

Building Equitable Partnerships Symposium 2008

Biographies –Session Presenters and Facilitators

Andrea Adams, St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society

Andrea Adams is the Operations Manager for St. Clare's. She has 15 years of development and property management experiences in the Co-op and Non-Profit Sector. Andrea has a BA in Political Studies from Queens University

Neemarie Alam, Frontline Partners with Youth Network

Neemarie Alam has worked as frontline staff in organizations throughout Toronto. Her experiences range from implementing and developing pre-teen programs, to advocacy, to housing. Currently employed as a Youth Outreach Worker, Neemarie juggles full-time work with being a part-time student at York University. She sits on several Board structures for innovative youth initiatives, and is keenly interested in developing policy and organizational structures that recognize and respect frontline workers. Neemarie is an avid participant in Frontline Partners with Youth Network, and is part of committee that helped form the Network's governance structure.

Tannis Atkinson, Literacies

Tannis Atkinson has been involved in adult literacy and plain language work for over 20 years. She believes that broadening access to information is essential to building a more equitable and just society. Tannis is founding editor of Literacies, a journal linking research and practice in adult literacy.

Kim Bell, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Branch

- Manager of Early Intervention Programs, including the Resource Centre and the Early Intervention in Psychosis Program, for CMHA/Peel
- Provided front-line and educational services for CMHA/Peel since 1989.
- Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from McMaster University in Hamilton, with a Minor in Psychology
- Began working in direct service, as a Case Manager for those with a history of mental illness; eventually developed and implemented what is now the education program, wanting to address the many myths and misconceptions about mental health problems, which act as the number one barrier to people seeking help.
- Has now offered educational training and presentations, regarding mental health issues, to over 15,000 adult learners
- Certified Trainer in Mental Health Works, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills, and Non-violent Crisis Intervention.
- Trains community members as well as corporate clients in managing mental health in the workplace.

Mariana Benitez, Family Services York Region

Mariana Benitez (M.Ed (Couns.Psych) is Program Director for the Counselling and School Based Services at Family Services York Region. Mariana has been in the counselling field for over 15 years and has worked in a variety of settings. Her commitment to inclusivity and diversity complements her strong background in individual and family therapy. Mariana has played an important role in collaborating and partnering with the community. She is a member of York Region's LGBT Advisory Committee and a founding member of the Gay Men's support group working group.

Glennalee Berman-Hatch, City of London

Glennalee Berman-Hatch has been a Manager with the City of London, Ontario Works for the past 7.5 years. Glennalee's portfolio includes the Hostel Team and the Addictions Team. Glennalee supervises a team of 12 Caseworkers who work directly with their participants in conjunction with our community partners.

Scott Bowler, Mount Sinai Hospital

Scott Bowler is a social worker, providing outpatient psychotherapy at the Clinic for HIV-Related Concerns within the Department of Psychiatry at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. He has worked in both community-based and hospital-based HIV services since 1990. He is a founding member of the Coalition on HIV and Mental Health.

Susanne Burkhardt, Scadding Court Community Centre

Susanne Burkhardt is Director of Development & Community Engagement at Scadding Court Community Centre where she has been instrumental in developing initiatives with practical and policy impact, such as the Community Education and Access to Police Complaints Project. This initiative brought together over forty organizations to implement community-based intake of complaints, do public education and engage in the legislative process around police complaints. Susanne has also facilitated community engagement around issues of environmental health, and authored and co-authored numerous position papers and policy documents, most recently with respect to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. Susanne has a Master's in Public Health from Columbia University.

Maimoona Dahab

Maimoona Dahab graduated from Cairo University in Khartoum with a Bachelors Degree in Sociology. She also holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Social Work from Khartoum University. At the Arab Community Center in Toronto, Maimoona worked as a settlement worker. She also worked as an outreach worker for the project "Reach Out to Women from Visible Minorities - Sudanese and Somali Community" at MIAG (Multi-Cultural Inter Agency Group).

Njeri Damali Campbell, Humber College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning

Njeri Damali Campbell is an adult educator, youth worker, facilitator, and public speaker. Drawing on over 10 years of non-profit, community development, and youth engagement experience, she delivers diversity and equity consulting and training to educators, human services sector workers, professionals, and community developers. Past Coordinator of the Regional Diversity Roundtable (of Peel) and facilitator with the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health (CAMH) education team, she provides diversity training and consulting within the human services sector.

A skilled facilitator, Njeri began delivering anti-racist education from age 15 as a motivational speaker, and television host on issues related to race, age, gender and class. Since then, she has worked with youth and adults in schools and non-profit organizations. Most notable is her work at the Ontario Young Peoples Alliance (OYPA), a provincial non-profit organization committed to youth engagement. At OYPA, Njeri developed and facilitated political literacy and community development workshops, and supported adult-led organization to integrate young people as decision makers within their organizations.

