



Alberta Brain Injury Initiative

BULLETIN

Fall 2001

Interim Advisory Council Appointed

Four Albertans have been appointed to an Interim Advisory Council to guide the strategic implementation of community support services for persons with acquired brain injury.

“We looked for Albertans who have an active interest in acquired brain injury and experience with government systems or grassroots knowledge of community services,” said Minister of Community Development Gene Zwozdesky. “I am delighted that these knowledgeable and busy people were able to commit their time and expertise to this council, and that they bring the perspectives of both urban and rural communities to the table.”

Chair of the Council is **Connie Osterman** of Carstairs, former MLA and Cabinet Minister.

Other members include: **Hildegard Campsall** of Peace River, former CEO of the Peace River Health Unit; **Suzanne Vallally** of Calgary, who has an educational background in Community Rehabilitation and has worked extensively with survivors of brain injury; and **Pat Marshall** of Innisfail who serves on the PDD Central Community Board and has a family member with a brain injury. The council will receive support from **David Steeves**, Assistant Deputy Minister of Community Support Systems Division, and his staff.

The aim of the Alberta Brain Injury Initiative is to provide a province-wide support system for adults with brain injury. The council will assist the ministry in the development of criteria for inclusion, services to be funded, allocation of funding across Alberta, and regional operations including staffing and office locations. It will also support the ministry in developing a three-year business plan for the initiative, which will include goals and performance measures.

Community Development Initiatives

Peter Faid of Community Services Consulting Ltd. has been retained to continue work with both advocacy groups and service providers. Peter will be engaging advocacy and support associations in fostering a strong and credible organization that will represent the interests of acquired brain injury survivors and their families at a provincial level.

Peter will also be working with rehabilitation, education and community support agencies to consider the establishment of a Council of Service Providers. This council would encourage collaboration among providers, promote training and education for care providers and professionals working with survivors and their families, and work towards the development of standards for service providers.

Both initiatives began over the summer and will continue through 2001.

Brain Injury Initiative on Web Site

We've established a Brain Injury Initiative Link under *Helping Albertans* within the Community Development web site www.cd.gov.ab.ca. Please bookmark this site. We encourage you to visit regularly for ongoing news relating to the Alberta Brain Injury Initiative. In addition, “The Bulletin” will be posted on the site.



AMHB – Brain Injury Rehabilitation Provincial Program

The Alberta Mental Health Board's Brain Injury Rehabilitation Provincial Program has hired community brain injury rehabilitation specialists to provide services in Central Alberta beginning October 2001.

Phase I of the Community Geographic Team service delivery model encompasses five regional health authorities: Health Authority #5, David Thompson RHA, East Central Health Region, Westview RHA, Crossroads RHA. There will be one specialist in each community to deliver brain injury services and all team members will have close links to inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation programs in health facilities.

For further information about this program call Erna Carter, Community Initiative Manager, (403) 783-7897.

For more information, contact:

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Alberta
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT