

## Event Brief

### KDE Hub Orientation for Project Teams

January & February 2020

---

#### Purpose

The Knowledge Development and Exchange (KDE) Hub was funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) as part of the Mental Health Promotion Innovation Fund (MHP-IF) approximately one year in advance of MHP-IF funded projects. This lead time allowed the Hub to build some organizational foundations and enough activity for meaningful early engagement with projects when they came on board in late 2019/early 2020. Once project funding agreements were signed and projects had completed their PHAC onboarding, Hub orientation calls were the first opportunity for the Hub Secretariat to connect with projects.

The purpose of Hub orientation calls was for the Hub team to introduce themselves to project teams, provide an organizational overview including core commitments and early project supports, signal upcoming Hub activities, and provide an early chance for a few of the project teams to meet each other.

#### Participants

The Hub Secretariat hosted a total of eight orientation calls, with representatives from up to 4 projects per call.

#### Meeting structure

- Project and individual team member introductions were made near the beginning of each meeting; for participants this was a first opportunity to learn a little about a few other people and projects involved in the MHP-IF initiative
- An informal presentation described the Hub's structure, team members, mandate, vision, markers of progress, functions, core commitments, and developmental work
- Upcoming Hub activities and supports were shared along with their timelines
- The meetings ended with an opportunity for questions and answers and an open discussion
- Each meeting was one-hour in length and was held via Zoom web conferencing.
- Presentation handouts and notes from each meeting were provided to participants as a record of the information and to share with any team members unable to be on the call

## What did we learn?

- There were many expressions of enthusiasm for the supports that the KDE Hub will provide, the opportunities to learn more about each other and the potential to make contributions to meet diverse and important needs across Canada as individual projects, and as a collective.
- Questions were asked about specific Hub supports including the website, annual symposium, and bi-weekly webinars; the responses reflect a commitment to add value for projects while minimizing burden. For example, project-specific pages on the KDE Hub website will be used to position all projects within the MHP-IF, and to create additional exposure. The Hub will explore ways to ensure the project pages add value, and can be efficiently updated.
- Discussions explored roles within the initiative unique to projects, the Hub and PHAC. There was shared acknowledgement of the importance of projects maintaining leadership within their communities and with partners. The Hub is intended to be supportive, working in tailored ways with each project, and providing a distinct focus on collective learning across projects. Unique roles for PHAC and the Hub were illustrated by engagement with project PME plans. PHAC needs to consider corporate reporting requirements while the Hub will review them to inform possible contributions to new knowledge development (within and across projects) and possible supports from the Hub for strengthening evaluation questions, study designs and methods.
- Communication on many levels will be important. The Hub will seek guidance from projects on appropriate communication patterns from the Hub (who, for what purposes, and how). The projects are focusing on many different cultures and populations and coming to the MHP-IF from diverse backgrounds. This will require attention to use of language that may mean different things to different people (e.g., integration, evidence-based) and connecting in sensitive ways with all projects. There was acknowledgement that we seem to already 'speak the same language' and that will be helpful as we figure out our work together. It was also acknowledged that although shared perspectives and language may exist within the MHP-IF, that may not be so within communities (political, scientific) that could play a significant role in shaping mental health promotion in Canada.

### How will learnings from this event be used?

- Insights from the discussions will inform the early stages of the Hub's engagement with projects including honouring communication, pacing and early support preferences
- Core commitments of the KDE Hub were validated including honouring multiple ways of knowing, support for the existing expertise and leadership in the field, use of participatory design practices and embracing an improvement orientation