Presently, Njeri develops community, professional and personal development seminars for women and youth. Two outstanding projects that Njeri developed and implemented are PhotoOp and Shots in the Park. Both were photoethnography projects with youth at risk enabling them to have a voice to engage in local political issues through mixed media. At Sheena's Place, Njeri works with women living with eating disorders on self healing using vision boards and life writing. She also provides training and support for women to use internal resources to address social justice issues.

Njeri holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Political Science, and is presently completing Graduate Studies in Education at York University. She is a recipient of the prestigious Harry Jerome award in the area of Leadership.

Dr. Adriana Carvalhal, McMaster University

Dr. Adriana Carvalhal is an Assistant Clinical Professor with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University and a psychiatrist with the Special Immunology Services Clinic at the

McMaster University Medical Centre. Dr. Carvalhal's research and clinical work focuses on psychiatric disorders in HIV-infected people, neurocognitive disorders associated with HIV, Hepatitis C and HIV co-infection, adherence to antiretroviral treatment and health service delivery for HIV-positive populations. Dr. Carvalhal is the co-Principal Investigator of the wHEALTH project.

Cindy Cepparo, The Vitanova Foundation

Cindy Cepparo is a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Social Work, and a Master of Social Work. She was the very first person hired by The Vitanova Foundation, and has been employed as a program manager with the agency for over fifteen years.

In 2005, she completed an internship program at York Region Abuse Program.

As part of her MSW practicum placement, she is currently involved in a research study in the Women's Mental Health Program at Women's College Hospital, an exploratory phenomenological study reporting on the outcome of a mixed group setting for those suffering from chronic pain conditions.

Katherine Chislett, City of Toronto

Katherine Chislett is currently the Director of Housing and Homelessness Initiatives for the City of Toronto. This section supports homelessness drop-ins, housing help and eviction prevention projects, and street outreach activities.

Prior to this, Ms. Chislett was a principle planner and manager of the City's Community Planning unit, with a specialization in housing policy. She was the lead City witness on rental demolition cases in Toronto after repeal of the Rental Housing Protection Act, and responsible for development of housing policies for the new official plan. Katherine worked as a Policy Officer in the social housing division for the Province of Ontario, worked with the Cornell Development Group to plan one of Canada's first new 'urbanist' development in Markham, and managed rent control programs across Northern Ontario. Ms Chislett has an M.A. in geography from the University of Western Ontario, where she specialized in statistical analysis and housing program evaluation.

Ron Claus, Missouri Institute of Mental Health

Ron Claus, Ph.D. is a Research Associate Professor at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health, University of Missouri School of Medicine. His research interests center around addiction and recovery from alcohol and drug problems. In particular, he has focused on the treatment of substance use and co-occurring disorders; co-occurring capacity at treatment agencies; and gender-sensitive treatment for women. Motivation, self-help and spirituality in individuals with substance use disorders are long-standing areas of interest. Before joining MIMH in 1996, he worked for 10 years as a counsellor and clinical supervisor in the substance abuse treatment field.

Anne Marie Couffin, AMC Associés

Anne-Marie Couffin is the principal of AMC Associés, a bilingual Management Consulting firm created by her over a year and 3 ago. Based on her extensive background in education, health care, government and community issues, she shares her expertise and contacts with a number of impressive clients and organizations. Her work in the private sector as well as several governmental agencies gives her access to a network of key individuals in many organizations.

Prior starting her business, she worked at the Toronto District Health Council as a Regional French Language Coordinator to assist hospitals and agencies in developing French Language Services. She was involved in several projects related to areas such as Long-Term Care, Mental Health and Children's programs. Anne-Marie Couffin was elected Trustee and Chair of the French Language School Board as well as a member Metropolitan School Board and served on the Board of the Trillium Foundation. In February 1990, she opened a French Speaking Community Centre where she was Executive Director.

Ashton D'Silva, (Project C.A.N.O.E), Frontline Partners with Youth Network

Ashton has worked as counsellor with children and youth across the Greater Toronto area through youth shelters, high schools, treatment facilities and outdoor programs. He is a member of the Ontario Association for Child and Youth Counsellors. Currently, Ashton is the Youth Development Director for Project C.A.N.O.E.; a charitable organization that uses the outdoors as a vehicle for developing resiliency factors with adolescent youth. He has been a presenter at the Council for Outdoor Educators annual conference and will be presenting a workshop at the National Child and Youth Care conference in October 2008.

Christopher Mark D'souza, Faculty of Education-York University

Chris has been an educator for over 19 years, the last five as the Equity and Diversity Officer for a large GTA school board. He has conducted over 700 workshops to educational institutions and social services sectors. Chris is Founder and Chairs the Equity Summit Group, representing 17 school boards and Universities in Ontario. In September 2008, he will be teaching at York University's Faculty of Education.

