Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health

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

Presenter: Faith Malach

The Canadian Research Network for Care in the Community & The Older Persons' Mental Health and Addictions Network of Ontario Meeting

Toronto – May 17th 2006

Agenda

- Seniors' Mental Health -Reality
- The CCSMH
  - Seniors' Mental Health Research Network
  - National Guidelines Project
- Senate Committee Recommendations
- Systems Implications and Questions

Mental Illness is NOT a normal consequence of aging!

- **Depression: 14.7% – 20% in the community**
- **LTC: 80 - 90% of residents**
- **Alzheimer's: 1 in 3 over 85**
- **Delirium**
  - **up to 50% of older persons admitted to acute care / 70% incidence in ICU**
- **Suicide: The 1997 suicide rate for older Canadian men nearly 2x that of the nation as a whole**

The CCSMH is committed to ….

To promote the mental health of seniors' by connecting people, ideas & resources

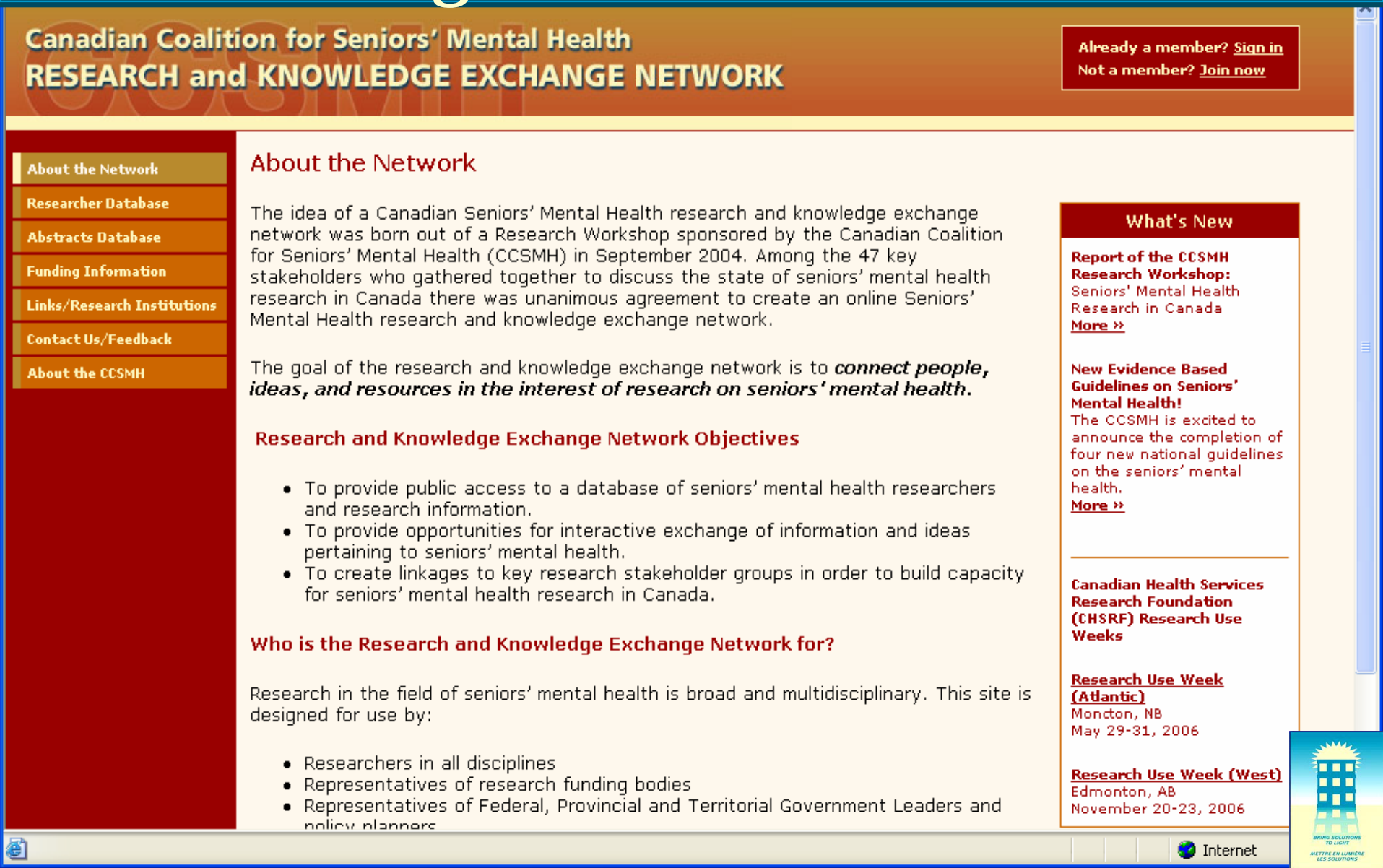
- **Education**
- **Advocacy / Public awareness**
- **Research**
- **Best Practices -Assessment & Treatment**
- **Family Caregivers**
- **Human Resources**

