

# SSHRC Partnership Grant

## Building research capacity with First Nations and mainstream youth protection services in Quebec

### Project summaries

#### Association des centres jeunesse du Québec (ACJQ)

##### **Education Indicator Development**

Victims of child abuse and neglect are at significant risk for developmental, cognitive, and academic delays. Yet, there is currently no information available on the school performance of children served by child protection centres across Quebec. As part of a province-wide knowledge mobilization initiative entitled, “Gestion fondée sur les indicateurs de suivi Clinique,” an age-to-grade ratio indicator of academic delay is currently being developed for all children receiving child protection services in the province of Quebec. This indicator provides a useful starting point in understanding how well children perform at school. The goal of this project is to gain a better understanding of the academic performance of youth served by the child protection system in Quebec in order to develop and/or orient support services aimed at ensuring that these children have the opportunity to reach their full academic potential. Two agency representatives from ACJQ are involved in this project as well as one graduate student and a researcher.

##### **Tracking Clinical Outcome Indicators**

All 16 mandated child protection jurisdictions in Quebec use a common clinical administrative information system. The goal of this project is to use the common clinical-administrative information system to track services children receive in order to help agencies set measurable targets for service improvements. As of now, 6 indicators have been developed: recurrence of child maltreatment, placement rate, moves in care, time in care, court appearances and request for youth criminal justice services. Two agency representatives from ACJQ are involved in this project as well as one graduate student and researchers from the University institutes CJM-IU and CJQ-IU.

#### Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

##### **Exploring Differential Processes of Service Provision for non-Aboriginal and status First Nations Children.**

The goal of this project is to describe the structural differences in the processes for accessing/providing health and social services for status First Nations children living on-reserve and non-Aboriginal children. The project also seeks to outline how differences in processes for accessing/providing services may result in disparities in the nature of, access to, or continuity of services for First Nations children living on-reserve and non-Aboriginal children. Research activities include a literature review, content analysis, interviews with key informants, and data analysis. One agency representative from AFN is involved in this project as well as two graduate students and four researchers.

## **Batshaw Youth and Family Centres**

### **Client Satisfaction Project**

The client satisfaction project stems from the Batshaw client satisfaction policy and internal agency quality assurance. Central to the project is the development of a client satisfaction survey distributed to both youth and parents. The survey asks questions about the clients' satisfaction with their worker, the services they receive and in general about their experiences with Batshaw Youth and Family Centres. Survey data will be used to enhance child welfare services. The project is led by three agency representatives, one graduate student and one researcher.

### **Clinical Integration Group on Congual Violence**

The goal of this project is to inform child welfare agency staff of the latest research findings on intimate partner violence and it helps university-affiliated members of the group (students and researchers of the Partnership) to be better informed of the practical applications of research. One agency representative from BYFC is involved in this project, as well as one graduate student and a researcher.

### **Clinical Integration Group on Sexual Abuse**

The goal of this project is to inform child welfare agency staff of the latest research findings on sexual abuse and to aid university-affiliated members of the group (student and researcher of the Partnership) in being better informed of the practical applications of research. One agency representative from BYFC is involved in this project, as well as one graduate student and a researcher.

### **Examining Batshaw Legal Services and Foster Care Resources**

This project was initiated by BYFC in response to concerns that their court costs and foster care resource costs were significantly higher than the provincial rates. A number of potential explanations were explored, from differences in operationalizing and measuring these indicators, to higher costs that may be associated with other benefits (e.g. shorter court orders, earlier settlements, more stable placements). Results were shared with a group of BYFC managers. Beyond a first set of crosstabs additional analyses were not required.

### **In-the-Know**

The goal of this project is to assist BYFC in contextualizing the results of agency specific analysis on children's service trajectories and publishing a research newsletter (*In-the-Know*) designed to make this information available to clinical personnel and partners, which is disseminated through the intranet at BYFC and the Centre for Research on Children and Families website. In addition to agency specific analysis, *In-the-Know* also includes summaries of student theses and other MSW research papers related to child welfare, summaries of other BYFC research activities and announcements regarding upcoming research-related activities. Two agency representatives from BYFC are involved in this project as well as one graduate student and a researcher. This is a highly collaborative process between the agency representatives and a graduate student who work together on the literature review and writing of the newsletter.