Danièle Daigle, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Danièle Daigle has worked at CAMH as an education and training specialist since 1997. She brings more than 15 years of hands-on experience in consulting and training. She has designed, implemented and delivered a wide variety of training workshops for schools, businesses and government organizations in Canada and Africa. Danièle has written two books and a workbook, and published over 100 articles in French newspapers. She obtained her BA in anthropology at Laval University and a BA in education with honours in French literature at the University of Manitoba. Her main areas of interest are in adult and holistic education.

Tammy Décarie, Queen West Community Health Centre

Tammy Décarie currently works as a Health Promoter at Queen West Community Health Centre, a CHC that specializes in inner city health. She has a passion for the not-for-profit sector and believes in the responsibility to proactively respond to local and global issues. Her work and life experiences have deepened her understanding of income struggles, international migration, community health, and the environment.

Cynthia du Mont, West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre

Cynthia du Mont is Executive Director of West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre. For over thirty years, Cynthia has been involved in the social services sector with a focus on supporting the well being of marginalized individuals and communities, including youth, seniors, and those who are economically disadvantaged. Cynthia has been instrumental in the development of many community partnerships and initiatives, such as the Chester Le Community Coalition, Ontario Early Years Centres, the Gateway Café, Youth Justice and School Based Diversion Programs, Glen-Park Cooperative Homes and many others. Cynthia has a B.A. in Sociology /Anthropology from the University of Guelph.

Cathy Dyer, The New Mentality

Cathy Dyer is a 26 year-old survivor of the child welfare and mental health systems. She is a graduate of the University of Toronto. As the Project Coordinator for The New Mentality, she works alongside youth who are raising awareness about mental illness in their communities. Cathy brings vitality and vision to wherever she goes and believes that youth are powerful agents for positive change.

Michelle Firestone, St. Michael's Hospital, Centre for Research on Inner City Health (CRICH)

Michelle Firestone obtained a Masters degree in Health Sciences from The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health with a focus on Social and Behavioural Interventions in 2003. Presently, she is pursuing a doctoral degree at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Ms. Firestone's previous work experience included two years as a project director at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) where she coordinated a multi-site research project on risks for HIV and HCV among Mexican drug users along the Mexican/U.S. border. From 2005 to 2007, Ms. Firestone worked as a research coordinator at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) where her research centered primarily on illicit drug use, infectious

disease transmission and social determinants of addiction. Currently, as a doctoral student, Ms. Firestone works closely with her supervisor Dr. Patricia O'Campo at the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital where her research is focused mainly on concurrent mental health and substance use disorders among marginalized, urban populations.

Elizabeth Gajewski, Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services

Elizabeth has an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from the Academy of Catholic Theology in Poland. Prior to coming to Canada Elizabeth was a university professor and a clinician. She currently works at Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services (PICS), an agency that provides settlement services to newcomers as well as post-settlement and family services to more long term immigrants. At the agency, Elizabeth provides counseling, for the Polish speaking community in the areas of family violence, general family counseling, and addictions. She coordinates the Partner Abuse Response (PAR) Program for the Polish and Russian Communities and is the facilitator of the Polish PAR group. In the area of Problem Gambling, through her work at PICS in partnership with COSTI and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Elizabeth has been involved in problem gambling research, public education and counseling for over ten years.

Mawuena Gbesemete, OASIS CENTRE DES FEMMES

Mawuena Gbesemete is currently managing the Counseling Programs at— head office. Her main duties in that role are: service policy design - complaint resolution - advocate for client's rights, liaise with Oasis's satellite office in Brampton – staffing and hiring for the overall Counseling and French speaking province-wide 24/7 crisis line – works closely with clients and counselors to ensure quality assurance – manages training and provides on-going professional development for her multidisciplinary team.

Prior to joining OASIS she was the regional administrator of the Ontario region at UNICEF Ontario. Her role there consisted in managing and designing the province volunteer program, among other duties. She provided training for volunteers, strategic planning, budgeting in collaboration with the Marketing Director.

Her wide work experience in the not-for-profit sector working with women, youth and children would be some of the asset that she has to offer for the community.

She is committed to women's issues and devoted to the advancement of a better society based on tolerance, greater or equal opportunity and her contributions includes volunteering her time in her community organization within the Ghanaian community. She is great with people and is appreciated for her professionalism.

Mawuena graduated from Université du Quebec a Trois-Rivières, Trois-Rivières, Qc. in 1995 with a major in Business Administration and a minor in Organizational Behaviour and Project Management.

Tahira Gonsalves, Research Coordinator, University of Toronto

Tahira Gonsalves is the Research Coordinator on the Newcomer Youth Mental Health project. She is currently pursuing a PhD in sociology at York University, and is interested in immigrant health, integration, and settlement issues. She has previously conducted research in the areas of international development, gender and peace building (specifically with a South Asian focus), and in national social and economic policies affecting women and marginalized communities in Canada.

