

## **Announcement: Child and Youth Mental Health Services Update Media Backgrounder**

2006-07 Accomplishments under Saskatchewan's Plan for Child and Youth Mental Health Services in Saskatchewan include:

- Hired a Psychologist for distance specialized consultation in Southern Saskatchewan.
- Hired three Social Work/Psychology positions for family-based therapeutic residential services for children and youth with mental disorders in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and Lloydminster.
- Hired a Social Worker to provide child and youth mental health services in the Melfort, Tisdale and Nipawin area.
- Hired additional resources to reduce the wait list at the Autism Resource Centre in Regina by 40 clients over the next 1 1/2 years.
- Recruitment of a Child Psychiatrist in Regina, two Psychologists, one for Saskatoon and one for Prince Albert, and one Social Work position in Saskatoon for distance specialist consultation.
- Planning for in-kind psychiatric services and recruiting three additional mental health professionals in southern Saskatchewan to provide assessment, case management and consultation services to young persons at first onset of psychosis.
- Recruiting resources in Saskatoon to co-ordinate ongoing child and youth mental health services competency training provincially.
- The Regional Health Authorities have begun contracting with individual service providers and community based organizations to provide flexible outreach and respite services to children, youth and their families with mental health and wellness challenges, thereby extending the treatment and interventions into their homes and communities.
- Expanding preventive intervention services for families with very young children living in disadvantaged conditions in 16 sites across the province (Parent Mentoring Program of Saskatchewan).
- Enhancing intensive therapeutic school and home-based intervention services for Kindergarten and Grade 1 children with persistent aggressive and violent behaviour in Saskatoon and the Battlefords (Early Skills Development Program).
- Through a contract with the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Saskatchewan, completing a feasibility study of child and youth mental health services client outcome indicators.
- A brochure outlining the Children's Mental Health Services Plan is being distributed. A copy of Saskatchewan Plan for Child and Youth Mental Health Services: *A Better Future for Youth* can be found at:  
[http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/children\\_youth/ABetterFutureForYouth.pdf](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/children_youth/ABetterFutureForYouth.pdf)
- Developed and distributed province-wide a booklet that addresses depression and suicide in youth to assist in the identification of these concerns, when and where to refer for help, and what to do in the meantime. The booklet has been distributed to schools, doctors' offices, tribal councils and other organizations, and is available at [www.health.gov.sk.ca](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca)