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The Consumer/Survivor Information Resource Centre
Distributed through generous support from CSRU Program (Community Support and Research Unit) of
CAMH (Centre for Addiction & Mental Health)

BULLETIN

*Information for consumer/survivors of the mental health system,
those who serve us, and those who care about us.*

October 1, 2006

Bulletin 332

C/S INFO CENTRE DROP-IN HOURS: 1-4 Monday-Friday. PHONE HOURS: 9-5 Monday-Friday
LOCATION: 252 College Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto, ON
MAILING ADDRESS: c/o CAMH, 250 College Street, Toronto, ON M5T 1R8
TEL: 416 595-2882 FAX: 416 595-0291 E-MAIL: csinfo@camh.net

Something New in the Bulletin

Wish List ? Reader Exchange ? Barter Board ? ...

A couple of things have converged and we have some requests for our readers, things people need and things to give away that some of you might want. As usual, it gets my mind going about how to use the Bulletin to its full advantage and how to get our readers most involved. So I am going to post these announcements in this issue of the Bulletin. Let's hope that it starts a regular thing where people send in requests for things they want or need and things they no longer want and are willing to give to someone else.

We'll think up a name for this section of the Bulletin, if it actually gets going and some guidelines as we go along.

1) A reader would like to know if anyone knows where she can get a **student flute** donated to her. She has picked up this hobby late in life and really likes it. If you have any info on this, or if you have a flute you are willing to part with, call the C/S Info Centre at 416 595-2882.

2) I recently visited Linda Chamberlain, who now runs a program at the Patient Library at CAMH's Queen Street site. She told me that they are looking for **jigsaw puzzles and board games**. They don't have to be new, although that would be nice, of course. They just have to be different from the ones that everybody down there has already done or played tons of time before. The Patient Library is open 1:30 – 3:30 pm and 6:00 – 7:30 pm weekdays to receive your donations.

3) Finally, the best for last, the centre has been given a donation of books. They are mostly **self-help and popular psychology books**. More books that we could possibly use in our small space. The novels have already gone to the Patient Library and we gave some of the books in barter for the T-shirts that we gave

Table of Contents

New Column
Page 1

Mad Pride
Pages 2 & 3

Patient Rights
Page 3

Free and Low
Cost Activities
Pages 4 - 6

Announcements
Pages 7 & 8

Research
Page 8

Volunteering,
Training and Job
Postings
Pages 9 & 10

out at the AGM, but we still have lots. There are also bookshelves and a few other odds and ends, a kettle, a toaster oven, some small cushions. If you are a consumer/survivor and are interested in some of the books or any of these items, call the centre at 416 595-2882. We have no way of getting these things to you. You will have to arrange that part yourself and I know that is a pain. We have everything in storage. A point of clarification – we got these as a donation and we will pass them along for free. Helen

Mad Pride Gets Better Every Year !

Congratulations and thanks to all in our community of Psychiatric Survivors and others who brought forth and presented The Mad Pride Weekend – 2006. This year's celebration was well attended and heartily embraced by a beautiful following.

The event opened at PARC (Parkdale Activity-Recreation Centre) on September 14, 2006. Jessica, Ruth, Michelle, and other PARC folks provided a decorative and festive atmosphere for the party, -coloured tablecloths and flowers!

Guest speakers, Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo noted the size and the diversity of the Psychiatric Survivor Community. Member of Parliament Peggy Nash acknowledged the tenacious example of Psychiatric Survivors and the Mad Pride community in its struggle for equal rights. On presenting The Friendly Spike of Activism, (an annual award to a writer who uses words to make a positive difference) to this year's recipient, Poet and Activist Mel Starkman, Chief Commissioner of Ontario Human Rights Commission, Barbara Hall, stressed the importance of the Psychiatric Survivor Community and its persistence in fighting against discrimination. Upon receiving the award Mel acknowledged Psychiatric Survivors, most notably Activist Don Weitz, for liberating him from institutionalization and providing him with a community to be part of. A delicious hot lunch was served, and PARC members Maynard, John, and others shared stories of personal triumph over adversity. A rights forum in the form of a Jeopardy Game presented by Peggy Gail Dehal Ramson and fellow PCLS'ers,(Parkdale Community Legal Services) followed. The PCLS group performed with glitz and glamour to rival anything TV land could muster. But, better than TV land as this Jeopardy was about Human Rights!

