

Provincial Forensic Psychiatry Program

Alberta Health Services, Addiction and Mental Health, is accountable for provincewide forensic psychiatry services including

- the development of a provincial forensic psychiatry services plan, in partnership with the Northern and Southern Alberta Forensic Psychiatry Services
- managing the delivery of services and ensuring the needs of stakeholders are met

The Provincial Forensic Psychiatry Program includes forensic inpatient and community assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, follow-up, and consultation, as well as education and research services for or related to adults and adolescents (12 years of age or older) with mental health problems who are in conflict with the law and are legally mandated for assessment and treatment.

Forensic psychiatry services are legislatively mandated under the authority of the Criminal Code of Canada and the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Corrections and mental health services are required by law to comply with court orders regarding the care, supervision, assessment and treatment of patients. Patient care may also fall under the jurisdiction of the Dependent Adults Act, the Mental Health Act, the Public Health Act, and the Immigration Act.

Vision

The Provincial Forensic Psychiatry Program's vision is to

- be responsive to and meet the forensic psychiatry needs of all Albertans
- be accessible, integrated and accountable
- incorporate partnerships with government departments and agencies, community agencies, and other stakeholders
- ensure health promotion and illness prevention strategies in service delivery
- achieve excellence in care through implementation of best practices
- monitor and enhance performance through a quality management accountability framework
- foster interdisciplinary evaluation, research and educational activities

Mission

The Provincial Forensic Psychiatry Program is committed to excellence in co-ordinating and facilitating the provision of expert and specialized inpatient and community assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, follow-up, consultation, and education/research services for or related to adults and adolescents with mental health problems who are in conflict with the law.

An external review of the Provincial Forensic Psychiatry Program was initiated in 2005 to identify issues and assist in developing strategies to enhance the provision of forensic psychiatry services in the future. Over 200 individuals from justice, community service agencies, addiction and mental health, law enforcement, corrections, Aboriginal Peoples, and other ministries were interviewed. Alberta Health Services, Addiction and Mental Health, is using the external review as a guiding document to ensure that comprehensive forensic services are accessible throughout the province.

Young Offender Mental Health Services

Alberta Health Services, Addiction and Mental Health, works with Alberta Solicitor General & Public Security and other ministerial partners to address the needs of youth in conflict with the law. Cross-ministerial planning, expansion and enhancement of services to young offenders with mental illness has occurred with the goal of improving access to assessment and treatment, enhancing community services, and strengthening transition and rehabilitation services for these youth.