

April 25, 2003

New programs to advance primary health care

Calgary... A range of programs designed to expand primary health care services in Alberta through the Alberta Primary Health Care Capacity-Building Fund have received close to \$16 million in funding.

The 10 initiatives include a new primary health care centre in Strathcona County, a program to help residents in remote areas of northern Alberta better manage their diabetes, health professional and university student placements in primary health care sites, a program to assist patients with chronic disease in the Chinook and Calgary Health Regions and a network to improve the delivery of health services for children and youth in southern Alberta.

Other programs will assist family physicians to treat clients with mental illness and divert mentally ill people charged with minor criminal offences to primary health care services.

“The fund is designed to build on the many successful primary health care services that already exist in Alberta,” said Gary Mar, Minister of Health and Wellness. “These programs will improve access to care and increase public satisfaction and trust in receiving primary health care services from a range of health care providers.”

A total of 44 proposals were submitted from regional health authorities, health professional associations, educational institutions, physicians and non-profit organizations.

The \$16 million Capacity-Building Fund and the province-wide Health Link (\$35 million) are part of Alberta’s \$54.7 million in federal funding to improve primary health care.

The federal Primary Health Care Transition Fund supports the transitional costs of implementing initiatives to improve the delivery of primary health care services.

A brief description of the projects is attached.

- 30 -

For further information, contact:

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Initiatives Proposed for Primary Health Care Capacity-Building Fund

1. Interdisciplinary Primary Health Care Team Initiative

Program location: Health Region 3 (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.

Amount of funding: \$555,600.

Contact: Lori Anderson, Executive Leader Health Services, Calgary Health Region, Bag #1, 717 Government Road, Black Diamond, Alberta, T0L 0H0, Phone (403) 933-8538, Fax (403) 933-8540, E-mail landerso@hha.ab.ca

2. Innovative Primary Care in Strathcona County

Program location: Health Region 6 (Capital Health Region), Strathcona County

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 primary health care services (including diagnostic and lab services, health promotion etc.) and co-ordinate access to specialists and Capital Health Region hospitals.

Amount of funding: \$2,896,858.

Contact: Marianne Stewart, Senior Operating Officer, Primary Care Division, Capital Health Authority, 3rd Floor Plaza 124, 10216 – 124 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5N 4A3, Phone (780) 413-7975, Fax (780) 482-4203, E-mail mstewart@cha.ab.ca

3. Building Capacity through Integrated Chronic Disease Prevention and Management System

Program location: Health Region 1 (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.

Amount of funding: \$2,298,304.

Contact: Cheryl Andres, Director, Transitional Care, Chinook Health Region, 960 – 19 Street South, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 1W5, Phone (403) 382-6171, Fax (403) 382-6290, E-mail candres@mail.chr.ab.ca

4. Primary Health Care Chronic Disease Management

Program location: Health Region 3 (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.

Amount of funding: \$1,504,836.

Contact: Dr. Sandra Delon, Director, Chronic Disease Management, Phone (403) 943-1663, Fax (403) 263-7895, E-mail sandra.delon@calgaryhealthregion.ca; and

Dr. Peter Sargious, Medical Director, Chronic Disease Management, Phone (403) 212-8223, Fax (403) 263-7895, E-mail peter.sargious@calgaryhealthregion.ca

Calgary Health Region, Colonel Belcher Care Centre, 4th Floor, 12134 – 4 Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2R 0X4

5. Primary Health Care Diabetes Project

Program location: new Regions 7 and 8

(formerly Keeweenok, Mistahia and Peace Health Authorities)

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.

Amount of funding: \$575,444.

Contact: Bob Cable, Chief Executive Officer, Aspen Regional Health Authority, 10003 - 100 Street, Westlock, Alberta T7P 2E8, Phone (780) 349-8705, Fax (780) 349-4879, and

Dalton Russell, Chief Executive Officer, Mistahia Regional Health Authority, 2101, 10320 - 99 Street, Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 6J4, Phone (780) 538-5387, Fax (780) 538-5455

6. Pincher Creek Rural Primary Health Care Initiative

Program location: Health Region 1 (Chinook Regional Health Authority), Pincher Creek

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

Amount of funding: \$1,468,213.

Contact: Dr. Catherine Scrimshaw, Initiative Coordinator, Associate Medical Clinic of Pincher Creek, Box 549, Pincher Creek, Alberta, T0K 1W0, Phone (403) 627-3941, Fax (403) 627-2280, E-mail mclinic@telusplanet.net

7. Building Capacity: Enhancing Child and Youth Health Outcomes

Program location: Health Region 3 (Calgary Health Region)

The Southern Alberta Child & Youth Health Network is a partnership among parents, health authorities, numerous provincial ministries/agencies, universities, First Nations, and local organizations. Network partners will work together to develop resource materials and linkages that will improve the knowledge and ability of primary health care providers to respond in the areas of maternal risk factors and children's mental health.

Amount of Funding: \$999,343.

Contact: Janice Popp, Director, Southern Alberta Child & Youth Health Network, Calgary Health Region, Room 3517, Alberta Children's Hospital, 1820 Richmond Road S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2T 5C7, Phone (403) 943-7537, Fax (403) 943-7214, E-mail Janice.Popp@calgaryhealthregion.ca

8. Shared Care in the Calgary Health Region

Program location: Health Region 3 (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.

Amount of funding: \$1,507,949.

Contact: Dr. June Bergman, Medical Director, Primary Care Initiative, Calgary Health Region, 320, 4500 16 Avenue N.W., Calgary, Alberta, T3B 0M6, Phone (403) 202-3475, Fax (403) 202-9156, E-mail june.bergman@calgaryhealthregion.ca

9. Shared Mental Health Care Network for Southern Alberta

Program location: Health Region 1 (Chinook Regional Health Authority) and Health Region 3 (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 help and support family physicians to diagnose and treat patients with mental illness.

Amount of funding: \$2,160,243.

Contact: Jim Merchant and Dr. Philip Eaton, Program Directors, Mental Health, Southern Alberta Mental Health Network, #206, 301 – 14 Street N.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2N 2A1, Phone (403) 297-4986, Fax (403) 297-2518, E-mail jim.merchant@amhb.ab.ca, philip.eaton@calgaryhealthregion.ca

10. Police and Crisis Team Diversion Project

Program location: Health Region 6 (Capital Health Region), 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.

Amount of funding: \$1,403,200.

Contact: Eleanor Grant, Regional Director, Mental Health, Capital Health Region, Alberta Mental Health Board, 5th Floor, 9942 – 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2J5, Phone (780) 427-3461, Fax (780) 427-0424, E-mail eleanor.grant@amhb.ab.ca

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