On September 15th, 2006 in OISE's (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) panoramic Peace Lounge Erick Fabris presented Community Treatment Orders: Imprisoning With Drugs in The 21st Century. Erick's delivery of compelling research was both eloquent and down to earth. Erick defined CTO's (Community Treatment Orders) and educated us on their wide spread use as a means of social control. The lecture was followed with a reception hosted by CAPA (Coalition Against Psychiatric Assault) who served an impressive buffet of tasty dishes. Special thanks to organizer Shaindl, and helpers for preparing such a fortifying party for both body and mind. Big thanks to Bonnie Burstow for arranging the venue.

Show time at The Alchemy Theatre featured The Friendly Spike Theatre Band's new play in development The Places We Share, September 15 & 16. Performances received thumbs up from a delighted community. The play succeeded in demonstrating a diverse group's desire to connect with, encourage and inspire each other.

A display of Art gracing the lobby of the theatre was presented by The Artists of Soundtimes

On September 16th, 2006 Bonnie Burstow presented a reading from her novel The House on Lippincott a story about the traumatic impact of World War II's Holocaust on an intergenerational Jewish family.

Closing September 16th programming, Now, Who's Crazy Now, a new one-woman play by Puzzle Factory founder, Elly Litvak provided a strong example of personal experience within a theatre context.

September 17th, 2006 Writer's Stage, Hosted by Mel Starkman, featured readings by Caroline Fei-Yeng Kwok - Free To Fly, Loretta Clark – Three Rivers of Blood and Destiny, Jeramiah Bach and Luis Fernandes – Psychiatric Shorts, And Neena Saloiya, Mama D. and Gian Mura.

A reception of knowledge and refreshment was provided by The Empowerment Council on September 16th, 2006. The event, organized by Lucy Costa and Carole King, introduced the work of PSAT (Psychiatric Survivor Archives-Toronto) and provided nourishment: appetizing and yummy snacks!

And finally, September 17th 2006 the attendance for the popular Patient Built Wall Tour, guided by our own historian extraordinaire Geoffrey Reaume grows with each passing year; "The purpose of this tour is to remember the contributions of the men and women who lived, worked, and died in the Toronto Insane Asylum. This is represented by the boundary walls they built which stand as enduring testament to their abilities and a monument to their endurance. We hold up this past symbol to challenge discrimination that is experienced today by people who have a psychiatric history." G. Reaume. This *is* Mad Pride!

We gratefully acknowledge our sponsors The Toronto Arts Council's Community Arts Program, The City of Toronto Special Events Fund, PCLS (Parkdale Community Legal Services), PARC (Parkdale Activity-Recreation Centre) CKLN FM Radio, The Friendly Spike Theatre Angels, and all the many hard working folks who contributed their time and energy to Mad Pride 2006! Ruth Ruth

20th Anniversary of Rights Advice Celebrated

TORONTO – September 15, 2006 – This year, the Psychiatric Patient Advocate Office (PPAO) is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the provision of rights advice under the Ontario *Mental Health Act (MHA)* and its regulations. Rights advice is a process by which patients in psychiatric facilities and persons in the community who are being considered for community treatment orders are informed of their rights when their legal status has changed. Upon request, the rights adviser assists the client to apply to the Consent and Capacity Board for a review of their status, to retain a lawyer and to apply for assistance from Legal Aid Ontario.

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees the right of a detained person to be informed of the reason for the detention and of the right to retain and instruct legal counsel. Rights advice was created as a result of amendments to the *MHA* to reflect these rights. David Simpson, Director of the PPAO, says "rights advice is an important component of the mental health system and ensures due process protection for individuals whose rights are suspended under the *MHA*".

In 1986, rights advice became mandatory for persons detained as involuntary patients under the *MHA*. The number of mandatory rights advice situations has expanded and now includes rights advice for patients found incapable to make treatment decisions, to manage property, and to consent to collection, use and disclosure of personal health information. Rights advice is also provided to persons being considered for the issuance or renewal of a community treatment order and their substitute decision-makers, if any. Rights advice, which was previously facility-based, now extends to individuals living in the community and their substitute decision-makers, if any.

