

The Opportunity Ahead

The BC Mental Health Foundation is the fundraising arm of BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services (BCMHSUS), driving continuous innovation and impact by amplifying public understanding, reducing stigma, and harnessing untapped community support for British Columbians with a combination of serious mental health, substance use, and other significant healthcare needs.

The Foundation supports:

- prioritizing overdose prevention, overall well-being, and the dismantling of systemic and colonial structures that continue to harm British Columbians in need of high-quality mental health care;
- garnering widespread community support to better understand, advance, reduce stigma, and action evidence-based recommendations toward system-change in the field of Correctional Health Services, Forensic Psychiatric Services and Adult Mental Health & Substance Use;
- acknowledging the role that colonialism, residential schools, and inter-generational trauma plays in the health and safety of Indigenous youth, adults, families, and communities.

The BC Mental Health Foundation (“BCMHF”) is currently nested under Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), and together, BCMHSUS and PHSA are ready to launch the BCMHF’s trajectory to becoming a vibrant, and thriving Foundation, by moving from being nested within PHSA to a fully independent Foundation.

BCMHSUS and PHSA leadership are committed and excited to provide full administrative, communications and financial systems support for incoming Interim Board Leadership. With current net assets (approx. 1M) as well as an established partnership with Coast Mental Health Foundation to reduce recidivism, BCMHF is well positioned to invest in the necessary infrastructure required to ensure elevated fundraising activity.

A vital first step in the revitalization is to recruit three Interim volunteer Board members to lead this important transition beginning in April 2024. This newly formed Board will play a pivotal role in leveraging our existing fundraising abilities, manage the transition to an independent Foundation, and hire and onboard new Foundation staff leadership. All of these will combine to position the Foundation for a stable and vibrant future.

Interested?

Have your voice heard during this exciting time. Help us elevate BC's mental health supports to soaring new heights.

To express interest in this position, please contact BCEHS's recruiting partner, Christoph Clodius at The Discovery Group, by email at christoph@thediscoverygroup.ca.

Please reach out by March 15, 2024; applications and enquiries will be evaluated on an ongoing basis so if you're interested please do so soon.

About the BC Mental Health Foundation & BC Mental Health & Substance Use Services

Purpose

The BC Mental Health Foundation (BCMHF), a registered charitable society, plays a crucial role in driving continuous innovation and impact by amplifying public understanding, reducing stigma, and harnessing untapped community support for British Columbians with a combination of serious mental health, substance use, and other significant healthcare needs.

To learn more about the Foundation, see <https://www.bcmhf.ca/>

Eradicating Indigenous-Specific Racism

Over 30% of incarcerated males and over 50% incarcerated females are Indigenous. The effects of intergenerational trauma, colonialism, residential schools, and systemic racism resulted in Indigenous children making up 66% of children and youth in care in BC today.

"This is an opportunity for us to rethink how we approach this work based on what we've done to date in order to achieve the outcome of culturally safe services through a journey of cultural humility."

- Joe Gallagher, Vice President Indigenous Health & Cultural Safety

The [*In Plain Sight Report*](#) on *Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in BC Health Care* and the [*Declaration of Commitment to Cultural Safety and Humility*](#) signify key steps that have been taken to achieve the outcome of culturally safe services through an anti-racist perspective. BCMHF Board members will continue to build on the work that has been done by naming racism, acknowledging the harm that it does, and continuously reflecting on how racism operates. The behaviours, actions, and processes that create problems for Indigenous people interacting with the health care system must be called out in order to organize and strategize the most effective action to be taken. The BCMHF Board is committed to eradicating structures that lead to justifying racism and indifference to the lives of Indigenous People.

Funding Priorities

BCMHF is a champion for high quality mental health resources that ensure the successful healing and transition from crisis to recovery.

Community Transition Teams: Focused on reducing overdose after incarceration, these teams facilitate clients to successfully transition back to the community. This helps with client wellness and also supports public safety.

Red Fish Healing Centre: Opened in 2017, this 110-bed provincial facility that is seeing great client outcomes for those with a concurrent mental health and substance use disorder. BCMHSUS leadership also currently in the business case writing phase to build a **new 110 bed hospital in Fraser East.**

Provincial Network: Engaging with a diverse range of perspectives from across the provincial continuum of care and a means to facilitate the combination and exchange of knowledge. The evidence-based, person-centred network brings together people with lived and living experience, service and support providers, and other partners from across BC to advance understanding and actionable recommendations toward system change.

Centre for learning: BCMHSUS is stewarding several education and training initiatives aimed at enhancing workforce capacity to deliver evidence-based concurrent disorders care in BC.

Research and Capacity Building: Strengthening our research in support of the complex populations we serve to help reduce overdose and improve outcomes for clients.