### **Knowledge Integration for Aboriginal Teams**

The initial goal of this project was to assist BYFC Application des mesures (AM) department with organizing a new Aboriginal Team of workers to work solely with Aboriginal children and families. BRC knowledge brokers will continue to assist the Aboriginal Team with developing knowledge of culturally appropriate tools, models and planning strategies. In the future, BRC knowledge brokers will also assist with the development and ongoing support of an interdepartmental group to address the needs of Aboriginal clients.

### **Neglect Program Implementation**

The goal of this project is to assist with the evaluation of the implementation of a new assessment format for families under the new BYFC Neglect Program. The aim is to assess the consistency and efficacy of the new assessment measures. Research activities include a literature review, interviews, assessment report reviews, and data analysis. One agency representative from BYFC is involved in this project as well as 4 BRC PhD graduate students, 2 MSW graduate students, and a researcher. The lead student developed the interview guide and assessment report review grid in conjunction with BYFC and the researcher. To date, the students have assisted with conducting individual telephone interviews and reviewing assessment reports.

### **Understanding Trajectories of Children in Long-Term Care**

The goal of this project is to examine the factors that underlie long-term placements at BYFC. A service statistics integration group has been established including BYFC managers in partnership with members of McGill's Centre for Research on Children and Families and the Association des centres jeunesse du Québec. Clinical administrative data from 2002-2014 will be examined to identify children most likely to be placed in care on a long-term basis. The working group has had a few preliminary meetings to establish a draft mandate, and will be commencing regularly scheduled meetings in September 2014.

### **Centre de Protection et de Réadaptation de la Côte-Nord**

#### **Service Trajectories for Children 0-5 and Comparison of Services for First Nations and non-First Nations Children.**

The goal of this project is to better understand the service trajectories of specific groups of children whose report for child maltreatment or neglect to the CPRCN has been screened in. These groups have been identified by the project's partners and are the following: 1) Children aged 0 to 5 years old; and 2) First Nations children. To achieve the goal of this project, data analysis is performed by a work committee composed of 2 university-related members (student and researchers of the partnership), 3 agency representatives, and 4 representatives from the region's First Nations (Innu) communities' social services. The data used in these analyses come from of the clinical-administrative information system of the CPRCN through the province-wide knowledge mobilization initiative entitled, "Gestion fondée sur les indicateurs de suivi clinique". By better understanding the service trajectories of those populations of children, it is expected that appropriate recommendations for changes in practices, policies, partnerships or else can be put forward by the committee in order to offer better services to these children.

### **Centre jeunesse de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue**

#### **Comparison of Services for First Nations and Non-First Nations Children**

The goal of this project is to better understand the service trajectories of First Nations and non-First Nations children whose report for child maltreatment or neglect to the CJAT has been screened in. To achieve the goal of this project, data analysis is performed by a work committee composed of 2 university-related members (student and researchers of the partnership), 3 agency representatives, and 2 representatives from the region's First Nations (Algonquin) communities' social services. The data used in these analyses come from of the clinical-administrative information system of the CJAT through the province-wide knowledge mobilization initiative entitled, "Gestion fondée sur les indicateurs de suivi clinique". By better understanding the service trajectories of those populations of children, it is expected that appropriate recommendations for changes in practices, policies, partnerships or else can be put forward by the committee in order to offer better services to these children.

## **Centres jeunesse de l'Outaouais**

### **Analysis of administrative data to improve clinical decision-making**

The goal of this project is to support the use of administrative data by managers and clinicians at the Centre Jeunesse Outaouais. CJO has invested in a series of Cognos reports that provide weekly point in time updates extracted from multiple clinical and administrative datasets. Implementation of Cognos is fairly recent and occurs in phases. A *Research, Development and Innovation Committee* has been formed with staff from various service points, an agency representative, a BRC funded graduate student and a McGill researcher. To complement the point in time Cognos reports, a team of BRC researchers provide longitudinal portraits of service outcomes for children and youth at CJO and comparative profiles for the province. Key objectives of the *Research, Development and Innovation Committee* include revision of the various reports produced by Cognos, development of agency skill in interpreting and analyzing data and further exploration of the clinical outcome indicator recurrence.

