

2017-2019 CRPNM Board Candidates

Wanda Brine

I am a Registered Psychiatric Nurse and was in the first graduating class of the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing Program, Brandon University in 1998. I hold over 18 years of clinical practice experience, having worked in a multitude of community based mental health programs in Calgary, AB and Brandon, MB. At present I am employed as a Shared Care Mental Health Counsellor, My Health Team-Brandon with the Prairie Mountain Health Region. Throughout my career I have fulfilled frontline education and management roles. I have gained experience in strategic planning, policy and procedure development and budget management, as a member of various volunteer boards and committees. I am currently an active CRPNM Board Member and sit on the Governance Committee. I have volunteered as an Item Writer for the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Canada Examination (RPNCE) content development for the past three years. I respect the dynamic nature of our healthcare system and embrace progressive change. I hold a steadfast commitment to promoting excellence and growth with the RPN profession.

Isabelle Jarrin

I am the Clinical Nurse Specialist for the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Unit. I have served as President since 2015 and Board member since 2009, and I am interested in continuing on the Board as the CRPNM transitions to the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA). I have also been a member of numerous CRPNM committees: Psychiatric Nursing Education Approval (PNEAC) since 2008, Governance since 2013, Personnel from 2011-2013, and Continuing Competence 2006-present. Since 2015 I have been a Board member of the Registered Psychiatric Nurse Regulators of Canada (RPNRC). I was on the planning committees for the World Congress for Psychiatric Nurses in 2004 and 2013. From 2011 to 2015 I was a member of the Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Canada Examination (RPNCE) committee. I have had the opportunity to attend formal and informal workshops on governance, self-regulation, and the RHPA which allow me to understand my role as a Board member and the College's mandate to protect the public.

Susan Labongo

As a compassionate and versatile individual, I have taken on the roles of working with children and adolescents both in inpatient and community settings. The experience has created opportunities for exposure to a wide array of mental health practices. As an acute care Psychiatric Nurse at the Health Science Centre, my roles included; delivering care from a crisis management perspective, which covered aspects such as assessment, stabilization of symptoms and discharge planning. PY1 enhanced my therapeutic relationship with clients, which played a fundamental role in inpatient care. Additionally, improving my familiarity with a wide range of mental health disorders, and co-occurring substance use disorders. In my current role as a Community Mental Health Clinician, I provide a full Psychosocial Assessment including diagnostic impression, as well as corresponding evidence-informed psycho-therapeutic interventions. As part of an integrated Health Care Team the role also includes, community (school) service Coordination and liaison to further enhance continuity of care. In my position I exercise the appropriate level of initiative and independent judgment in determining work priorities. I would like to thank you for the opportunity and I believe I will be a good fit as a board member.

Jennifer McKelvey

In August of 1991, after graduating from the School of Psychiatric Nursing in Brandon Manitoba, I began my career at the Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC) in Portage La Prairie, MB. From 1991 - 2006, I worked as a shift duty nurse providing hands on care to residents with a developmental disability. In 2006, I was promoted to the Nursing Outreach Coordinator position and in 2010; I took on the added responsibility of Residential Coordinator of the Convalescent Unit. My role is to provide clinical service to resident care and program teams, as well as liaise the transition of residents with the community hospitals and facilities. In addition, I arrange in house Psychiatry Clinics, facilitate the certification of nurses in phlebotomy/intravenous therapy and purchase all medical related supplies at the Centre. I am accountable to provide leadership to the residential care team and to ensure quality resident care is delivered efficiently and effectively. This includes operational and budgetary planning, human and materials resource management, policy/procedural development and review and decision making relevant to my area of responsibility. I am an active member of 6 committees at the MDC, including the Nursing Professional Practice Committee.

I am a dedicated employee, and take pride in the work that I do. I demonstrate a high level of motivation and enjoy working in a challenging environment. I was excited to become a CRPNM Board member in 2013 and have learned so much about the College and its role/responsibilities towards both the public and the profession. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue as a Board member for the 2017-2019 term. Thank you.

Deb Melanson

Currently I am employed within the WRHA as a Program Manager at MATC for the Intensive Treatment Service providing hospital based services for youth aged 12-17 experiencing serious mental health and behavioral challenges. I am interested in a second term on the CRPNM Board to provide continuity to the work that the Board commenced in my current term. I am the Chair for the Registration Committee and a member of the Discipline Committee and both chair and participate in internal, regional and provincial committees as part of my daily work. I feel strongly, at this point in my career as an RPN, that I have an obligation to support the CRPNM as it moves forward with new legislation, changes in mental health practice and service delivery. In my professional roles as an RPN, manager, student and sometimes teacher I believe I bring a unique overarching perspective both to the Board and to my practice.

Naomi Sirota

Since the time of my graduation in June of 2014, I have been involved in community Psychiatric Nursing while maintaining an acute hospital connection. Now that I have been practising for more than 3 years, I have a greater, more appreciative understanding of client-centred care, ethical decision-making and the definition of recovery. The clientele served by psychiatric nurses are often a vulnerable population that have learned to be underserved and have fought for autonomy and the right to make their own choices. I have learned as a nurse to maintain my awareness of my personal bias even though I am a stakeholder in the client's care. I have also come to learn that the definition of recovery is individual journey and what one stakeholder may perceive as failure, another may view as healing. As a psychiatric nurse, I have come to embrace the importance of harm reduction approach to support client's recovery goals and have come to value the resiliency found in achieving those goals.