Collaboration is a necessity for success!

CCSMH Steering Committee Members

Alzheimer Society of Canada
Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry
CARP Canada's Association for the 50 Plus
Canadian Association of Social Workers
Canadian Caregiver Coalition
Canadian Geriatrics Society
Canadian Health Care Association
Canadian Mental Health Association
Canadian Nurses Association
Canadian Psychological Association
Canadian Society of Consulting Pharmacists
College of Family Practitioners of Canada
Public Health Agency of Canada (Advisory)

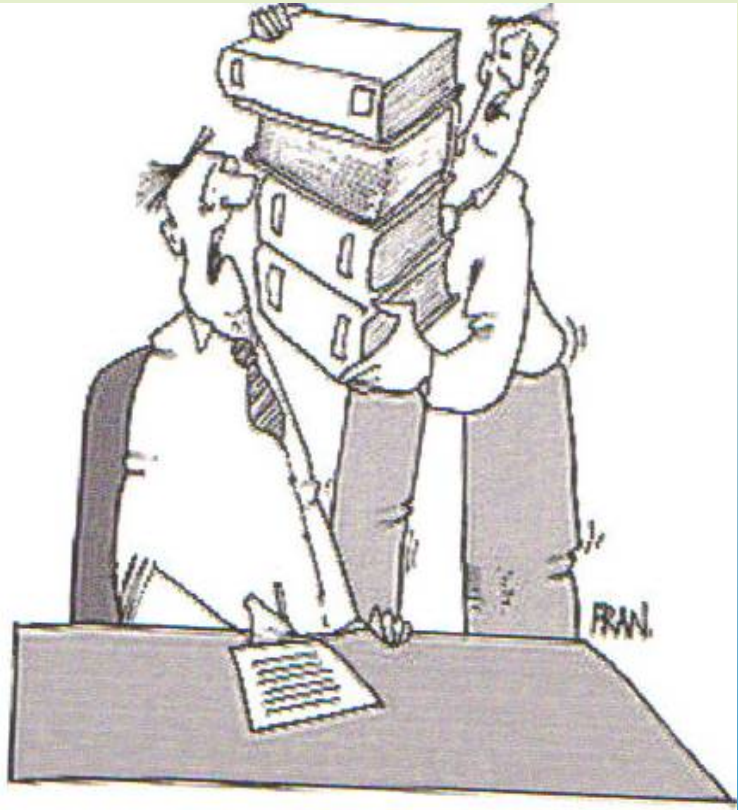
Seniors' Mental Health Research: Falling Between the Cracks



Creation of Canada's FIRST National Evidence Based Guidelines for Seniors' Mental Health

