

ABLC Meeting February 14, 2019: 10:00 – 11:00 AM Atlantic

Invited: Marni Amirault (CAAN & AHA Centre), Diane Bailey (Mainline), Larry Baxter (Community), Donna Bulman (UNB), Charles Furlotte (Saint Thomas University), Jacquie Gahagan (Dal), Stacey Burns-MacKinnon (PEI DHW), Julie Dingwell (Avenue B), Greg Harris (MUN), Lois Jackson (Dal), Susan Kirkland (Co-Chair, Dal), Michael Liddell (Community), Jo-Ann MacDonald (UPEI), Jeannine McNeil (PHAC), Caroline Ploem (AIRN), Karen Pitts (Hep NS), Michelle Proctor-Simms (NSACA), Cybelle Rieber (PEERS Alliance), Dena Simon (ACNS), Julie Thomas (HON), and Gerard Yetman (Co-Chair, ACNL)

Dial-in Info: Join from computer or cellphone: <https://zoom.us/j/624905306>. If you need to join by telephone instead, call 1-647-558-0588. Meeting ID: 624 905 306 Note that this is our **NEW** Zoom line.

AGENDA

- 1) **Welcome, Introductions and Focus of Today's Meeting (Susan)**
- 2) **Review and Approval of Current Agenda and Minutes from January 10th**
- 3) **Best Brains Exchange (BBE) Meeting (Jacquie) – (see Appendix – page 3)**
 - Background and Questions for ABLC
- 4) **AIRN Strategic Planning Meeting (Piggy-backed on BBE in late April or early June?) (Susan and Jacquie)**
 - Potential to review and update vision, mission, strategic priorities, and actions as applicable.
 - What do we need to consider in advance of the planning meeting? (e.g. Potential facilitators, survey, SWOT analysis, etc.)

Time Permitting (and/or deferred to March 14th)

- 5) **Hepatitis Nova Scotia Representative**
- 6) **Regional Check-in (All)**
- 7) **National Organization Updates**
 - PHAC update (Jeannine)
 - AHA Centre/CAAN update (Marni)
 - Action Hepatitis Canada (Cybelle)
- 8) **HIV Stigma Project (Michael)**
- 9) **Grant Updates**
 - a) **Decision Pending**
 - Project PEER Catalyst Grant [Greg] – Decision: Feb 28/19
 - CIHR HIV/AIDS Biomedical and Clinical Team Grant – Testing, Reaching the Undiagnosed and Linkages to Care: “REACHing” for impact? [Sean Rourke] – Decision: Mar 28/19
 - REACH 3.0 [Sean Rourke]

b) In Development

- CIHR Best Brains Exchange (Jacquie)
- Halifax Overdose Prevention Site (Lois)

10) Ongoing Research Projects

- Halifax Area Network of Drug Using People (HANDUP) Peers Assisting, Lending Support (PALS) (C. Maclsaac)
- The COAST Study (L. Jackson & C. Maclsaac)
- “New Technologies & Chem Culture: Examining Deployment and Effects among MSM” (M. Numer)
- The **PANACHE** study (**P**references **A**nd **N**eeds for **A**ging **C**are among **H**IV **E**lders in **C**anada)” (S. Walmsley & K. Murzin)
- “Harm reduction and addictions interventions among people hospitalized with injection drug use-associated infective endocarditis” (T. Brothers)
- Canadian Blood Services “ACB and MSM – it’s not an oxymoron” (O. Dryden)
- “Additional Harm Reduction Services in two Sites in Nova Scotia: An Exploration of Advantages, Community Interest, and Methods of Delivery” (L. Jackson & D. Bailey)
- “The Canadian HIV Stigma Index CBR Project” (F. Ibáñez-Carrasco)
- Ending HIV Stigma in Canada: Adapting & Applying Contact-Based Interventions (S. Rourke)
- “Halifax Area Network of Drug Users Stands Up” (HANDUP Stands Up) (C. Maclsaac)
- Catalyst Grant: “Moving Beyond Piloting POCT” (J. Gahagan)

11) Recently Held and Upcoming Events (since Jan/19–)