The regulations to the *MHA* specify the qualifications necessary to be a Rights Adviser, including the successful completion of a training course approved by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. Linda Carey, Manager of Rights Advice Services, says: "the PPAO Rights Advisers provide rights advice in the ten current and divested provincial psychiatric hospitals, to those living in the community and being considered for a community treatment order, and their substitute decision-maker, if any, and in all but five facilities scheduled under the *MHA* (general hospitals with mental health units) designating the PPAO as Rights Adviser."

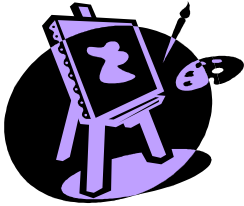
In 2005, the PPAO provided rights advice services in 48 languages, made 21,822 first rights advice visits, and several thousand second or subsequent visits. Rights Advisers assisted clients with 3,534 applications to the Consent and Capacity Board. For more information contact: Linda Carey, Manager of Rights Advice Services 416 327-7001 or David Simpson, Acting Director 416 327-7004. Toll Free: 1 800 578-2343.

To learn more about the PPAO, visit www.ppa.gov.on.ca.

WWW. Websites Worth Watching. Our Readers Contribute ...

This one has been an amazing support for me. www.bipolarhappens.com

Free & Low Cost Events



Sunday, October 1st, 2006

ARTWALK 2006: St. Clair Arts Festival and Studio Tour. Free. Events include an outdoor market, music, entertainment, street performers, studio tour, literary events and more. St. Clair Ave. W. between Bathurst St. and Oakwood Ave., Davenport Rd. to Cedarvale Ravine. For events, locations and times contact: 416 653-6928 or www.stclair-artwalk.org. 10:00 am – 6:00 pm.

High Park Harvest Festival. Free (admission to Colborne Lodge \$2.00). High Park celebration includes music, drama, storytelling, food, displays, wagon rides, nature crafts, and many activities for everyone. Colborne Lodge, High Park, 1875 Bloor St. W. Info: 416 392-6916. 12:00 noon – 4:30 pm.

South Rosedale Walk. Free. Heritage Toronto Walk explores the history and architecture of the neighbourhood with leaders by Elaine Campbell, Janet Langdon. Meet at Ramsden Park, west side of Yonge St. opposite Rosedale Subway Station. Info: 416 338-0684 or www.heritagetoronto.org. 1:30 pm.

Monday, October 2nd

Allen Gardens Conservatory. Free. Enjoy the flowers plants at this historic greenhouse built in 1910. Allen Gardens Conservatory, south of Carleton Street between Jarvis and Sherbourne Sts. For more information: 416 392-7288. 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Tuesday, October 3rd

East Farmer's Market. Free. Visit this weekly east end farmer's market. Continues to Oct. 24th. East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Ave. Info: 416 392-2664. 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Local Author Reading. Free. Elaine Slater reads some of her new stories from, Sweet Mysteries of Life. Deer Park Library, 40 St. Clair Ave. E. Info: 416 393-7657. 2:00 pm.

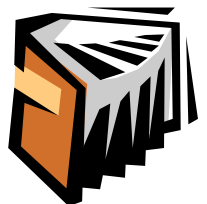
Canadian Opera Company. Free. Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre Series presents, Chamber Music with members of the COC Orchestra, Ensemble Studio and National Ballet Orchestra. Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen St. W. Info: 416 363-8231. 5:00 pm.

Wednesday, October 4th

Assertiveness Workshop. Free. What is assertiveness? How can it help you? Explore ways in which you can communicate effectively while maintaining positive and healthy relationships. Although this workshop is intended for newcomers, it is open to all interested women. Registration is required. High Park Library, 228 Roncesvalles Ave. For registration and more information contact Jennifer, 416 393-7671. 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

Nutrition Workshop. Free. A workshop on eating for anti-aging and minimizing cancer risk with Dr. Rick Lee, Chiropractor and Clinical Acupuncturist. Bridlewood Library, Bridlewood Mall, 2900 Warden Ave. Info: 416 396-8960. 1:30 – 2:30 pm.