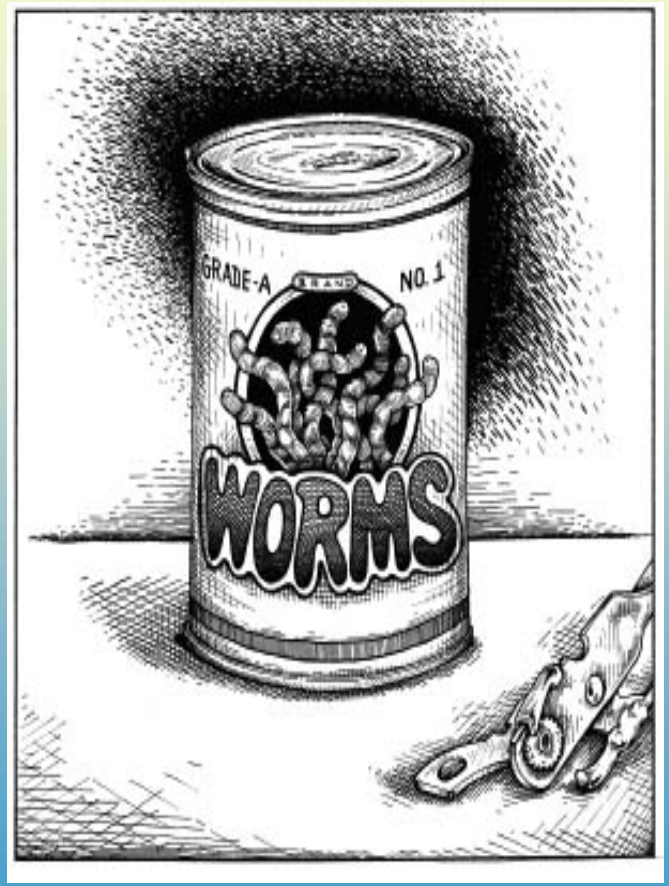
- Assessment & Treatment of **Delirium**
- Assessment & Treatment of **Depression**
- Assessment & Treatment of **Mental Health Issues in LTC (with a focus on mood & behaviour)**
- Assessment and Prevention of **Suicide**

Key Challenges: Dissemination? Implementation?



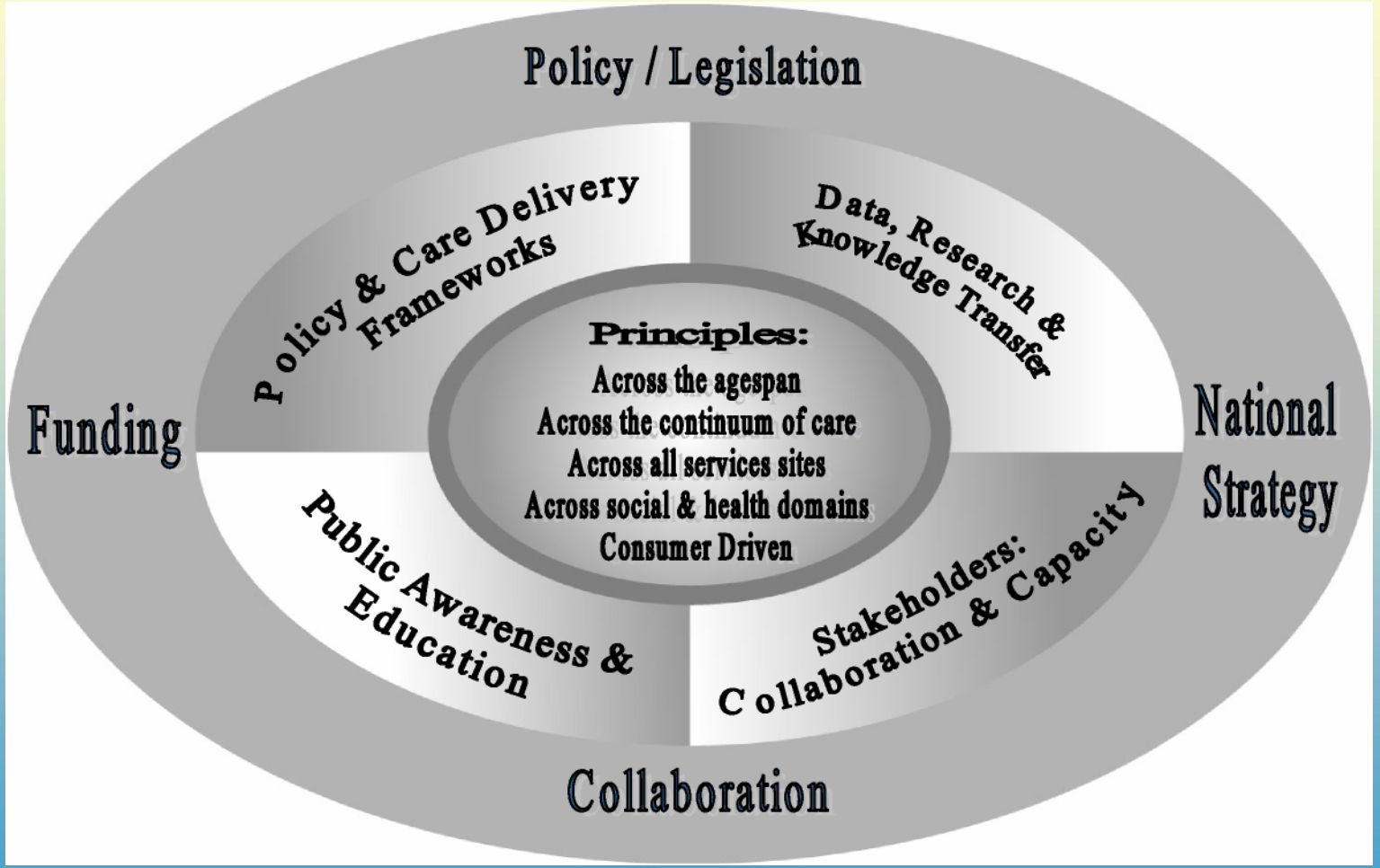
"Type that up, make ten thousand copies, and send them to all the important people in the world."