- [Two-Eyed Seeing \(Etuaptmumk\) Workshop and Public Lecture](#) – Jan 9
 - [EduCATIE + Atlantic Regional Courses: Preventing the Sexual Transmission of HIV](#) — Jan 7–Feb 5/19 and [Hepatitis C Basic](#) Jan 14–Feb 11/19 [Online]
 - [CH & E Seminar Series: Dr. Robert Strang - "Nova Scotia's Opioid Use and Overdose Framework"](#) – Feb 4 [Halifax]
 - REACH/UWW Peer Researcher Learning Institute — Feb 5 to 8 [Halifax]
 - [PHAC Webinar Series \(Part 1\): Discussion to Action on Substance Use: Promising Practices on the Front Line in Atlantic Canada](#) — Feb 7 and 21 [Online].
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- [Getting to the Heart of It: A Discussion of Harm Reduction Services in Nova Scotia](#) — Feb 14 [Halifax]
 - [PHAC Webinar \(Encore\): Sexual Health At All Ages! SRH Awareness Week 2019](#) — Feb 14 [Online]
 - [Webinar and survey in support of Canada's Global AIDS monitoring](#) — Feb 15 [Online]
 - [CPHA Webinar: Understanding sex work and stigma in Canada](#) — Feb 20 [Online]
 - [PHAC Webinar Series \(Part 2\): Discussion to Action on Substance Use: Promising Practices on the Front Line in Atlantic Canada](#) — Feb 21 [Online].
 - [Harm Reduction International Conference 2019 \(HR19\)](#) — Apr 28 to May 1 [Portugal]
 - [CPHA Public Health 2019](#) — Apr 30 to May 2/19 [Ottawa]
 - [CAHR 2018](#) — May 9 – 12 [Saskatoon]
 - [8th Canadian Symposium on Hepatitis C Virus 2019](#) — May 24 [Montreal]
 - [Canadian Liver Meeting](#) — May 24-26 [Montreal]
 - [41st Annual Guelph Sexuality Conference](#) — June 21-22 [Guelph]
 - [8th International Conference on Hepatitis Care in Substance Users](#) — Sept 11 - 13 [Montreal]

12) Next Meetings (every second Thursday of the month from 10 – 11 AM)

- March 14th and April 11th

Best Brains Exchange – Program Model

Overview

Best Brains Exchanges (BBEs) are one-day meetings that bring together senior policy makers and researchers to discuss a health topic of shared interest and of high priority to the partner. The BBE topics are identified by a provincial or territorial ministry of health or a federal department with an interest in health.

These invitation-only events highlight research evidence and implementation experience tailored to the evidence needs of the policy partner. They also enable open dialogue around the applicability of the evidence to the current policy context. BBEs are informal gatherings that promote *interaction, exchange* and *mutual learning* between researchers and policy makers.

Objectives

- To provide senior policy makers with high-quality, timely and accessible research evidence and advice from leading researchers and implementation experts tailored to their needs;
- To engage policy makers and researchers in an open dialogue around the applicability of the evidence to the current policy context; and
- To foster the development of relationships between policy makers, researchers and implementation experts with shared interests.

Defining Characteristics of BBEs

Driven by policy needs - BBEs are designed to address the evidence needs of policy makers and enable the integration of research evidence into the policy dialogue. It is this “pull” for research evidence and the emphasis on its contextualization that makes the BBE model unique.

Engagement from senior policy makers - The topic of the BBE must be endorsed by senior members of the partner organization before a proposal is submitted to CIHR for consideration.

Joint refinement of policy questions - While the topic of the BBE is identified by the partner, the scope of the event is refined in partnership with CIHR to ensure the policy question is appropriate for a one-day session.

Selection of facilitators and presenters - The facilitator and presenter roles are critical to the success of a BBE. Each BBE is facilitated by an individual who is neutral and has the ability to identify linkages and engage all participants in the dialogue. Presenters are leading research or implementation experts, who collectively address the key elements of the policy question as identified by the partner.

Held in-camera - BBEs are in-camera events, meaning that any resulting positions or statements are not attributed to individual participants. This program feature is in place to ensure an open, candid environment for sharing information and opinions, particularly if evidence or policy positions are not publically available or if the topic is sensitive in nature.

Protected time for evidence and dialogue - While the structure of a BBE is flexible, the model is designed to ensure an equal balance between the provision of evidence and discussion of its potential implications. Typically, the first half of the day is focused on presentations by the experts, followed by question periods. The afternoon is reserved for deliberative dialogue related to the application of the evidence presented within the policy context.

Contact

For more information about the BBE program, please contact the CIHR Knowledge Translation Strategy Unit: kt-ac@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.