



Meeting the Needs of Aboriginal Women in Ontario Corrections through Programs & Services

Presented to: Human Services Justice Coordinating Committee

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Purpose

- Provide an overview of the programming and services for Aboriginal women involved in Correctional Services in Ontario
- How programs and services assist with successful reintegration

Big Picture Stats

- Nationally, Aboriginal women are:
 - 3.5 times more likely to be victims of violence
 - 5 times more likely to die as a result of violence between the ages of 25 and 44
 - 3.5 times more likely to experience some form of spousal violence and report the most severe forms of spousal violence
 - In Aboriginal communities 75% of survivors of sexual assault are young women under 18 years of age.
 - approximately 50% of these girls are under the age of 14
 - approximately 25% are under the age of 7.
 - April 2010, Aboriginal women accounted for 32.6% of the total female CSC offender population

Provincial Stats

Snapshot September 2015

- On September 12, 2015 - 13.2% of incarcerated men were Aboriginal while 20% of incarcerated women were Aboriginal
- On September 30, 2015 - 8.6% of male offenders under community supervision were Aboriginal while 13.7 % of female offenders under community supervision were Aboriginal

On Average:

- The length of sentence or remand is 1-3 months.
- The length of probation is 12- 18 months.
- 20-35 yrs. of age

Most occurring offences:

- Administration of Justice
- Assault & Related
- Theft/Possession

Self Identify

- September 2015 Aboriginal women in custody self identified as:
 - 78.5% Status First Nation
 - 6.2% Non status First Nation
 - 8.5% Métis
 - 2.3% Inuit
 - 4.5% did not identify
- September 2015 Aboriginal women on probation self identified as:
 - 76.2% Status First Nation
 - 6.6% Non status First Nation
 - 4.5% Métis
 - 2.4% Inuit
 - 9.8% did not identify
 - .5% declined to say

Regional Breakdowns

- In September 2015, of the overall Aboriginal female population in Ontario Corrections the highest representation was in Northern Region.
 - Custody:
 - Central Region had 14.6%
 - Eastern Region had 13.8%
 - Western Region had 58.5%
 - Northern Region had 13.1%
 - Community Supervision:
 - Central Region had 4.6%
 - Eastern Region had 15.9%
 - Western Region had 23.5%
 - Northern Region had 56%

Additional factors

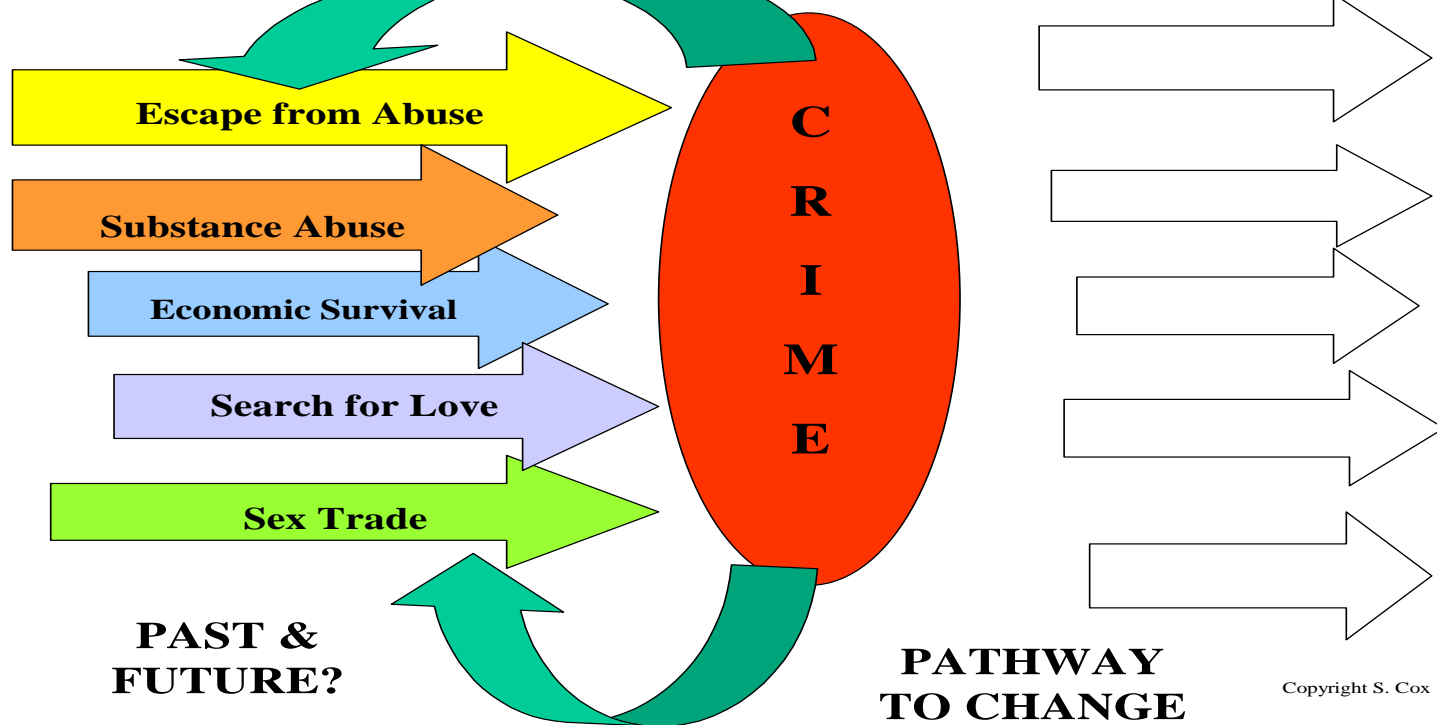
- Associated Alerts for Aboriginal women
 - Substance Abuse
 - Suicide
 - Mental Health
 - Domestic Violence
- For many Aboriginal women, the circumstances which result in their involvement in the justice system is comprised of a complex set of collective and individual life circumstances marked by violence and poverty