Uptown Author Reading and Talk. Free. Laura Penny reads from her book, Your Call Is Important to Us: The Truth about Bullshit. A funny and irreverent look at the cant and hypocrisy we, as consumers are continually fed. Question and answer to follow reading. North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St. Info: 416 395-5639. 7:00 pm.



Depression During Pregnancy Talk. Free. Mood Disorders Association of Ontario, Distinguished Speaker Series presents, Ariel Dalfen, Staff Psychiatrist, Perinatal Mental Health Program, Mount Sinai Hospital. Room 200, 40 Orchard View Blvd. Info: 416 486-8046 or www.mooddisorders.on.ca. 7:00 pm.



Thursday, October 5th

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) Groundbreaking. Free. Celebrate CAMH's mass groundbreaking at the Queen Street site with food, entertainment and more. west lawn, CAMH, 1001 Queen Street West. (follow the welcome signs). Info: 416 535-8501, ext. 3330 or e-mail reddevelopment_feedback@camh.net. 11:30 am – 2:00 pm.

CBC Radio Live Music Performance. Free. Music Around Us New Generation Series presents, Shoko Inoue (piano) performing, Schumann: Arabeske Op.18, Davidbundlertänze Op.6, Theme and Variations (Ghost Variations) with host Keith Horner. Glenn Gould Studio, CBC Building, 250 Front St. West. 416 205-5555. 12:00 noon.

Postcards of Switzerland. Free. A slide travelogue by Charlotte Broome of the Toronto Camera Club. 2nd Floor, Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Blvd. Info: 416 393-7610. 2:00 pm.

Tap Into Your Psychic Self Workshop 1. Free. Introduction to chakras and auras with Donna Seymour. Mount Dennis Library, 1123 Weston Rd. Info: 416 394-1008. 6:30 – 8:15 pm.

Friday, October 6th

Comedy on the Danforth. PWYC donation. Enjoy the improv comedy of The Wrecking Crew. Timothy's WorldNews Café, 320 Danforth Ave. Info: www.fastanddirty.ca. 9:00 pm.

Saturday, October 7th

St. Lawrence Market. The busy North Market offers fresh produce, baked goods and a wide variety of other products with performances by buskers and musicians. St. Lawrence North Market, 92 Front St. E. Info: 416 392-7120 or www.stlawrencemarket.com. 5:00 am – 6:00 pm.

Sunday, October 8th

Harvestfest 2006. Free. Two day festival filled with family activities - pony rides, a pie eating contest, harvest dances, great music and more. Harbourfront Centre, York Quay, 235 Queens Quay W. Info: 416 973-4000 or www.harbourfrontcentre.com. 12:00 noon – 6:00 pm.



Walk/Run Group. Free. PhACS Walk/Run Group for Consumer/Survivors, 3-5 km circuit for all levels. Meet at The Riverdale Perk, 633 Logan Avenue (at Withrow). Info: www.accentonability.org/phacs or 416 604-6973. 10:00 am.

Monday, October 9th

NFB – Mediatheque. Free. View films from the National Film Board's collection at the personal viewing stations. NFB, Mediatheque, 150 John St. Info: 416 973-3012 or www.nfb.ca. 1:00 – 7:00 pm.

Tuesday, October 10th

Vinyasa-based Yoga. Free. Beginner to intermediate level. Weekly classes to Nov. 14th. Annette Library, 145 Annette St. Info: 416 393-7692. 5:00 – 6:00 pm.

Wednesday, October 11th

Benefits of Exercise Workshop. Free. A workshop talk on the benefits of exercise. Bridlewood Library, Bridlewood Mall, 2900 Warden Ave. Info: 416 396-8960. 1:30 – 2:30 pm.

Animated Shorts Festival. Free. Discussion and screening of the Oscar nominated film Ryan, an animated tribute to Canadian animator Ryan Larkin. Light refreshments served. Pape Danforth Library, 701 Pape Ave. Info: 416 393-7727. 6:30 – 8:30 pm.



Walk/Run Group. Free. PhACS Walk/Run Group for Consumer/Survivors follows a 3-5 km circuit for all levels. Meet at Tim Horton's, 481 Danforth Avenue (at Logan Avenue). Info: 416 604-6973 or www.accentonability.org/phacs. 7:00 pm.

