

# CRNCC

Canadian Research Network for Care in the Community

## *Setting the Policy Agenda: Older Persons' Mental Health and Addictions*

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RYERSON UNIVERSITY



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada



# *Partnerships for Putting Knowledge into Practice*

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## OPMHAN

Older Persons' Mental Health  
and Addictions Network of Ontario

## CRNCC

The Canadian Research Network for  
Care in the Community

# *What is the CRNCC?*

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National network of researchers, providers, citizen groups, community organizations, consumers and policy makers

CRNCC

# *CRNCC Milestones*

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- CRNCC launched at March 2005 symposium: “Community Services in the Continuum of Care”
- Seed money and support from Medicare to Home and Community (M-THAC) Research Unit & Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (HPME), University of Toronto
- Web site launched November 2005 at Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) Conference
- \$300,000 from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada with \$300,000 matching funds from Ryerson University

# *CRNCC Goals*

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- Link people to knowledge about community care
- Raise the profile of home and community care sector within care continuum
- Build community capacity
- Provide evidence to facilitate advocacy

# *What We Offer*

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- Workshops, symposia with community partners
- E-Newsletter
- What's New
  - E.g. opportunities for student placements, research partnerships
- Virtual Resource Room
  - “In Focus” fact sheets – best evidence on a range of topics in an easily accessible format
- Events Calendar

# *Out of the Shadows at Last*

*(Kirby, 2006)*

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- February 2003 federal mandate to study mental health and addictions services across Canada
- Mental illness not a normal outcome of aging
- Mental health includes mood, anxiety, personality, substance and addictions disorders, dementia, suicide and schizophrenia
- Seniors with mental health challenges face “double jeopardy”
- Persons with mental illness and addictions must receive treatment comparable to those with physical illness

# *Out of the Shadows at Last*

*(Kirby, 2006)*

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## *Pillars*

- *Choice* – provide access to a range of publicly funded services
- *Integration* – integrate services across levels of government, public/private sectors, and professional/non-professional providers
- *Community* – make services available in communities where people live



# *Out of the Shadows at Last*

*(Kirby, 2006)*

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- Mental health housing – new and affordable housing units and rent supplements
- Basket of community services that *have demonstrated their value* in enabling individuals to live meaningful and productive lives in community

## *Setting the Policy Agenda: Older Persons' Mental Health and Addictions*

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- How do you build and maintain political momentum?
- How do you achieve the best possible outcomes with available resources?

# Today's Agenda

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## Keynote Speaker

- *Bill Wilkerson*, Co-Founder and CEO, Global Business and Economic Roundtable on Addictions and Mental Health

## Panel

- *Robert Eves*, ED, Community Outreach Programs in Addictions (COPA)
- *Faith Malach*, ED, Canadian Coalition for Seniors Mental Health (CCSMH)
- *Jim McMinn*, Director, Seniors Services, LOFT Community Services
- *Laura Pisko-Bezruchko*, Senior Director, Toronto Central LHIN

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[www.crncc.ca](http://www.crncc.ca)

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