Historical Factors

- Colonization
- Indian Act
- Loss of culture
- Residential School
- Sixties Scoop
- Trauma – intergenerational, sexual
- Isolation/lack of supports
- Marginalized - double marginalization

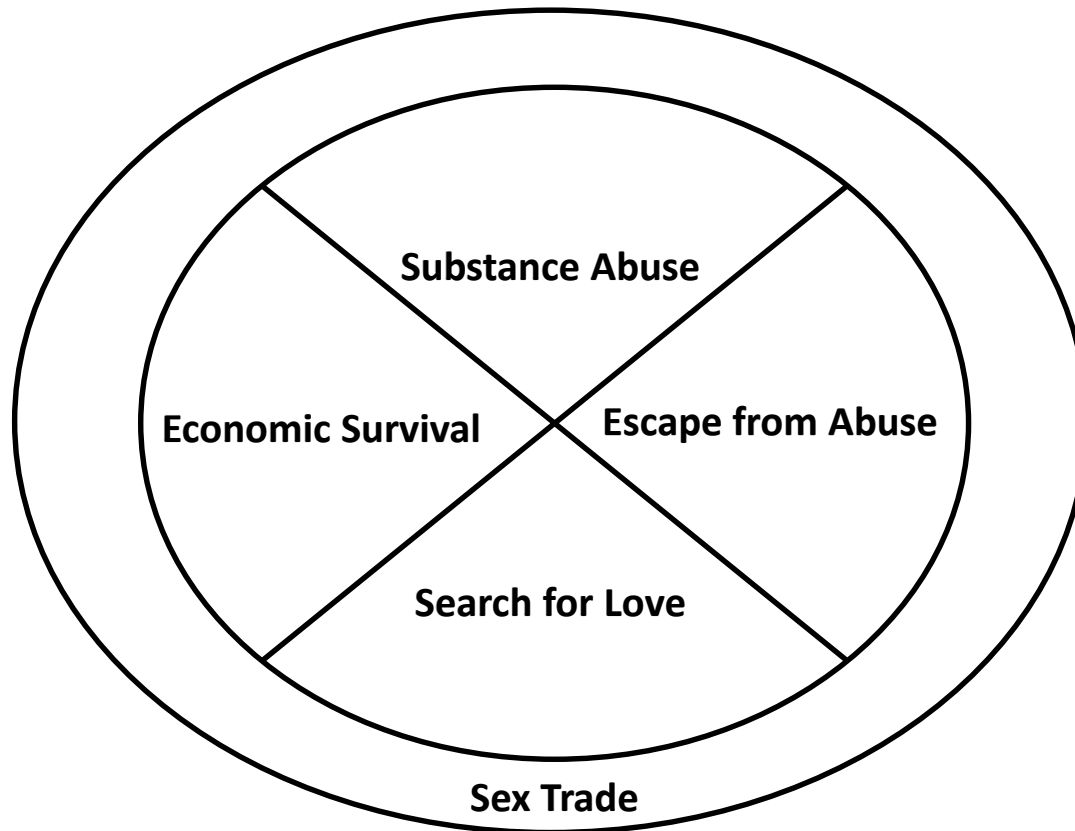
Identifying Needs

WOMEN'S PATHWAYS TO CRIME



Identifying Needs

Medicine Wheel Pathways to Crime



Risk, Need & Responsivity

RISK

- Proportional – level of risk to reoffend

NEED

- “8” central risk factors are the major predictors of crime

RESPONSIVITY

- General – use social learning methods to influence behaviour (pro-social modeling, appropriate use of approval & reinforcement & problem-solving)
- Specific – learning styles, personality, motivation & bio-social (e.g. gender, race)

