

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. John Higenbottam

Dr. John Higenbottam is a clinical psychologist who has extensive experience as a clinician, educator and health systems administrator. He has held senior health leadership positions in British Columbia, including: Vice President, Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre; Vice President, Vancouver Richmond Health Board; and Vice President, BC Rehab. Dr. Higenbottam also served for 12 years as Assistant Administrator and Vice President, Riverview Hospital. While at Riverview, he was seconded to the BC Ministry of Health to develop a provincial strategic plan for brain injury services.

As Vice President, Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre and later, the Vancouver Richmond Health Board, Dr. Higenbottam was responsible for Psychiatry, Rehabilitation and Continuing Care services and later added the Emergency, Spinal and Orthopedic Departments to his portfolio. During this time he led an integration of Vancouver Hospital and St. Paul's mental health services, as well as developing the BC Neuropsychiatry Program.

For twenty years, Dr. Higenbottam has also served as a health services accreditation surveyor for Accreditation Canada and has had the opportunity to survey most of the hospital and community mental health services in Canada as well as Bermuda.

In addition to senior leadership and clinical positions, Dr. Higenbottam has held a number of academic positions including: Associate Adjunct Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria; Associate Dean, Douglas College; and Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of British Columbia. In the latter role, he teaches in the medical undergraduate and psychiatry residency programs. He has authored a substantial number of articles and presented at many conferences on mental health issues, particularly on mental health systems and services as well as effective practices.

Dr. Higenbottam currently has a health care consulting practice, JAH Consulting. He is also Manager, Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) Advanced Practice and Coordinator, Graduate Diploma Program in Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Douglas College. Dr. Higenbottam is also currently Co-Chair, Canadian Alliance for Mental Illness and Mental Health, Canada's major alliance of 18 mental health professional and stakeholder organizations. He also served with the Mental Health Commission of Canada's Service Systems Advisory Committee for a five year term and was recently named as the incoming Editor in Chief of the Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health.

Dr. Higenbottam's major clinical and research interests focus on serious mental illness, psychosocial rehabilitation and developing effective mental health systems and services.