Melanie Goroniuk, University of Alberta

Melanie Goroniuk joined the University of Alberta in 1998 and is the Manager of the Health Promotion & WorkLife Services. Today the Health Promotion & WorkLife Services unit provides services and support to both Academic and Support staff members on Campus in the areas of early illness intervention and disability

management, workplace accommodation, individual and organizational health promotion and wellness, Employee & Family Assistance Program and work life services. A key focus of the unit is on workplace based health promotion. One of the new initiatives in 2008 is Facing Facts, a program designed to tackle the stigma surrounding mental illness in both staff and student populations.

Melanie currently serves on both Benefit Advisory committees as well as the Workload Work Life Task Force, is chair of an interdisciplinary advisory committee on health promotion and was a member of a University Senate appointed Task Force on Wellness.

Julia Greenbaum, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Julia Greenbaum MA has worked at CAMH for two decades consulting on and coordinating the development of knowledge translation, health promotion and publishing projects. Julia's project work focuses on equity, gender, marginalized communities and diversity issues. She is also active in CAMH's corporate diversity initiatives addressing strategic planning for diversity and equity organizational change initiatives. Recent major publishing projects include the development of two books of contributed chapters, one about women and substance use issues and the other addressing mental health issues for immigrant and refugee women. Current interests include the use of electronic web-based technology for interactive knowledge exchange.

Shayla Gutzin, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Shayla Gutzin, MSW, RSW has been the Deputy Administrative Director in the General Psychiatry/ Centralized Assessment, Triage and Support (CATS) Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) since 2002. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated her leadership in program development initiatives and partnership development with numerous community agencies. Shayla has held a number of clinical and management positions in Mental Health, Addictions and Concurrent Disorders Programs at CAMH. Her clinical experience includes individual and group interventions with many populations of clients, including those who were homeless. Over the past two years, Shayla has taken the lead on behalf of CAMH in partnership development with the Multidisciplinary Outreach Program (MDOT). Over the past fourteen years, she has had many opportunities to provide training and education to community organizations, clinical and outreach staff, in small groups and at workshops.

Michele Heath, Fred Victor Centre

Michele Heath, MSW, RSW, has worked in community-based agencies for the past 18 years, dealing with issues of homelessness and poverty. During this time, she has worked with homeless and low-income youth and adults in a variety of programs that focus on assisting individuals to gain the skills and support needed to stabilize their lives and leave homelessness behind. Michele has also participated in a number of research initiatives, creating reports, audio-visual and educational materials. Currently, Michele is Director of Community Services at Fred Victor Centre, a community based multi-service agency in downtown Toronto that promotes health, community development, equity and social justice for people living in poverty.

Lynn Hillman, Concurrent Disorders Support Services

Lynn Hillman, MSW, RSW, is the Manager of the Concurrent Disorders Support Services, which is an initiative of the Concurrent Disorders Transitional Support Partnership of 16 agencies, led by Fred Victor Centre. Lynn has led a number of partnerships, including an access center for 8 agencies under the auspices of Supportive Housing In Peel, a protocol development for 13 agencies in the Dufferin County Domestic Assault Review Team, a research project of volunteer services led by the Children's Aid Society of Peel Region and an inter-agency treatment program called Children Living in Violent Environments. In her last, agency-based position, Lynn was Director of Services at Supportive Housing In Peel.

Cathy Irwin, Addiction Services of Thames Valley

Cathy Irwin is the Program Manager, Fresh Start Program Addiction Services of Thames Valley. I have been with the Fresh Start Program since the beginning of the ASI program in London in July 2006. Prior to the Fresh Start Program, I worked for four years in the Substance Abuse Program at ADSTV providing addiction counselling to clients in Elgin and Middlesex County.

Prior to joining ADTSV in 2002, I worked for 12 years with youth in a variety of settings including community- based programming in children's mental health and addictions, and at an inpatient psychiatric unit for adolescents.

Jenny Katz, Frontline Partners with Youth Network

Jenny Katz has worked in a number of community and social service organizations over the last 10 years. As a result, she has learned about the shelter, youth justice, school, child protection, and children's mental health systems from the inside. In her previous position, she worked from a trauma framework as a therapist with young women with assault charges. Feeling the need to respond to the gun violence of summer 2005, she called a get-together to find out how other people working directly with youth were coping. This gathering marked the birth of the Frontline Partners with Youth Network.

Jenny continues to connect the experiences of the individuals, families and groups with whom she works, with the systemic issues that greatly contribute to, exacerbate or cause their problems. Her interest in open discussions about power and its influence on individual, organizational, and systemic relationships continues to influence all aspects of her work.

Erika Khandor, Street Health

Erika Khandor is a graduate of the MHSc in Health Promotion from the Department of Public Health at U of T. She currently conducts community-based research and advocacy, as the Research and Evaluation Coordinator at Street Health. Street Health is a community organization that has been providing health and outreach services to homeless people in Toronto for over 20 years. Advocacy addressing homelessness, poverty and improving homeless peoples lives is central to our work.

