# Women's Justice Access Project

#### **Oriana Sinicropi**

Fred Victor 24 Hour Women's Drop In Program

#### **Jonathan Berges**

Regional Implementation Coach - GTA Region

#### camh PSSP Provincial System Support Program

### REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION GREATER TORONTO AREA

Our teams use best practices in implementation, helping communities use evidence to improve the system of care for individuals and families with mental health and addictions needs.

# CAPACITY AND EXPERTISE OUR TEAMS

We use a variety of skills and approaches to achieve our mandate.



Health equity and engagement



Knowledge exchange



Performance measurement and evaluation research



Implementation science



Information management

The Women's Justice Access Project responds to the justice and legal needs of socially isolated women in a safe and familiar environment.

### FRED VICTOR 24-HOUR DROP-IN CENTRE **AT THE ADELAIDE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE**



Ren (left), Beryl and Linda are community members from the Fred Victor Women's Drop in Centre

### WOMEN'S JUSTICE ACCESS PROJECT PARTNERS



#### Downtown Legal Services







### ADVISORY COMMITTEE PARTNERS









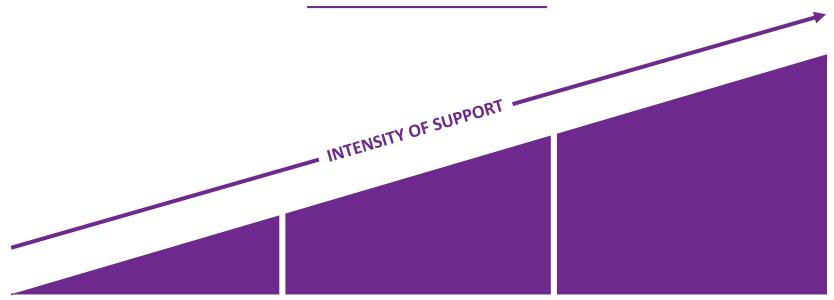
Specialized Program for Interdivisional Enhanced Response to Vulnerability (Pilot Project)

#### **Toronto Bail Program**

# FINDINGS FROM CONSULTATIONS

- Negative and traumatic experiences with services leads to mistrust
- How a service is offered is as important as what the service is
- Drop-ins have a unique culture that needs to be preserved

## WOMEN'S JUSTICE ACCESS PROJECT PROGRAM MODEL



#### GROUP EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Workshops and group information sessions provided by partner organizations with relevant legal and justice expertise.

#### 1-ON-1 LEGAL INFORMATION

Casual and informal *legal information* is provided to clients by trained providers (i.e. legal students, peers). Does not include specific legal advice.

#### 1-ON-1 LEGAL ADVICE (FORMAL AND SCHEDULED)

Formal *legal advice* is provided by an accredited lawyer.

# FINDINGS FROM THE TRACKING SHEET



As of September 30, 2017

## COMMON LEGAL ISSUES SUPPORTED DURING 1:1 SESSIONS

#### **During daytime hours**

Income Supports Housing Rights Family Law – Divorce, Separation, Custody Issues

#### **During evening hours**

Income supports/human rights/housing Victim of crime Criminal Activity

"I couldn't believe what changed in just a few hours and now I can go home and see my family thanks to you and Downtown Legal Services! I know it is hard to get this result. You really did the best job for me. I can't tell you how much I appreciate it!"

- Fred Victor 24/7 Drop-in Community Member

LESSONS

Small changes can lead to tremendous impact

Needs are dynamic

Understand the pressures of your partners and how to navigate them

# **ORIANA'S LESSONS**

Make all services accessible.

Honest feedback

Applicable trainings

# WHAT NOW?

- Project continues to run at 24 Women's Drop-In, fully coordinated and supported by drop-in staff
- PSSP team developed an Implementation Guide
- Meeting with Toronto Drop In Network to explore spreading the project to other sites

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