

MISSION

Develop and maintain high calibre educational, research and clinical programs that advance the field of psychiatry and mental health and addictions service delivery across the lifespan locally, provincially, regionally, nationally and globally.

VISION

Healing minds through best evidence-based care and innovative community programs to achieve better mental health and eradicate the stigma associated with addictions and mental illness; inspiring minds through education, scientific study and training in addictions, mental health and illness.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY – 2017/18 PRIORITIES

Education

- Provide undergraduates the psychiatric skills needed by general physicians
- Foster interest in psychiatry among UG students
- Educate residents to become well rounded clinicians with research and critical evaluation skills
- Extend opportunities for rural education/training
- Continue to provide opportunities for CPD and faculty development
- Support Interprofessional Health Education
- Develop and support scholarship in Medical Education
- Support Masters Program in Psychiatry
- Develop a PhD program in Psychiatry
- Strengthen faculty engagement in education
- Hold a strategic planning retreat for Education and implement its recommendations
- Identify a CPD Director for the Department
- Continue to promote and develop subspecialty psychiatry residency programs

Patient Care & Advocacy

- Provide excellent care with a range of quality assurance activities
- Strengthen community mental health services to provide efficient, effective, equitable and high quality care
- Strengthen newest subspecialty psychiatric services (borderline personality disorders, anxiety disorders, concurrent disorders)
- Support further development, and implement completed clinical care pathways for psychosis, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder and personality disorders
- Participate in roll-out of provincial mental health strategy; advocate for speedy adoption of addictions and mental health standards
- Work with partners to transform NSHA psychiatry infrastructure
- Further develop collaborative mental healthcare with Family Practice & Community Pediatrics
- Continue to promote a co-leadership model at all levels in NSHA
- Incorporate training and supervision of trauma informed care
- Support the Stay Connected Program transitioning youth to adult MH&A
- Effectively implement Value stream mapping(Lean) in IWK CMHA

Research

- Promote excellence in research, enhancing international reputation of Department
- Support current departmental researchers and identify and support potential new researchers (e.g. via DPRF)
- Expand research collaborations between department and NSHA/IWK MHA Programs
- Find adequate research space for faculty and trainees engaged in research
- Develop research in rural regions
- Encourage internal review of grant applications
- Lobby for increased research dollars with NSHRF and CIHR
- Continue process to endow Chair in Mood Disorders
- Support research related to depression in partnership with individuals with lived experience, via CDRIN
- Recruit a TIER 2 Chair in developmental psychopathology and youth mental health
- Support research in youth mental health outcomes provincially
- Support research related to addictions via CRISM.

Organizational, Operational & Fiscal Renewal

- Conduct effective fundraising for specific projects
- Work with Department of Health & Wellness to shape the Provincial Physician Resource Plan
- Continue advocacy for a reliable and effective mental healthcare system for people of Nova Scotia, including more and better community resources to support the recovery model
- Support a shared provincial mandate for Child and Adolescent MH&A
- Build capacity in primary care community MH&A
- Optimize the AFP faculty complement to ensure fiscal balance while maximizing service