I believe that I will be an asset to the Board of Directors in offering insight regarding safe, regulated practice that serves the client/public interest. I recognize that it is important to consider all stakeholders involved in the ethical decision-making process of this College.

As a regulatory body for Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPN) of Manitoba, I understand that strategic planning, financial operations and organizational processes are the fundamental responsibilities of all the members but are structurally enforced by the Board of Directors. I also acknowledge the importance in working in a team-mindset to ensure all the parties involved in the Board of Directors are supported and have the appropriate resources available. I value the accountability to not only the Executive Director but the Board and all the members that strive to make our practice safe and ethical.

Kelly-Ann Stevenson

I am very interested in continuing to participate as a Board member of CRPNM. My thirty two years of experience as RPN has been diverse from direct service care in a hospital / residential settings / personal care home, to advance practice in the community as mental health clinician at MATC Youth Forensic Services. Currently I am semi-retired working part-time at Marymount Youth Addictions Stabilization Unit. I have wide variety of Board experiences – Union (former Vice president of Manitoba Government General Employees Union), political (former director of a local political party) and community (former Chairperson of Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre). Currently I am president of the Council of Women of Winnipeg (term ending May 2016) and Vice- President of National Council of Women of Canada and most recently accepted a position on the advisory board of the EDVIP (Emergency Department Violence Intervention Program). My community activities include participation with Institute International Women's Rights and University Women Club of Winnipeg. I have established reputation of working collaboratively and of being an effective problem solver. My lengthy work experience as an RPN, along with vast Board experience on various local and national Boards and years of advocacy work with youth, women, families and the community would allow me to continue to make strong and valuable contribution to the CRPNM Board of Directors.

Tracy Thiele

I am a Registered Psychiatric Nurse with a Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing from Brandon University (2001) and was one of the first psychiatric nurses to receive a Master of Nursing - Administration, from the University of Manitoba, February 2013. I currently pursuing my PhD in Nursing at the U of M with the focus of my studies to be on role clarity amongst the nursing professions (RN, RPN & LPN). I am the Manager of Nursing Initiatives in the office of the WRHA Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer. In this role I support regional initiatives such as Scope of Practice, Collaborative Care, Advance Care Planning, Falls Prevention and Management and Wound Care. I have a great opportunity in this role to advocate and highlight the importance of mental health across the health spectrum and care settings. I have worked in clinical care and administrative positions in acute psychiatry, and long-term care; along with positions at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Nursing as Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant and I currently have an honorary appointment of Instructor I. I also have had the opportunity to teach future psychiatric nurses their first introduction to the RPN program, along with 4th year research methods, at our Winnipeg site (Brandon University). I have a variety of experiences in roles that provide support and development of new and innovative program, research, and quality improvement initiatives. I am a President of Sigma Theta Tau International: Honor Society of Nursing (Xi Lambda Chapter) and also represent Manitoba on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses. I am the chair of the CRPNM Quality Assurance Committee and would like to continue promoting and strengthening the education and practice of RPN's as a member of the Board of Directors.

Sara Wikstrom

I graduated from the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing Program at Brandon University in 2007. Since then I have been employed in Winnipeg at the Crisis Stabilization Unit, St. Boniface Hospital inpatient psychiatry unit, and presently in the St. Boniface Hospital outpatient psychiatry department. For the last five years, I have had a unique nursing opportunity as coordinator for the repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Clinic within the Neurostimulation and Neuropsychiatry Unit at St. Boniface Hospital. This role involves several administrative duties, diligent organization skills, thorough patient assessment and intake, and cutting edge research in a new and rapidly growing treatment modality. I have volunteered in a variety of roles for several mental health conferences. I was the Mental Health Site Lead for 2016 accreditation for my department. I currently sit as co-chair on the Nursing Leadership Council at St. Boniface Hospital which is responsible for reviewing hospital policies and procedures. I have been employed in both inpatient and outpatient capacities and with this I have gained a range of experience with both acute and long term mental health clients. I am interested in participating in a second term on the CRPNM Board of Directors to continue to learn and expand my nursing practice. I have thoroughly enjoyed the learning opportunities I have been presented with in my first term and I hope to continue as an active member of the team.

Richard Zweip

I am currently a Community Mental Health Worker (Adult Counselling & ICM Access) for Southern Health - Santé Sud / Eden Health Care Services. I believe the CRPNM serves an important function for me as a Psychiatric Nurse in establishing and maintaining Standards of Practice as well as promoting the profession. I have benefited much from the CRPNM throughout my career and feel it is my duty to contribute. I have a broad range of experience from many areas throughout the province (urban and rural, northern and southern). I have facilitated many ASIST workshops and enjoy sharing my knowledge and experience with others. I worked on the Board of the Portage Skating Club and the Portage Pitbull's Football Club.