### **Groupe d'intégration clinique en agression sexuelle**

The goal of this project is to inform child welfare agency staff of the latest research findings on sexual abuse and it helps university-affiliated members of the group (students and researchers of the Partnership) to be better informed of the practical applications of research. One agency representative from CJO is involved in this project, as well as one graduate student and a researcher.

## **First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC)**

### **Analysis of the Trajectories of First Nations Children and Youth in the Child Protection System**

The goal of this project is to assist the FNQLHSSC in exploring the child protection service trajectories of First Nations children who come into contact with the child protection system in Québec. The objectives are to understand the trajectories of First Nation youth services (FN) and how it compares with the rest of Quebec (ROQ) as well as to document changes before and after YPA (PL-125) legislation modification that occurred in 2007. Outcomes will include the preparation of a final report for the FNQLHSSC similar to Component Two and presentations in the form of research report, findings and results. Three agency representatives from FNQLHSSC are involved in this project as well as two graduate students and the PI of the Partnership who is the researcher supervising projects with the FNQLHSSC. This project is still emerging with face-to-face meetings scheduled over the summer of 2014 to plan next steps.

### **First Nations Regional Health Survey**

The goal of this project is to assist in the data analysis of the results of the Regional Health Survey to deepen the themes that have been found to date. Three agency representatives from FNQLHSSC are involved in this project as well as two graduate students and the PI of the Partnership who is the researcher supervising projects with the FNQLHSSC. This project is still emerging with face-to-face meetings scheduled over the summer of 2014 to plan next steps.

### **Project Governance Health and Social Services of Quebec First Nations**

The goal of this project is to present governance models and initiatives within the area of Aboriginal health and social service delivery. One agency representative from FNQLHSSC is involved in this project as well as one graduate students and the PI of the Partnership who is the researcher supervising projects with the FNQLHSSC. This project should be completed by the Fall of 2014.

## **Kahnawake Shakotii'a'takehnhas Community Services (KSCS)**

### **Best Practice Models for Supporting Individuals with Disabilities**

The goal of this project has been to assist KSCS with (1) developing a survey to community stakeholders, (2) conducting individual interviews; and (3) conducting qualitative data analysis. Two agency representatives from KSCS from different departments are involved in this project, as well as two graduate students and a researcher. The two agency representatives from KSCS sit on a group called Connecting Horizons: A Community Dialogue in Support of Individuals with Disabilities and their Families. It is this group made up of service providers, individuals with disabilities and their parents, elders and government representatives that makes decisions regarding this project. To date the students have completed qualitative data analyses of the interviews and have submitted a report to KSCS.

### **KSCS Data Support Project**

The goal of this project is to assist KSCS in the extraction and analysis of clinical administrative data using their current information system. Three agency representatives from KSCS and one researcher are involved in this project. This team has just completed a round of analysis, focusing on understanding the reasons that children are initially referred to KSCS, as well as the frequency and characteristics of out of home placements.

### **Supporting Individuals with Disabilities and their Families: Stakeholder Interviews**

The goal of this project initially was to conduct a literature review of existing community models to determine best practice models and services for individuals with disabilities and their families. While this might be an activity that is done in the future, after several meetings with agency representatives, the goals of the project were modified. The BRC Partnership assisted KSCS with (1) conducting interviews with individuals with special needs and/or their caregivers, (2) conducting qualitative data analysis to develop themes from the interviews, and (3) writing a report to summarize the themes. Two agency representatives from KSCS from different departments were involved in this project, as well as two graduate students and a researcher from McGill. The final draft report was submitted to KSCS Assisted Living Services in July 2014.