Principles of Programming

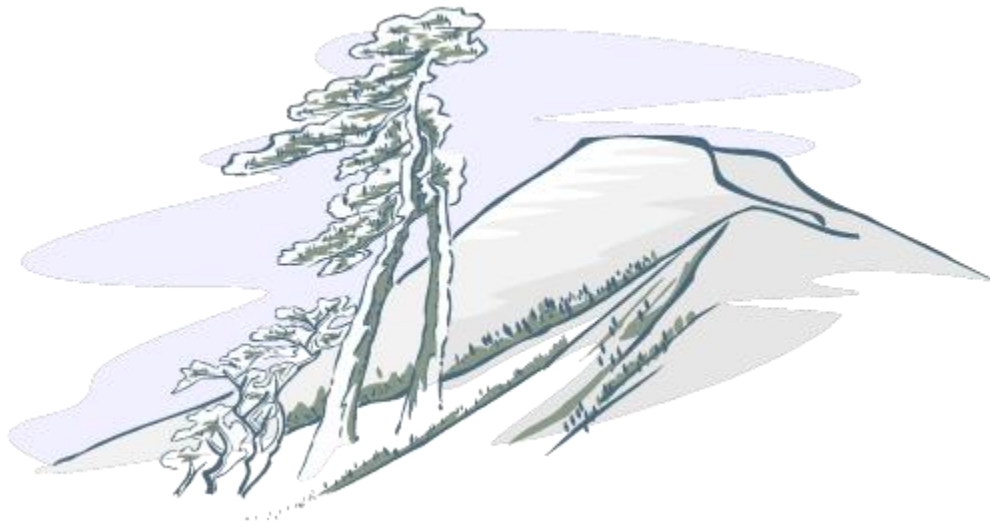
- Mainstream
- Aboriginal

First Voice

Respect, honour and allow all to engage in “First Voice”— that being the ability to speak and share from personal experience.



Understanding the Journey

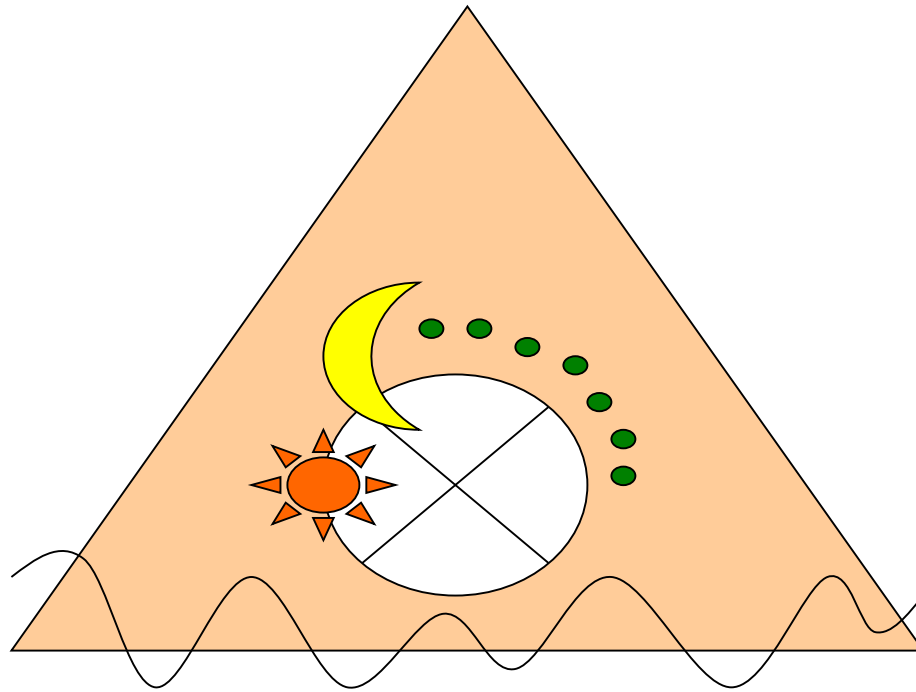


Program

Understanding the Journey

- Orientation Level
- 10 sessions – Teaching Circle
- Groups of 5-15 women
- Provides women with a foundation of the principles in Aboriginal teachings
- Designed to encourage Aboriginal women to examine their present circumstances and past experiences within the context of Aboriginal teachings
- Encourages women to take ownership of their lives in the past, present and future
- Hoped that the introductory program motivates Aboriginal women to pursue further rehabilitation