Dr. Nazilla Khanlou, York University

Dr. Nazilla Khanlou: is the Ontario Women's Health Council Chair in Women's Mental Health Research in the Faculty of Health at York University and an Associate Professor in its School of Nursing. Her overall program of research is situated in the interdisciplinary field of community-based mental health promotion in general, and mental health promotion among youth and women in multicultural and immigrant-receiving settings in particular. She has received major peer-reviewed grants from federal and provincial research funding agencies, and conducted policy informing research. She has published numerous articles, books, and reports on youth, immigrant health, and mental health promotion.

Maritt Kirst, Centre for Research on Inner City Health, St. Michael's Hospital

Maritt Kirst received her PhD in Sociology, with a focus on Addiction Studies, from the University of Toronto. Her research interests pertain to social capital, the health of marginalized populations, substance use and misuse, harm reduction, crime and deviance, and mixed research methods. Dr. Kirst has worked in the addiction research area for 8 years, and her doctoral research examined the influence of network-based social capital (cognitive and structural aspects of resources, such as trust, social support and connectedness, available through social networks) on the health behaviours of marginalized drug users in Toronto. She is currently a Post Doctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Research on Inner City Health, St. Michael's Hospital, exploring the influence of network- and neighbourhood-level social capital on the health of marginalized populations.

Laura Klie, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Laura Klie is a social worker at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, HIV Clinic in Toronto and has been a member of the Coalition on HIV and Mental Health since its inception. She provides both outpatient and inpatient counselling. She has worked at the HIV Clinic since 1999 and prior to this worked for several years as a counsellor at the Addiction Research Foundation.

Deborah Konecny, Family Service Toronto

Deborah is currently the coordinator of the Families Are Important Resources Project where developing capacity and exploring partnerships and community readiness is a cornerstone of her work. As a single parent, she brings

her lived experience as someone from the margins to both her work at Family Service Toronto and her graduate studies at Ryerson University.

Sharron Kusiar, Ministry of Community and Social Services

Sharron Kusiar is a Senior Policy Development and Fiscal Advisor with the Ontario Works Branch of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. She has worked in the addiction treatment system at the front-line, managerial and policy levels. She is the lead on the Ontario Works Addiction Services Initiative, a targeted employment assistance measure, designed to assist those whose addiction problem is a significant barrier to employment. Prior to working with the provincial government, she was the Executive Director of the Peel Addiction Assessment and Referral Centre; before that, she was the Addiction Policy Analyst with the Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs.

Luis Lama, Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment (CAAT)

(Coming soon...)

Dr. Alan Li, Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment (CAAT)

(Coming soon...)

Sarah Marsh, Centre for Community Based Research

Sarah Marsh is a researcher at the Centre for Community Based Research. She currently coordinates the Taking Culture Seriously in Community Mental Health CURA – working closely with multiple partners to carry out the five year collaborative research study. Her journey in community development, in work and in studies, has led to interesting and rewarding work with a wide range of community organizations and individuals from various cultural and social backgrounds.

Susan Meikle, Toronto North Support Services

Susan Meikle is currently the Executive Director of Toronto North Support Services. Trained as an Occupational Therapist, she has worked extensively in mental health, both in the hospital and community sectors. Susan has held a number of management positions in community mental health, including serving as the Director of Adult Services for LOFT Community Services, where she had responsibility for a variety of programs serving individuals with mental illness, addictions and HIV/AIDS. In 2001 she joined Toronto North Support Services and since then has overseen the growth and diversification of their mental health services to include a number of partnerships to provide case management and supportive housing to a group of high needs clients. She has also developed a strong interest in providing programs to serve homeless individuals and has worked closely with the City of Toronto and other homeless service providers to address some of the gaps and barriers to service. Toronto North Support Services provides the lead organization function for the Multi-disciplinary Outreach Team (M-DOT), and in her role as ED, Susan co-chairs the Oversight Committee for that project.

Baldev Mutta, Punjabi Community Health Centre

Baldev Mutta is the Executive Director of the Punjabi Community Health Centre. An advocate for never giving up on a great idea, he was a committed volunteer leader of the PCHC for years. Now that it has recently grown, he is leading the organization on a full time basis in the development of increased programs and services.

John O'Mara, Addiction Services for York Region

John O'Mara, MSW, RSW is Executive Director of Addiction Services for York Region. Addiction Services has supported and housed the Trillium-funded York Region LGBT Community Outreach Project, for the last three and a half years.

Joanna Ochocka, Centre for Community Based Research

Joanna Ochocka is the Executive Director of the Centre for Community Based Research, and she is the Principle Investigator of the Taking Culture Seriously in Community Mental Health Community University Research Alliance (CURA), a five year research study based in Toronto and Waterloo Region. Joanna has an academic

background in Sociology (Ph.D.) and is Adjunct Faculty in the Psychology Department at Wilfrid Laurier University. She teaches graduate students part-time, advises students on their theses, and sits on the WLU Ethics Appeal Board. She is author of numerous academic articles and is co-author of the book: *Shifting the Paradigm in Community Mental Health*.