Uptown Author Reading and Talk. Free. A reading by Cecily Ross from her book, Love in the Time of Cholestrerol. A heartfelt, funny and informative memoir about life after heart disease, complete with recipes. Question and answer to follow. North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St. Info: 416 395-5639. 7:00 pm.

Thursday, October 12th

Tap Into Your Psychic Self Workshop 2. Free. Explores auras and chakras with Donna Seymour. Mount Dennis Library, 1123 Weston Rd. Info: 416 394-1008. 6:30 – 8:15 pm.

Vocal Recital: In Celebration of Mozart. Free. A selection of opera arias, motets and songs by Mozart. Performed by soprano Barbara Fris and pianist Jane Blackstone. 2nd Floor, Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Blvd. Info: 416 393-7610. 2:00 pm.

Charlene Roycht: Author and Inspirational Speaker. Free. The author reads from her book, If Mom's Not Dead by 9, I'm Leaving...a personal journal about living, loving, dying. Discussion to follow on the difficulties, stress and personal growth experienced while taking care of a dying loved one.

Brentwood Library, 36 Brentwood Rd. N. Info: 416 394-5240. 7:00 – 8:15 pm.



Clutter Free Workshop. Free. Professional organizer, Janis Amzallag, gives tips for getting organized and storage ideas. Registration and information contact, 416 395-5710. Don Mills Library, 888 Lawrence Ave. E. 7:00 pm.

Documentary Film. Free. The Japan Foundation Documentary Screening Series presents, A Portrait of Solitude (53 min). Event Hall, The Japan Foundation, 131 Bloor St. W., Suite 213. Info: 416 966-1600 or www.iftor.org. 7:00 pm.

Friday, October 13th

Dufferin Grove Friday Supper. Free - \$6.00 (Prices can vary, if you want to trade for dishwashing help or other park tasks or bring your own dishes). Park cooks use ingredients from the Thursday Farmer's Market. Suppers are held outside by the bake ovens. Weather permitting. Dufferin Grove Park, 875 Dufferin St. Info: 416 392-0913 or www.dufferinpark.ca. 6:00 – 7:00 pm.

1001 Nights of Storytelling. PWYC (\$5 suggested donation). Tell or listen to a story in the oral tradition. Innis College Café, 2 Sussex St. Info: 416 656-2445 or www.storytellingtoronto.org. 8:00 – 10:30 pm.

Saturday, October 14th

Riverdale Farm Annual Spring Bulb Planting. Free. Join members of the Farm's Buildings & Grounds Committee for a morning of planting activities and outdoor fun. Riverdale Farm, 201 Winchester St. Info: 416 392-6794. Farm open, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Planting, 9:30 am – 11:30 am.

Lower Don Fall Hike. Free. Bring Back the Don and Toronto Bruce Trail Club presents an informal hike through Todmorden Mills, Crothers' Wood and Charles Sauriol Conservation Reserve with leaders John Routh and Dave Tyson. Some steep areas. Bring a lunch. Meet at Broadview Subway Station. Info: 416 392-0401 or www.lostrivers.ca/WalkSchd. 10:00 am – 3:30 pm.

Harbourfront Centre Walking Tour. Free. Learn how Harbourfront Centre grew out of derelict shipyards! Meet at the Information Desk, York Quay, 235 Queens Quay West. Info: www.harbourfrontcentre.com or 416 973-4000. Tours are held Saturday and Sundays, 2:00 pm.

Sunday, October 15th

Downsview Park's Fall Fair. Free. Celebrate 'Urban Harvest' the 6th annual Fall Fair. Events include: tree planting, West Coast Lumberjack Show, Birds of Prey Flight Show, wagon rides, petting zoo, music and entertainment for everyone. Downsview Park, 35 Carl Hall Rd. Info: 416 954-0544 or www.pdp.ca. 11:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Announcements

The Leadership Project presents a FREE Conference day for Consumer/Survivors

Recovery PSY-'COZY'-UM 2006

A day to talk about: Our Struggles and Strengths / Our Stories and Environment / Our Health and Human Rights / Our Creativity and Courage / Our Contacts and Connections / Our Involvement with Peers

Making Recovery Happen in our communities. Exploring possibilities and actions in an interactive setting with local facilitators. Our 'Open Space' Sessions will include international guests.