The Healing Journey



Program

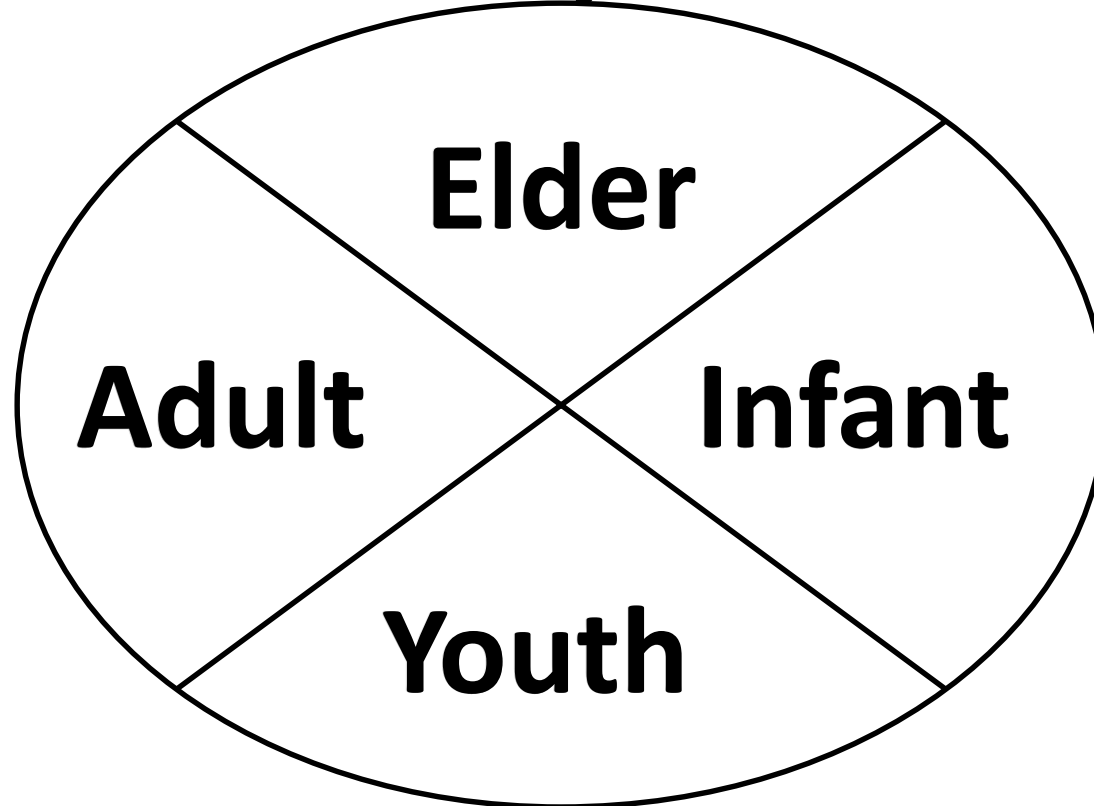
Healing Journey

- Intensive Level - Talking/Sharing Circle
- 4 modules - each made up of 12 circle sessions based on the pathways into crime
- 10 sentenced adult female offenders at a high risk to reoffend
- Assessment process
- Trauma informed – grounding techniques
- Aboriginal culture/teachings as a means to a healthy journey
- Provides offenders with the understanding, skills and practise in managing their thinking and behaviour with the goal of reducing recidivism

