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BACKGROUNDER

About the Institute for Continuing Care, Education and Research

Mission

The Institute will create a learning community where evidence-based practices, founded on research, are developed and used to enhance the quality of life for those served by the continuing care system—residents, family, community, and staff—and to ensure excellence in education for students, our future health care professionals.

Vision

The Institute will be a partnership of long term care practitioners, researchers, educators and learners collaborating to provide the best care and quality of life for those served by continuing care.

Strategic Objectives

Foster innovation in education and training of care providers

Each of the entities brings unique strengths and expertise to the institute:

- NorQuest College graduates over 1,000 health care workers annually in a wide range of skilled occupations to deliver front line care. NorQuest provides innovative instructional models for workplace-based learning, and is committed to delivering educational experiences with a strong inter-disciplinary focus.
- The University of Alberta has over 5,000 health science students in 14 disciplines across eight health science faculties. The Alberta Centre on Aging (ACA) and other centres and groups on campus conduct research on aging, continuing care and health systems.
- CapitalCare is the largest public continuing care organization in Canada, with 2,800 staff and 11 sites in Edmonton and area. CapitalCare's vision is to be a community of excellence in continuing care: teaching, researching and enhancing quality of life.
- Capital Health provides public health, community health, acute care, long term and home care, rehabilitation, and mental health services to over one million citizens. As an academic health region, Capital Health is actively involved in educating a comprehensive range of health professionals.

The institute therefore will provide an ideal environment to create synergies, resulting in leading edge research and evidence, and allowing for innovation and the implementation of best practices.

Strengthen the effectiveness of the clinical practicum experience in the continuing care environment

Because of the diversity of the entities, the institute will offer excellent opportunities to foster a multi-disciplinary approach to continuing care. Students in related programs at the University of Alberta and NorQuest College will be able to learn and work together, and be able to transition smoothly into jobs and careers in the field, as offered by CapitalCare and Capital Health.

Stimulate and support research and its application in continuing care

Research is the key to gathering the evidence necessary to implement best practices. The knowledge created through the institute's research activities will ensure that care is delivered innovatively and in the safest and most appropriate manner. Building on the strong research commitment of the entities, the institute will maintain or expand the leadership position they currently enjoy in Alberta, Canada and beyond.

Share and exchange knowledge and expertise with the community

Continuing care traditionally has a strong bond with the community it serves. Individually, the entities also have excellent connections with and support in the community. The institute will provide excellent opportunities for the entities to exchange knowledge and expertise with those it serves. The flow of knowledge and expertise preferably works in both directions, and a number of venues will be explored to facilitate it, such as conferences, publications, media involvement etc.

Promote continuing care as a career of choice

Attracting health professionals and other workers to the field of continuing care is an ongoing challenge. Continuing care does not enjoy a high profile amongst the health disciplines and staff shortages are exacerbated in today's highly competitive Alberta labour market. The institute will be well positioned to address these challenges. It will offer a continuum of education, research and service provision, as well as many opportunities of interdisciplinary activities that should generate increased interest in continuing care as a career of choice.