



## Alberta: Moving primary health care forward Project contacts

### **Umbrella Alberta Primary Health Care Project (1997-2000)**

Twenty-seven health care projects were developed by a number of regional health authorities to improve primary health care delivery. These projects demonstrated that:

- continuity of care can be achieved by creating an integrated system and service delivery
- integration is supported through collaborative planning processes that include health professionals and consultation with stakeholder groups
- physicians can play a leadership role in the participation of other health providers
- trust and relationships are central to team building among various provider groups.

A number of these projects were the building blocks to new models of primary health care service delivery.

**Website:** [www.health.gov.ab.ca/about/phc/index.htm](http://www.health.gov.ab.ca/about/phc/index.htm)

### **Health Innovation Fund (2000-2004)**

The Health Innovation Fund was established in 1999 to encourage health authorities and other health providers to seek new and innovative ways to provide health services. Twenty-nine projects focused on advancing primary health care services, including:

- increasing the proportion of the population having access to primary health care
- increasing emphasis on health promotion, disease and injury prevention and management of chronic diseases
- establishing interdisciplinary primary health care teams of providers and
- facilitating co-ordination and integration with other health services.

Each project is independently evaluated and all evaluation reports will be available on the Alberta Health and Wellness website, or by contacting:

**Darlene Kreutzer**  
**Project Co-ordinator, Health Innovation Fund**  
**Alberta Health and Wellness**  
**Tel: 780-415-1376**  
**Fax: 780-427-2511**  
**e-mail: [darlene.kreutzer@gov.ab.ca](mailto:darlene.kreutzer@gov.ab.ca)**  
**Website: [www.health.gov.ab.ca/about/HIF/index.html](http://www.health.gov.ab.ca/about/HIF/index.html)**

### **Primary Health Care Capacity Building Fund (2002-2006)**

Ten different programs designed to expand primary health care services in Alberta through the Capacity Building Fund have received close to \$16 million in funding from the Primary Health Care Transition Fund:

#### **Interdisciplinary Primary Health Care Team Initiative**

*Program location:* Okotoks Community Health Centre, (Calgary Health Region)

A partnership involving the Universities of Alberta and Calgary, health regions and community leaders will create clinical team placements at primary health care sites for health professionals and health sciences students. This new program will increase the number of health professionals trained to effectively deliver primary health care services in teams.

**Contact: Debb Hurlock, Project Manager, (403) 217-9181, [dhurlock@telusplanet.net](mailto:dhurlock@telusplanet.net)**

#### **Health First Strathcona**

*Program location:* Sherwood Park, Strathcona County, (Capital Health Region)

A new primary health care service in Sherwood Park will improve after-hours access to primary health care for Strathcona County residents. A team of area family physicians, a nurse practitioner and other health professionals will provide non-emergency primary health care services (including diagnostic and lab services and health promotion) and co-ordinate access to specialists and Capital Health Region hospitals.

**Contact: Marion Relf, Project Director, (780) 401-2691, [mrelf@cha.ab.ca](mailto:mrelf@cha.ab.ca)**

## Chinook Chronic Disease Management

*Program location:* (Chinook Regional Health Authority)

A multi-disciplinary team of family physicians, other health professionals and community health organizations will work to improve health promotion and care for people with chronic illnesses in the Chinook Health Region.

**Contact: Eileen Patterson at (403) 388-6580, epatterson@chr.ab.ca**

## Primary Health Care Chronic Disease Management

*Program location:* (Calgary Health Region)

A multi-disciplinary team will collaborate with family physicians, specialists and community health programs to help people living with chronic disease better manage their health and live as independently as possible.

**Contact: Monique Assi, Project Manager, (403) 850-2428, monique.assi@calgaryhealthregion.ca**

## Primary Health Care Diabetes Project

*Program location:* (Aspen Regional Health Authority and Peace Country Health)

This initiative will co-ordinate and expand diabetes treatment/management programs to help high needs residents (especially aboriginal populations) in remote areas better manage their diabetes.

**Contact: Lisa Gerard, Project Coordinator, (780) 849-3947, lgerard@aspenrha.ab.ca**

## Pincher Creek Rural Primary Health Care Initiative

*Program location:* Associate Medical Clinic, Pincher Creek (Chinook Regional Health Authority)

A multi-disciplinary team of health professionals will collaborate with family physicians in Pincher Creek to improve primary health care services for area residents.

**Contact: Cheryl Dolan, Nurse Coordinator, (403) 627-3321, cldolan@telus.net**

## Building Capacity: Enhancing Child and Youth Health Outcomes

*Program location:* Southern Alberta (Chinook, Palliser, David Thompson and Calgary Health Regions and Treaty 7)

The Southern Alberta Child & Youth Health Network is a partnership among parents, health authorities, numerous provincial ministries/agencies, universities, First Nations, and local organizations. Healthy Minds/Healthy Children provides support to family physicians and pediatricians. Healthy Infants will build the capacity of Southern Alberta primary care providers to address maternal risk factors resulting in adverse infant outcomes.

## Contacts:

**Healthy Infants: Jeanne Sargent, Program Manager, (403) 944-3338, jeanne.sargent@calgaryhealthregion.ca**

**Healthy Minds, Healthy Children: Harold Lipton, Project Manager, (403) 943-7646, harold.lipton@calgaryhealthregion.ca**

## Shared Care in the Calgary Health Region

*Program location:* (Calgary Health Region)

A partnership program between groups of family physicians and multi-disciplinary teams from the new Calgary Health Region will help these physicians improve community-based patient care. This initiative is based on the successful South of Anderson Road Program in Calgary and may be transferable to other regional health authorities.

**Contact: Gail Shandro, Project Manager, (403) 202-3487, gail.shandro@calgaryhealthregion.ca**

## Shared Mental Health Care Network for Southern Alberta

*Program location:* (Chinook and Calgary Health Region)

Expanding on a successful Calgary Health Region program, a team of mental health professionals (including psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses and social workers) will support family physicians to diagnose and treat patients with mental illness.

**Contact: Dr. Dennis Pusch, Project Co-ordinator, (403) 943-2396, dennis.pusch@calgaryhealthregion.ca**

## Police and Crisis Team Diversion Project

*Program location:* Edmonton, (Capital Health Region and Alberta Mental Health Board).

Based on a successful program in Calgary, the Adult Crisis Response Team will co-operate with the Edmonton Police Service to refer mentally ill adults involved in minor, low-risk offences to appropriate care and treatment as an alternative to being jailed.

**Contact: Nancy Fraser, Program Manager, (780) 401-4191, nancy.fraser@amhb.ab.ca**

For more information on any of these Capacity Building Fund projects contact:

Blair MacKinnon, Project Co-ordinator,  
Primary Health Care Capacity Building Fund,  
Alberta Health and Wellness  
Telephone: (780) 415-2839  
e-mail: [blair.mackinnon@gov.ab.ca](mailto:blair.mackinnon@gov.ab.ca)  
Website: [www.health.gov.ab.ca/about/building\\_fund/index.html](http://www.health.gov.ab.ca/about/building_fund/index.html)