Wednesday, November 15th 2006 from 8:00 am – 7:30 pm

United Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil St.

(1 block south of College and Spadina St. – east on Cecil St. – 3 blocks)

Registration is necessary as seating is limited. Refreshments and Entertainment are provided.

For registration forms email: heinz_klein@hotmail.com

For more information contact: 416 482-4103 ext. 510 or e-mail, heinz_klein@hotmail.com and meligstarkman@yahoo.ca.

PSY-'COZY'-UM is a Pre-Conference leading up to the Leadership Project Conference

International Recovery Perspectives: Implications, Innovations, Implementation

Critical and creative explorations of groundbreaking approaches in Mental Health Recovery

Thursday, November 16 and Friday, November 17, 2006

Hart House, 7 Hart House Circle, University of Toronto

Cost for the conference is \$300.00.

There are a limited number of subsidized seats (\$40) for Consumer/Survivors and Families on a limited income. Contact Brian McKinnon at bmckinnon@iprimus.ca or 416 285-7996 ext. 227 for more information and a registration form.

There will be a Town Hall **Mayoral Debate** on October 4th from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at the St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front Street East, 2 blocks east of Union Station. Written questions will be collected on the night of the debate and ALL the candidates for Mayor will be there. Free admission. All welcome. Seats about 500 people. The Q&A will be followed by a meet and greet. Moderated by Anne Mroczkowski: Anchor, CityNews at Six, Citytv. Presented by StLC FORUM and Who Runs This Town?

There will be a **Mental Health Information Fair** on Wednesday, October 4th from 12:00 noon to 4:30 pm at the East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Avenue, at the corner of Mortimer. There will be people staffing booths and displays on a variety of mental health and addiction topics, from over 65 agencies. This is the ninth year for this Info Fair. Free admission. Light refreshments.

The Secret Handshake – Canada’s first and only peer support group/network is still running full steam ahead. If you have schizophrenia and want to join, email us at thescrethandshake@hotmail.com.

The Psychiatric Patient Advocate Office (PPAO) workshops on **Understanding Mental Health Law** are all full, except for the one in London Ontario on Tuesday October 17th. If you wish to attend that one, call 1 800 578-2343 Monday to Friday 9:00 to 5:00 or email Dorothy.Burse@mh.gov.on.ca.

Psychiatric Survivor Archives, Toronto (PSAT) is having an Open House!

PSAT is now open for business! Celebrate our mad history by being a part of mad history! Find out more about PSAT's documentary collection! Historical documents from psychiatric survivor history will be on exhibit during this event for your viewing pleasure. Learn more about our collective contributions in Canada and abroad.

Food, refreshments, activists and archivists, will be available.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 from 5 – 8 pm

at Sound Times, 280 Parliament Street (just south of Dundas - -Please enter from Poulette Street)

See the Sound Times web site for map directions: <http://soundtimes.com/contact.htm>

See also PSAT's web site for more information about the archives:

<http://www.psychiatricsurvivorarchives.com/>

For more information about the Open House, please call 416 760-4780 or 416 661-9975

or email: info@psychiatricsurvivorarchives.com

Come out and celebrate our past! Mad history has a great future with PSAT!

This event is wheelchair accessible.

Research

The Bulletin does not endorse or recommend any of the research studies that we include. We are posting them here for your information only. Please make your own choices as to whether to participate in any of the studies we post.

CAMH Study. Individuals who have experienced chronic depression which lasted at least two years (sometimes called dysthymia) and have been treated with medication or psychotherapy within the past 10 years for chronic depression may be eligible to participate in a study on mood disorders and behaviour. Please contact us for a screening interview by calling 416 260-4219. Dial '1' when prompted, and leave a message. Tell us your name, phone number, best time to call you back and if we can leave you a message. We will call you back within three business days. WE REGRET THAT NOT EVERYONE WHO CALLS WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE. PARTICIPANTS WILL BE COMPENSATED FOR THEIR TIME

For information about treatment options for mental illness or addiction offered by CAMH, visit www.camh.net or call 416 535-8501.

