

Families Can Help

- Having a loved one with serious and persistent mental illness affects the entire family. An organization like the Schizophrenia Society offers many benefits to the family and to the larger community, including the police.
- Police should refer family members of people suffering from serious mental illness to the Schizophrenia Society whenever they can. Research shows that family education and involvement greatly improves patient outcomes and ultimately **reduces use of police and other emergency services.**
- The Schizophrenia Society provides **FREE** education and support programs to families. Well-informed family members become effective advocates for their ill relatives, helping them get treatment
- People with serious mental illness require regular clinical care, housing and other supports to live safely and with dignity in the community. Educated family members learn to navigate "the system" to help their ill loved ones get the resources they need and deserve.
- The BC Schizophrenia Society (www.bcscs.org) is widely-known across British Columbia for helping families cope with serious mental illness.
- Every region of BC has representation from the Schizophrenia Society. The BC Schizophrenia Society (BCSS) has 28 branches and 20 regional and program coordinators throughout the province.
- **When police and other professionals refer relatives to the Schizophrenia Society, they help the person with mental illness, the family, and the entire community.**

...How to Refer - See over



BC Schizophrenia Society
"Hope and Help for Families"

BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY (BCSS)

WHO DO I CONTACT? – LOWER MAINLAND

| NAME | REGION | TELEPHONE | E-MAIL |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|
| Francesca Arueyingho | Tri-Cities | 604-583-9775 | jdbarr21@yahoo.com |
| Dave Dickinson | Burnaby/New West | 604-523-1072 | daviddic@telus.net |
| Hardeep Thind | Fraser South | 604-574-1976 | hardeep_bcsc@shaw.ca |
| Linda Proudfoot | Vancouver/Richmond | 604-247-1884 | lproudfoot@bcsc.org |

WHAT DO BCSS COORDINATORS DO?

- BCSS **Regional** Coordinators (see above) provide outreach, support, and education for families of people with serious mental illness; development and support for local BCSS branches; plus public education to schools and community groups
- BCSS **Program** Coordinators oversee family **Respite** services; **Kids in Control** – a support and education program for children who have a parent(s) or sibling(s) with mental illness; and **Reach Out** provincial High School tour featuring rock band that helps educate teens about psychosis and the importance of getting treatment early.

The BC Schizophrenia Society was founded in 1982 by families and friends of people with schizophrenia. Through its provincial office staff, 20 coordinators, and 28 branches throughout the province, the Society provides and promotes support for families of people with severe mental illness, plus public education, advocacy, and research.

BCSS BRANCHES AND VOLUNTEERS

- Local support groups and education for families within the community
- Public awareness about schizophrenia and other psychosis-related illnesses
- Fundraising for local projects and for research
- Advocacy on behalf of people with serious mental illness and their families

Our 28 BC branch locations and staff are listed on our website at www.bcsc.org — or contact our Provincial Office listed below.



BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY

"We'd like to change your mind"

(604) 270-7841 • BC Toll free 1-888-888-0029 • bcsc.prov@telus.net • www.bcsc.org