Policy Implications: Senate Report



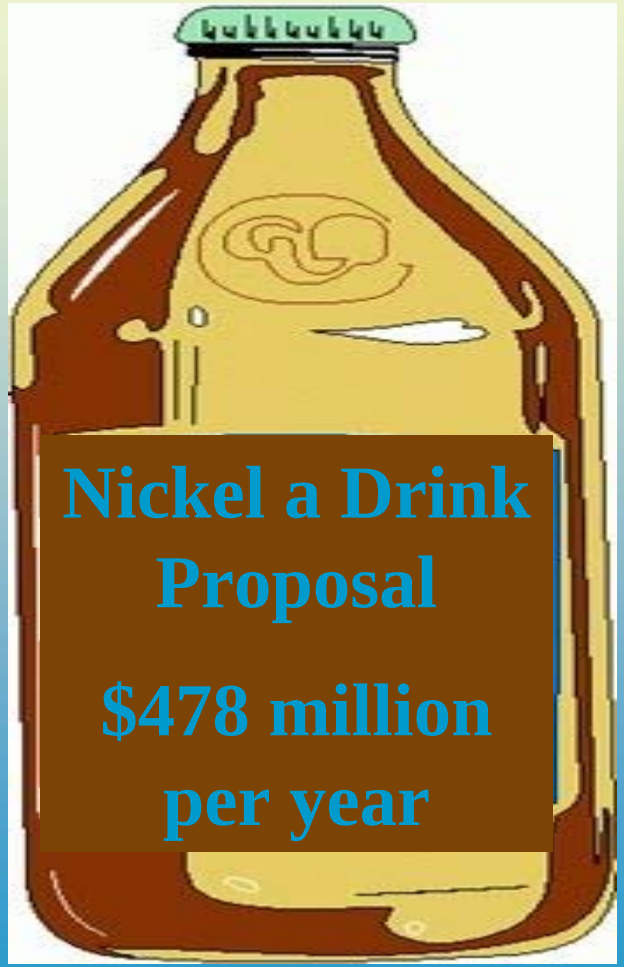
Item	Cost ($ million per year)
Mental Health Commission	17.0
Mental Health Housing Initiative	224.0
Basket of Community Services	215.0
Concurrent Disorders Program	50.0
Telemental Health	2.5
Peer Support	2.5
Research	25.0
Total	536.0

CCSMH Framework for Action



- Outer Circle – Enablers
- Inner Quadrants – Four Cornerstones for Action
- Centre Circle – Guiding Principles

Policy Implications: Funding the System



Proposed Tax

- 5¢ bottle of beer
- $1.20 case of 24 bottles
- 25¢ bottle of wine
- 85¢ bottle of spirits

Innovative vs. Irrational?

Systems Implications

- **What legislative/regulatory changes are required to support the creation & sustainability of a quality mental health system?**
- **Where does mental health fall within the private vs. public debate?**
- **What is required for each of us to ensure success and forward movement?**

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WWW.CCSMH.CA

To promote seniors mental health by connecting people, ideas and resources.

Promouvoir la santé mentale des personnes âgées en reliant les personnes, les idées et les ressources

CCSMH

Canadian Coalition for Seniors Mental Health

English

Welcome

CCSMPA

Coalition Canadienne Pour la Santé Mentale des Personnes Âgées

Français

Bienvenue