleased to share the results of this survey with you if you provide us with your contact information:

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