Maureen Owino, Committee for Accessible Aids Treatment (CAAT)

(Coming soon...)

Nancy Pereira, New Mentality

Nancy Pereira is the Knowledge Transfer and Evaluation Lead for The New Mentality. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree from the University of Guelph and majored in Sociology. In 2007, Nancy authored the report "Ready...Set...Engage! Building Effective Youth-Adult Partnerships for a Stronger Child and Youth Mental Health System", a 70-page literature review and manual to teach child and youth mental health professionals how to engage youth as volunteers within an organization.

Vince Pietropaolo, COSTI Immigrant Services

Vince Pietropaolo, M.A., is the General Manager of COSTI Family and Mental Health Services. In his current position he has worked with ethno cultural communities in program development and implementation in the area of mental health, domestic violence and problem gambling. Vince currently sits on the, CAMH Problem Gambling Advisory committee and the Ontario Resource Group on Gambling, Ethnicity and Culture. The York Region Violence against Women Coordinating Committee, North York Specialized Courts Advisory Committee and is a member of the High Risk Consultation Team.

Michael Renner, Missouri Foundation for Health

Michael Renner, MSW, is a Program Officer with the Missouri Foundation for Health, where he leads the Mental Health and Substance Abuse funding program, providing \$7 million in grants and technical assistance to Missouri organizations delivering services to people with co-occurring disorders and substance abuse treatment and prevention services to youth.

Edward Riedel, Missouri Institute of Mental Health

Edward Riedel, LCSW

2008 Current Position: Co-Occurring Project Coordinator for the Missouri Institute of Mental Health in Saint Louis, Missouri, a division of The University of Missouri, Columbia

1997-2007 Vice President Community Programs East Central Missouri Behavioural Health Services, including Adult Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Supported Employment, and Co-Occurring services.

1993 Masters of Social Work, University of Missouri Columbia

1995 Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Missouri

Certifications:

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Master trainer

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Trainer

Memberships:

State of Missouri Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee

Kelly Robinson, Canadian Mental Health Association –Toronto Branch

Kelly Robinson is a community-member, mental health worker, student and teacher. She has worked in the mental health field for over ten years and has recently joined the Mood and Psychosis Early Intervention Team at the Canadian Mental Health Association, Toronto Branch as a Family Worker. She has a BA in Psychology from Trent University and an MA in Adult Education and Community Development from the University of Toronto. Kelly is interested in community based research and participatory research that explore social determinants of health. She is committed to facilitating the equitable creation of knowledge through authentic community/institution partnerships.

Hajera Rostam, UBC Doctoral Student in Counselling Psychology

Hajera Rostam is a doctoral student in Counselling Psychology at UBC. She was recently awarded a training fellowship through the Integrated Mentorship Program for Addiction Research Training (funded by CIHR, BC Women's Hospital and UBC), as well as the University Graduate Fellowship (Basant Singh and Harnam Kaur Singh Fellowship). Her research focuses on the help-seeking experiences of Canadian immigrant and refugees with mental health and addictions. Hajera is a refugee from Afghanistan, who settled in Canada in 1996 (supported by a scholarship and sponsorship through the World University Services of Canada for refugee students). She has also worked as an addictions counsellor serving diverse communities in Vancouver.

Dr. Amy Salmon, Canada Northwest FASD Research Network

A sociologist of health education, Dr. Amy Salmon's research focuses on factors that inform access to and provision of health information, maternity care, and primary healthcare for substance-using women. She is currently conducting several community-based, participatory research projects including: a study of substance-using women's experiences of primary healthcare in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES); 2 studies tracking outcomes for substance-using mothers accessing harm-reduction oriented housing and maternity care programs; a knowledge synthesis project to produce evidence-based health information resources with and for women substance users in the DTES; and a collaborative pilot project examining the ethical dimensions of participatory health research.

Subha Sankaran, Health Nexus (Nexus Santé)

Subha Sankaran is a Health Promotion Consultant at Health Nexus working with two of its key programmes - Prevent Stroke and the Health Promotion Hub. She is interested in issues of inclusion and health equity, community and organizational development, and broader issues of social justice and public policy. Most recently, she has completed a project with a colleague, Primer to Action: Social Determinants of Health. She has been Chair of the board of the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians and Executive Director of the Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention in Toronto. She is a member of the board of directors of the Health Equity Council, and also sits on the Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Committee of Central LHIN. She holds degrees in Economics and Sociology, and prior to her move to Canada 9 years ago, taught Sociology at the university level in India.

