

## **Riverview Hospital Redevelopment Project Background Information (June 25, 2003)**

### ***Overview***

The Provincial Mental Health Plan outlines a new model for delivering specialized mental health services in British Columbia. This model is based on best-practice evidence demonstrating that patients respond better to care provided in smaller, community-based tertiary facilities, rather than in large institutions.

This new model of care includes the replacement of Riverview Hospital with new tertiary facilities located around the province to improve access to specialized mental health services in British Columbia. With the opening of these new, more home-like facilities, health authorities will increase their capacity to care for people with serious and persistent mental illness, as part of a comprehensive system of locally provided mental health services and supports.

### **Budget**

The provincial government has allocated \$125 million to support the implementation of the Provincial Mental Health Plan. An additional \$138 million has been allocated to support the construction of new specialized mental health facilities in communities throughout BC, as part of the Riverview Hospital Redevelopment Project. As new tertiary mental health facilities open around the province the resources required to operate the new beds will be transferred from the Riverview Hospital budget to the receiving health authority as patients are relocated. Exact funding levels per bed are currently being finalized.

### **Leadership**

A collaborative management approach is being applied to the Riverview Hospital Redevelopment Project with a steering committee overseeing this process. The Riverview Hospital Redevelopment Project Steering Committee includes mental health leaders/decision-makers from the Provincial Health Services Authority, the Fraser Health Authority, the Interior Health Authority, the Northern Health Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and Vancouver Island Health Authority, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Health Services and Planning. The Steering Committee is responsible for the planning, implementation and monitoring of bed/patient transfers from Riverview Hospital to new facilities in the health authorities.

### **Implementation Process**

The RVH Redevelopment Project is a bed-for-bed transfer. This means that patients transferring from Riverview Hospital will transfer to new facilities where they will be supported by the same level of care or better in the health authorities. Each health authority is developing a comprehensive regional mental health plan to support the implementation of the Riverview Hospital Redevelopment Project.

Individual assessments have been completed for every RVH patient. Information in these assessments is used to support the transition plans that are developed to facilitate each patient transfer. These plans identify patients' clinical, medical and emotional needs as well as personal preferences for transferring to a new facility. Family members are also consulted (where appropriate) to ensure decision-making reflects the needs and interests of patients and families. Clinical teams at Riverview Hospital work closely with those at the receiving facility to ensure patients, families and care providers are supported throughout the transition process.

### **Project goals**

When the Riverview Hospital Redevelopment Project is fully implemented in spring 2007, there will be approximately 916 specialized mental health beds in British Columbia. This is an increase of approximately 100 beds over current resources available to support people with serious and persistent mental illness. Approximately 516 of these specialized mental health beds will be located in the Lower Mainland and approximately 400 will be located in new facilities throughout the province. The projected distribution of these beds is as follows:

	May 2003	Spring 2007
Lower Mainland (PHSA, FHA, VCHA)	724	516
Interior Health Authority	40	147
Northern Health Authority	20	79
Vancouver Island Health Authority	24	174
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	808	916

### **Progress to-date**

Three new specialized mental health facilities have opened in British Columbia in the past 18 months. These are: Iris House in Prince George (20 beds), Seven Oaks on Vancouver Island (24 beds), and the South Hills Tertiary Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre in Kamloops (40 beds). The opening of these facilities has enabled the transfer of more than 80 Riverview patients. Additional new facilities are planned in each of the health authorities to enable the transfer of approximately 300 more Riverview Hospital patients within the next year.

For updates/information visit: [www.bcmhs.bc.ca](http://www.bcmhs.bc.ca)