



## **Report on PSACC Research Activities: 2012-2013**

**To:** Mach Gaenslenn Society

**Dated:** November 19, 2013

It is our pleasure to submit this report regarding research activities supported by funds from the Mach Gaenslenn Society and undertaken by PSACC during fiscal 2012/13.

As you are aware, research, monitoring and evaluation (RME) activities are usually carried out for 4 specific purposes:

- I. Service Improvement;
- II. Advancement of knowledge;
- III. Accountability to funders; and
- IV. Inspiration/mobilization of target populations.

Each one of these purposes comes with its own set of objectives and methodologies and, when taken collectively, provide a thorough framework that can support both an organization such as PSACC's day-to-day functioning and its long-term development. Although important in achieving the best research outcomes, implementing such a framework, is a significant, long-term undertaking. For its' 2012-2013 research activities, PSACC selected, key elements from each of the purposes listed above as the first building blocks of its ongoing RME processes.

### **Key Research Activities 2012- 2013:**

Prior to any systematic, multisite data collection, development of an electronic infrastructure was essential. Therefore, PSACC dedicated a substantial amount of time and resources to the design of a versatile electronic platform.

Once the platform was operational, data collection started at 2 pilot sites. Four types of data collection tools were designed to provide:

- Reliable and valid pre and post implementation data on the peer support programs;
- Ongoing monitoring of the mental health status of the individuals involved in the peer support program.

These 4 types of data collection tools were selected because they offer robust data on which to grow the RME process. They are:

- I. An Organizational Survey to provide a baseline of the workers' mental health within each specific setting;
- II. A Peer Baseline that captures the mental health status of a peer prior to participating in the Peer Support Program;
- III. A Peer Supporter Survey that captures the mental health status of a peer supporter prior to offering to his services and in an ongoing basis; and
- IV. Interactive Notes written by the peer supporter and the peer to track the usage of the program and to better understand the types of issues being discussed and the observed outcomes resulting from peer support interactions.

**Activities planned for 2013-2014:**

At this stage, PSACC's focus continues to be refining the questionnaires and processes before scaling up into full data collection mode. It is anticipated that we will be ready to undertake data analysis in the upcoming year, which will require the purchasing of computer programs (about \$3000) such as SPSS and InVivo or Atlas with some extra features required for the type of research PSACC envisages. We also plan to hire 1 to 2 research assistants to assist with the data analysis for the number of sites targeted. Currently, a research assistant within the regular university setting is paid an average of \$37 per hour and is hired for approximately 300 hours over the year.

As the program expands, other forms of evaluation may be added, such as engagement indicators, more extensive narratives for the collection of phenomenological data and data relating to unexpected outcomes. However, given PSACC's size and means, the organization made the strategic choice of focusing first on conventional methodologies and core data and adding other strategic research approaches once a solid baseline has been established.

The PSACC Board is very appreciative of the funding provided by the Mach Gaenslenn Society and hope that the above report has provided you with the information you require. If anything further is required, please let us know and we will be pleased to provide it.

Stephane Grenier  
President  
PSAC (Canada)