Peggy Schultz, Health Nexus (Nexus Santé)

Peggy Schultz, long-time Health Promotion Consultant with Health Nexus (Nexus Santé), builds on her earlier clinical and managerial roles as occupational therapist in both institutional and community mental health. Her work includes consultation, facilitation and methods of dialogue to support different aspects of system-based change. Peggy holds a Master of Health Sciences Degree, health promotion specialization, from the University of Toronto.

Dr. Yogendra Shakya,**Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services**

Dr. Yogendra Shakya is the Manager of Research and Evaluation at Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services. His areas of expertise include community development, social determinants of health for newcomers and racialized groups, government-assisted refugees, community-based research, and globalization. He is also the coordinator of a number of community-based research working groups/projects at Access Alliance, including the Income Security, Race, and Health project and Racialized Groups and Access to Health Care project.

Charles Shames, Ontario HIV and Substance Use Training Program

Charles Shames is the Director of the Ontario HIV and Substance Use Training Program. He recently was on a secondment with the Public Health Agency of Canada, Ontario Region with their AIDS Community Action Program. He was the Education Coordinator for Peterborough AIDS Resource Network working with gay men and youth and people who use injection drugs developing programs and interventions to prevent the spread of HIV. He facilitated support groups and developed and delivered numerous trainings on HIV, Harm Reduction and anti-stigma and discrimination. He has been involved with the AIDS movement in Ontario for over 20 years,

both as a volunteer and a worker. He formerly worked in mental health promotion and prevention education for CMHA-Peterborough, delivering trainings and workshops on mental illness and wellness in schools and other venues.

Roslyn Shields, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Roslyn Shields is a Community Support, Development and Research Specialist in the Community Support and Research Unit (CSRU) at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). In this position, Roslyn is responsible for developing, maintaining and evaluating housing and support partnerships for people with serious mental illness, as well as providing direct housing assistance to clients of CAMH. She is also a member of CSRU's Community Research Planning and Evaluation Team (CRPET). Roslyn holds a M.A. in Community Psychology from Wilfrid Laurier University.

Linda Sibley, Addiction Services of Thames Valley

Linda is the Executive Director of Addiction Services of Thames Valley (ADSTV). This agency specializes in the assessment and treatment of substance users, including the Fresh Start Program for Ontario Works participants, problem gamblers and their families. ADSTV also operates the Back on Track program, which is a mandatory education and treatment program for convicted impaired drivers. ADSTV also hosts "Heartspace", which is a program for pregnant or parenting mothers who are substance-involved and who have children 0-6 years.

Linda has worked in a variety of treatment settings since 1979 including residential treatment and outpatient care. She has worked with women, youth, IV drug users and adults.

Linda has over 25 years experience in Ontario's addiction system, a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Guelph and a Post Graduate Diploma in Clinical Behavioural Sciences from McMaster University in Hamilton.

Sunder Singh, Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women

Sunder Singh has an Honours Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Windsor, with a major in accounting and business administration. She has fifteen years of experience in the community non-profit sector, serving diverse communities and ethnic groups, mainly from South Asia, in both Windsor and Toronto.

Currently the executive director of the Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women, she started a community enterprise on behalf of EHCW called Riverdale Interpreters, commonly known as "RivInt", which---from 12 interpreters speaking 5 languages has grown to a roster of 450 interpreters speaking 60 languages, serving all major hospitals across the GTA.

Wayne Skinner, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Wayne Skinner, MSW, RSW, is the Deputy Clinical Director, Addictions Programs, at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), where he leads the Concurrent Disorders Capacity-Building Team and oversees problem gambling initiatives. Wayne is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Adjunct Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto. He also directs the Addictions Studies Program in Continuing Education at St. Michael's College (U. of T.) and teaches at the School of Social Work at York University. Wayne is currently involved in research on supporting families affected by concurrent disorder.

Stewart J. Smith, Family Service Association of Toronto

Stewart J. Smith works for Family Service Association of Toronto as the Tenant Support Coordinator at the Leonard Avenue site. Stewart is a social worker with twenty-five years work experience in human services. Stewart has a B.A. from Waterloo University, a B.S.W. from York University and a M.S.S. from the University of Toronto.

Helen Song, Centre for Community Based Research

Helen Song played a key role as a community researcher in the Taking Culture Seriously in Community Mental Health Community University Research Alliance (CURA). She engaged members of the Mandarin-speaking Chinese community in Waterloo Region to contribute to the data collection for the study, and also to the community engagement process for envisioning next steps for demonstrating practice. Helen immigrated from China and has been living in Waterloo for over three years. She was a University teacher in China. Currently, she is teaching Mandarin at Conestoga College and she has two young children: a boy and a girl.

Sheela Subramanian, Scadding Court Community Centre

Sheela Subramanian is Project Coordinator for the Equity Toolkit project, a Scadding Court Community Centre - CAMH partnership that is developing a resource for planning, implementing and evaluating equity-related organizational change. Previously, Sheela facilitated the governance and policy planning process of the Chester Le Community Coalition, a Scarborough initiative bringing together local residents, community organizations, government and business to challenge community marginalization. Sheela has a background in social policy research and has an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Alberta for research on the spatial dimensions of racialized and gendered violence against women of colour in Canada.