Seven Grandfather Teachings

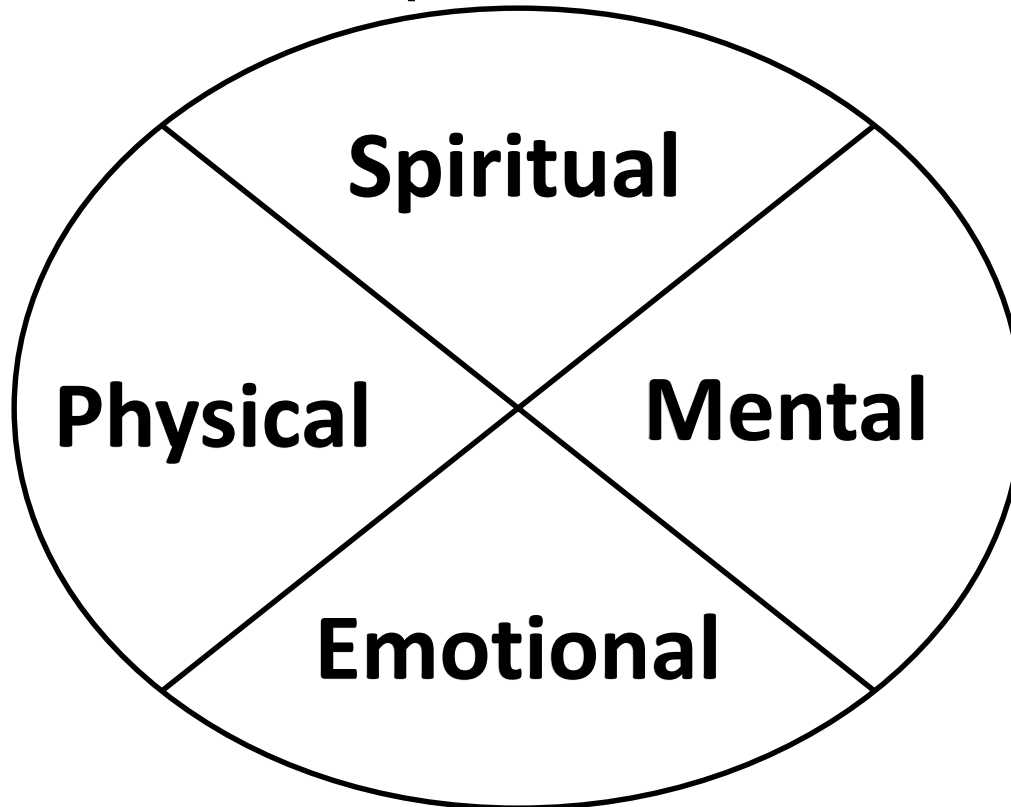
- Wisdom
- Bravery
- Humility
- Honesty
- Respect
- Love
- Truth

Pathways Out Life Cycle



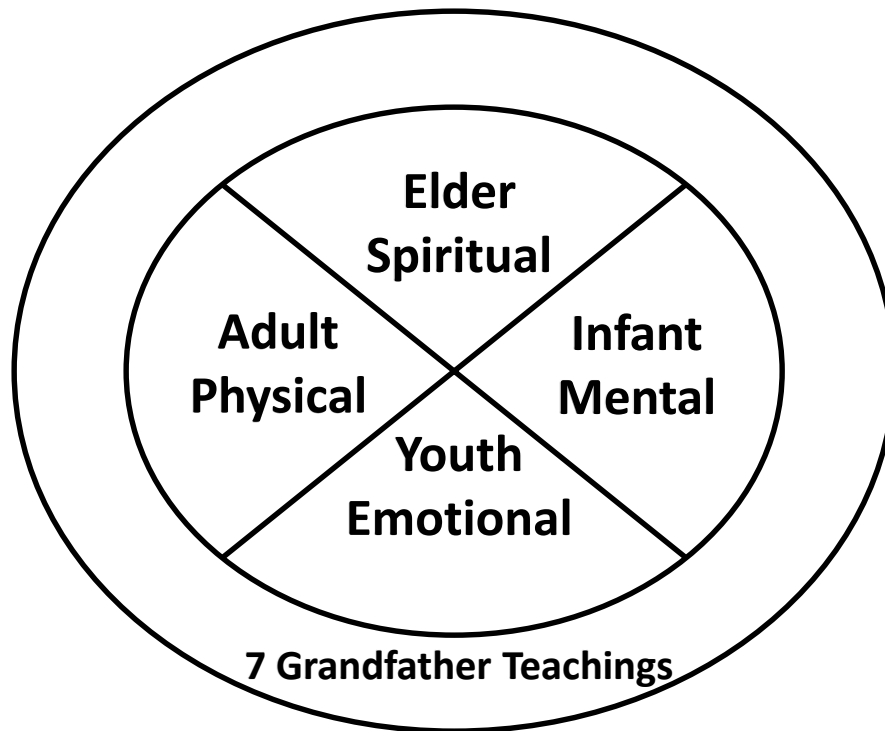
Pathways Out

Four Aspects - Balance



Pathways Out

Medicine Wheel Pathways Out of Crime



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