Caring for BCMHSUS employees with Lived & Living Experience: Enhancing support, training & resources for employees who play a vital role in quality of care.

Support for BC Crisis Lines: BCMHSUS currently funds and oversees BC Crisis Lines – crucial lifelines for individuals facing mental health crises or contemplating suicide.

Time Commitment

During the first year of operational independence the Board will meet monthly with quarterly meetings beginning in year two, or as defined by governance committee. The Board will maintain open lines of communication with key partners, including BCMHSUS and PHSA, donors, and the wider community. As a key player, you'll actively engage in initiatives focused on fundraising, community engagement, strategic alignment with BCMHSUS, governance, and compliance. Given the supportive nature of the partnership between BCMHF, BCMHSUS, and PHSA, bi-weekly meetings in the first three months with BCMHSUS would be welcomed.

Term of Appointment

Initial Board members will be appointed for at least a one-year term with an option for renewal according to current bylaws.

Desired Traits and Background

BCMHF is seeking candidates who have played a significant role on other Boards in the corporate or social profit sector and who are prepared to make a commitment to BCMHF's mission. An understanding of non-profit governance, and interest in exploring new models would be helpful. BC residency is required.

Additionally, the ideal Board member will possess the following attributes:

- Commitment to the purpose and values of BCMHF and BCMHSUS;
- Committed to eradicating Indigenous specific racism across the continuum of mental health and substance use care.
- Committed to educating themselves to ensure they possess the skills and knowledge to protect and uphold safe space for dialogue, exploration, and decision making.
- Working to modernize current perceptions to accurately encompass the scope of care and research provided by BCMHSUS.
- Leveraging their leadership roles with community partners to ensure that when Indigenous voices join conversations they're not being harmed.
- Demonstrated experience in Board leadership or executive roles;
- Strong understanding of philanthropy, healthcare, and community engagement;
- Visionary leadership with the ability to align initiatives with organizational goals;
- Keen understanding and focus on the important role philanthropy can play in enhancing services;
- Strategic thinker with the ability to lead future-oriented conversations;
- Capacity to lead and work as part of a collaborative and creative team;
- Ability to navigate uncertainty and ambiguity, and adapt to emerging needs and circumstances;
- Leads by example with unquestionable ethics, principles, and judgement;
- Accomplished in their field and able to apply their expertise to BCMHF's provincial context.

Board Mandate

The primary responsibility of BCMHF's new Board will be to foster the long-term success of BCMHF consistent with the Board's responsibility to act as fiduciaries on behalf of BCMHF's donors and principal shareholders. BCMHF's objectives:

- To solicit and receive by gift, bequest, devise, transfer, or otherwise, property of every nature and description, and
- Subject to any prior trust conditions imposed on the use of the property, to hold, use and administer the property for advancing overall health of British Columbians in the field of Correctional Health Services, Forensic Psychiatric Services and Adult Mental Health & Substance Use.

Board Roles and Responsibilities

The Board is a fully functioning governing body. While its role is primarily fiduciary it also includes a wide range of interests and responsibilities typically associated with a governing body, including but not limited to areas of strategic planning, risk management, organizational and management capacity, ethics and values, communications with essential partners, and internal control.

All BCMHF Board members will be active champions for fundraising in support of the BCMHF mission. Recognizing the dynamic nature of mental health and substance use services and philanthropy, the Board will engage in continuous learning and development.

All of the work done is in support of encouraging philanthropic investment in the Foundation. This includes being a donor and actively supporting fundraising events and initiatives.

Board Accountability

BCMHF's principal partnerships are held with their donors and employees. This extends to PHSA business units, BCMHSUS patients, employees, health professionals, researchers, volunteers and the general public.

The Boards primary accountability is to donors whereas the ultimate beneficiaries are BCMHSUS current and future patients and their families. This accountability to donors pivots on the following key matters:

- The funds are being used for the purposes they are given;
- The non-expended and investment funds are being prudently invested;
- The funds have been effectively allocated and expended; and,
- The outcomes of the expended funds lead to improvements and progress in advancing overall health of British Columbians in the field of Correctional Health Services, Forensic Psychiatric Services and Adult Mental Health & Substance Use.

Board Composition & Selection

The BCMHF Board will be selected and consist of a diverse group of individuals committed to embodying and upholding BCMHF's inspiring commitment to fostering healthy relationships with

Indigenous partners, honouring and embracing the recently gifted Six Indigenous Teachings as guiding principles in all they do, and to developing a culture of continuous learning on the path to a healthier province. The Board actively works to align initiatives with BCMHSUS values, thereby reinforcing the commitment to transformative change in mental health and substance use services. Initial selection will be primarily based on proven practical experience showcasing the ideal qualifications and commitment to BCMHF values. New Interim Board leaders will prioritize Board matrix development in the first six months of tenure.