Bryce Taylor

Bryce Taylor has a MSW in Community Development from the University of Toronto and is the C.E.O. of the Sionito Group that operates three social housing projects in Toronto, all sponsored by the Community of Christ, in which he is an ordained minister. In this capacity, Bryce took a failed CMHC social housing project, negotiated a new mandate and brought it back into the social service community as a productive 84 unit residence serving high maintenance seniors with psychiatric and addiction challenges. Building intentional, compassionate communities of mutual support and encouragement, capable of increasing the life-ability of each member in the community is his passion. Bryce has been the honored recipient of many citations for his community service work, including the Governor General of Canada Commemorative Medal.

Colleen Tessier, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Colleen has been at CAMH for more than 15 years and has been involved in a wide variety of regional and provincial health promotion initiatives, including developing partnerships and providing consultation to the public health and education systems. Colleen's work for the Project is focused on promoting awareness of issues related to problem gambling within helping professionals in Ontario and on the development and dissemination of customized resources and training.

Cathy Thompson, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Cathy Thompson has worked at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health as a Program Consultant in the Halton Region for over 8 years. Cathy works with a number of local coalitions in the areas of tobacco control, suicide prevention, concurrent disorders and other health promotion initiatives. Her main area of interest is with VALIDITY, a provincial project about young women and depression.

Barb Urman, York Region LGBT Community Outreach Project

Barb completed her BA, BSW and MSW at York University as a mature student, and has spent most of the last 15 years working in a variety of agencies primarily in York Region. Her present role is that of supervisor of the individual, child and family program at Family Services York Region. She also continues to carry a part-time contract, acting as coordinator of the York Region LGBT Community Outreach Project.

Barb's work has focused on a combination of both clinical work and community development and education. Her clinical focus has been on violence in intimate relationships and childhood sexual abuse. Her focus in community work has been on identifying and addressing the gaps and barriers in services

specific to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities in York Region. Her commitment to building organization and community capacity in the non profit social service sector in York Region has resulted in systemic change across the Region. To that end, Barb has developed and delivered training to some 200 service providers in the last three years.

Kinsi Warsame

I am a Community Health Worker with East Mississauga Community Health Centre. I have over five years experience in volunteering and working in outreach and community development.

I have had significant experience and accomplishments working with the community and pioneered a first of its kind program in Brampton. This specialized program was designed to teach Muslim women, many of whom had never swam in their lives, to gain the skills necessary to swim with competency. In spearheading the project, I recruited what turned out to be enthusiastic participants, and co-ordinated resources and facilities that would meet the cultural, religious values and requirements of the group. The result was a long running program that is still well received with a waiting list. Due to my initiative and involvement in the program I was awarded a certificate for Outstanding Service and Commitment to Diversity and Inclusiveness. I am also an active member of Health & Racism Working Group. I have been involved in the day to day running of the group in organizing events and advocating for the community.

Jocelyn Watchorn, AIDS Committee of Toronto

Jocelyn Watchorn is a registered social service worker, providing counselling to people infected and affected with HIV/AIDS. Jocelyn has worked at the AIDS Committee of Toronto since 2002. Jocelyn also works as a trainer for ACT, and also in the community.

Jocelyn has been a member of the Coalition on HIV and Mental Health since 2005.

Elisabeth White, City of London

Elisabeth White is the Manager of Employment and Strategic Initiatives for the City of London where her work focuses on partnership development with a strong focus on outcomes that will positively impact the people's lives. In this role she is involved with developing concepts, partnerships and contracts with community partners related to all aspects of employment and supports for individuals and for the broader systems. She works as the Community Services lead on community integration of employment and labour market services and also related to Immigration issues. Major initiatives she has led include the Addictions Supports for Ontario Works participants, Intensive Case Management, and the Learning, Earning, and Parenting Programs. She has been involved in Provincial and local initiatives related to the Labour Market Development Agreement, Employment Assistance Outcomes and immigrants. Previously, she worked for many years with Goodwill Industries developing rehabilitation, employment and workforce development services for people with disabilities. She is also involved with non-profit housing.

Dave Williams

Dave Williams lives and works in York Region. He is a York Pride Fest organizer and owner of several regional, LGBT-related websites, including GayYorkRegion.com and GYRSG.com. For the past five years, Dave has been addressing local equality issues, with a focus on promoting awareness of available services and resources to York Region's LGBT community. He has assisted in the creation and operation of support and social groups as well as various other community initiatives and is also a member of York Regional Police's 'Police/Community Advisory Council (PCAC)' and newly formed 'Hate Crime Community Working Group'.

Josephine Wong

(Coming soon...)