

## **MENTAL HEALTH INTEREST GROUP (MHIG)**

The MHIG held their annual meeting at the CHICA conference in Vancouver British Columbia on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 with 20 members in attendance.

Discussions involved issues in balancing Infection Prevention and Control with the mental health needs of the clients. Specific discussions around outbreak management, renovations, hand sanitizers, bed bugs, accessing infection control expertise, and unique needs of outpatient areas as opposed to inpatient needs.

The MHIG had been working on position papers, but after discussions with the president-elect during the meeting it was decided that a journal article from the MHIG would be more appropriate. The article will cover the three areas of need: ARO Surveillance, Hand Hygiene and Special Populations. All members of the MHIG would have a chance to review and comment on the article before submission to the Canadian Journal of Infection Control.

The meeting concluded with the election of two new chairs: Cathy Munford and Nancy Ross.

The MHIG remain active throughout the year through e-mail discussions of a number of topics including:

- Additional Precautions in Mental Health
- ARO swabbing versus Screening
- Identification of clean and dirty equipment
- Bed Bug policies
- New Builds and renovations
- Therapy services including recreational items such as puzzles and books and cleaning protocols
- IPAC and safety devices in Mental Health

*Cathy Munford*

*Nancy Ross*

*Co-Chairs, Mental Health Interest Group*