LESBIAN WOMEN & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

Are you a lesbian or queer woman or a woman who has been in relationships with other women? Have you been diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or major depression? Have you been involved with mental health services? If you answered 'yes' to these questions I'm interested in learning about your experiences with mental health services. I am a lesbian doctoral student in social work at the University of Toronto. Participants will be paid \$15 for a 1-1½ confidential hour interview. **For more information, contact Andrea at 647 889-1756.**

Volunteer Opportunity

Pet Therapy The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Volunteer Resources is looking for dedicated volunteers and their dogs to visit one hour a week with patients. Please contact Theresa Conforti 416 535-8501 ext 2995 Theresa_conforti@camh.net.

Training Opportunity

Peer Mentor Training. Adults who have experienced a mental health disorder (sic) and have learned to manage their lives and who are interested in sharing their experience and knowledge to help others might be interested in becoming a Peer Mentor. This is a free course in peer mentoring. It will require your time for 10 Thursday evenings beginning October 12, 2006 in the Milton area (place to be determined). If you are interested in helping others with mental health disorders (sic), please contact us at T.E.A.C.H. to register for the Peer Mentor Training Workshop. 905 693-8771 or email teach@bellnet.ca.

Job Postings

Houselink Community Homes, a non-profit organization providing housing and support to people who live with serious mental illness, is seeking to fill these two positions.

Administrative Assistant – Tenancy Unit

Full-Time, 1 Year Contract with possibility of renewal

Responsible for general administrative support to the tenancy unit and head office location including: office administration; filing systems; support to human resources for hiring and time sheets; scheduling and setting up meetings; preparing correspondence; assisting with the hiring process.

Duties and Responsibilities

- excellent computer skills for database management and MS Office including Excel
- good communication and interpersonal skills
- strong attention to detail with good accuracy
- ability to work independently and as part of a team
- ability to take initiative and set priorities
- ability to relate effectively with Houselink members
- commitment to anti-oppression and working in a recovery framework
- experience in computerized bookkeeping an asset

Starting Salary is \$33,230 plus benefits. Please send cover letter and resume, Quoting File # AA222 by October 11, 2006 to Hiring Committee, Tenancy Unit at the address below.

Support Supervisor Full-Time, Permanent

The Supervisor is responsible for the delivery of program services within the Supportive Housing program. This includes: providing leadership to a team; liaising with community agencies, hospitals, landlords and other project partners; supervising and scheduling front-line staff; ensuring residents are receiving the appropriate services from a variety of sources both within and outside the agency; and program related administrative tasks. You will be required to work flexible hours.

Skills, Knowledge and Experience Required

- Demonstrated leadership and supervision skills.
- Experience & knowledge of the mental health, homelessness, housing, poverty and relevant community resources
- Experience in program development and coordination
- Degree or Diploma and/or experience in related field
- Demonstrated written and verbal communication
- Strong administrative, time management and organizational skills
- Good interpersonal and team skills
- Problem identification (practical, individual and interpersonal) and related problem solving skills
- Experience in community development and networking
- Ability to liaise effectively and develop collaborative relationships
- Experience in record keeping and file management
- Experience in practical assistance, basic life skills counselling, supportive counselling, crisis intervention, advocacy, and group work, including mediation and conflict resolution
- Awareness of building maintenance and life safety systems
- Commitment to anti-oppression and working in a recovery framework
- Basic computer skills. Knowledge of the Ministry of Health's systems is an asset.
- Current certification in CPR and First Aid an asset

Starting Salary is \$46,990 plus benefits

Apply in writing by October 11, 2006, Quoting File # SS222 to: Hiring Committee, Supervisor

**For more information about these positions, see the complete job descriptions at:
www.houselink.on.ca**

Houselink Community Homes
805 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M6G 1L8

No phone calls please. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Applications are encouraged from psychiatric survivors, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, people of colour, women, gays and lesbians.

Wellness and Recovery Newsletter – The third Issue of the quarterly publication that CRCT - Community Resource Connections of Toronto - and C/S Info Centre cooperate on is now out !!! It's free to receive, but you have to tell us you want it. If you haven't already subscribed, call us at 416 595-2882 or email us at csinfo@camh.net.