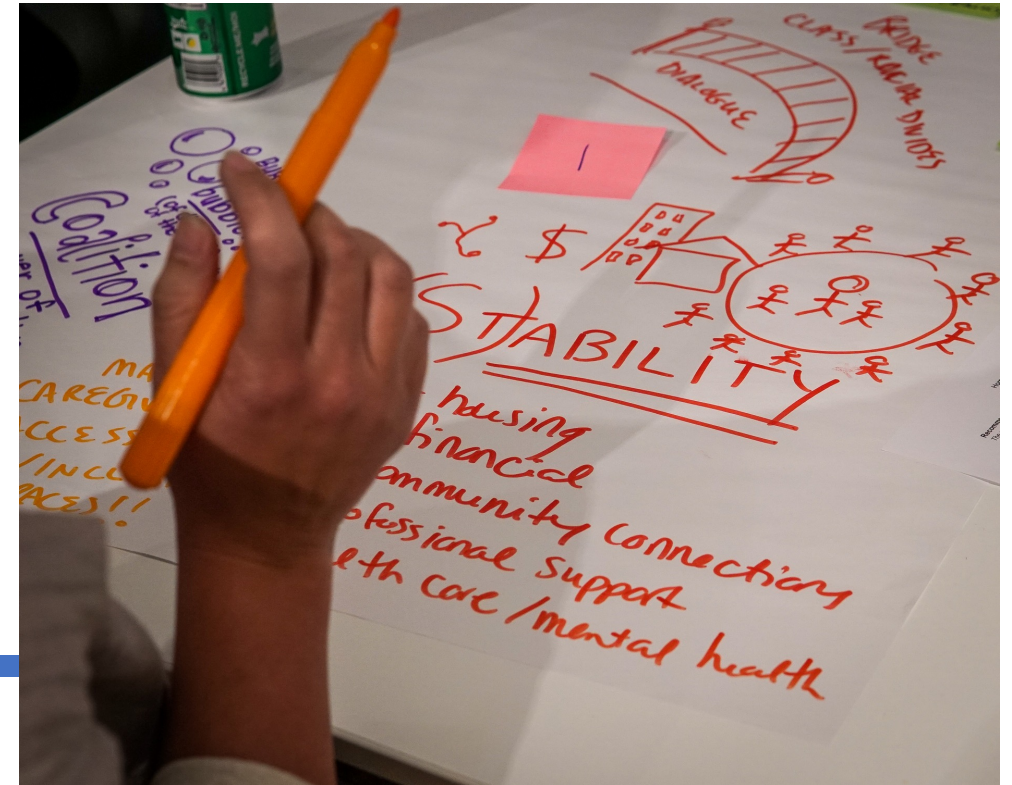


Addressing Homelessness during Pregnancy for Women and Gender-Diverse People

For questions, please email barbara.chyzy@torontomu.ca



Presenters: Barbara Chyzy, Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing
Carolyn Moraa, Expert with Lived Experience
Stacia Stewart, Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre

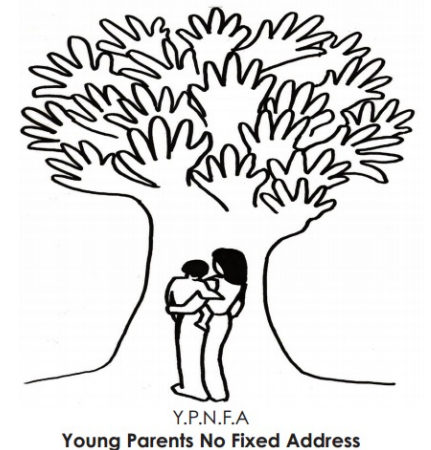
Co-I's: Dr. Sepali Guruge, Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing, Toronto Metropolitan University, Dr. Kaitlin Schwan, Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network and the Young Parents No Fixed Address Network

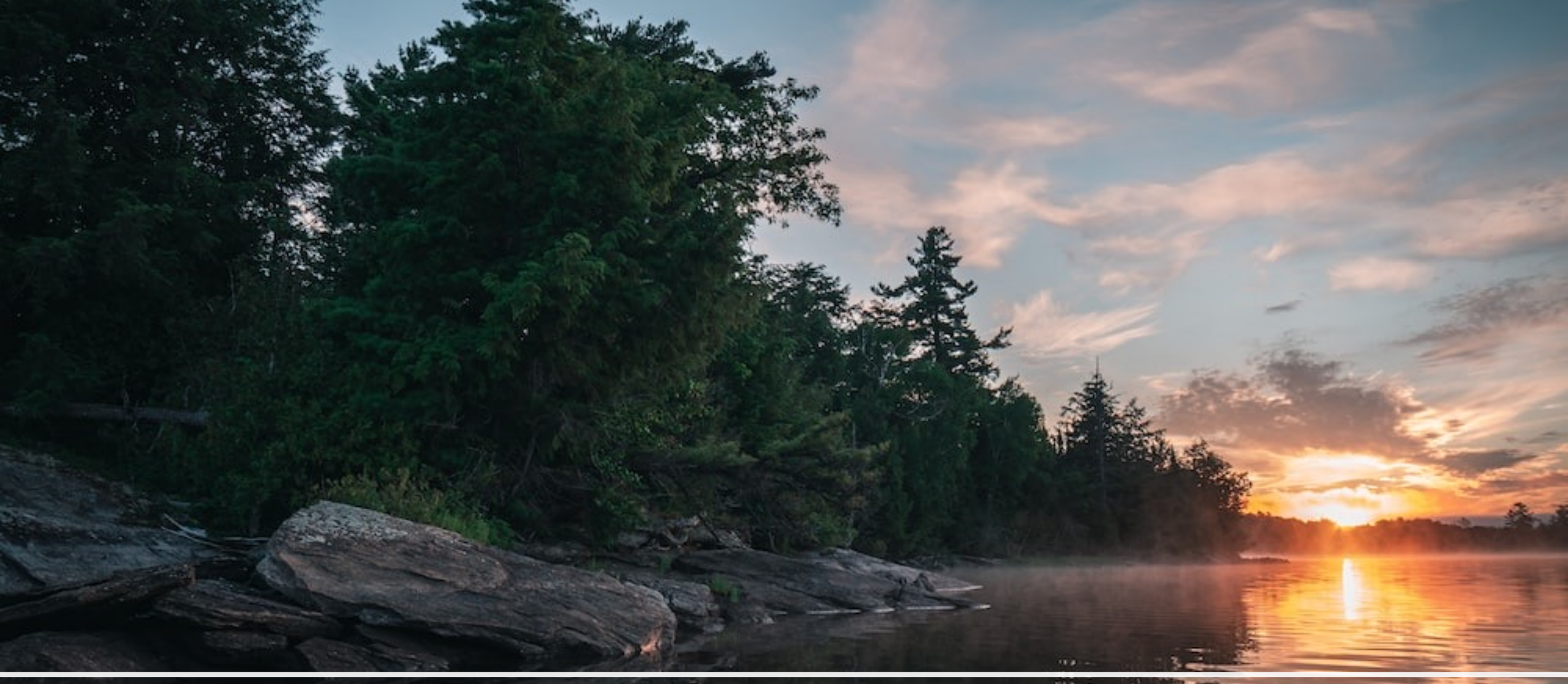


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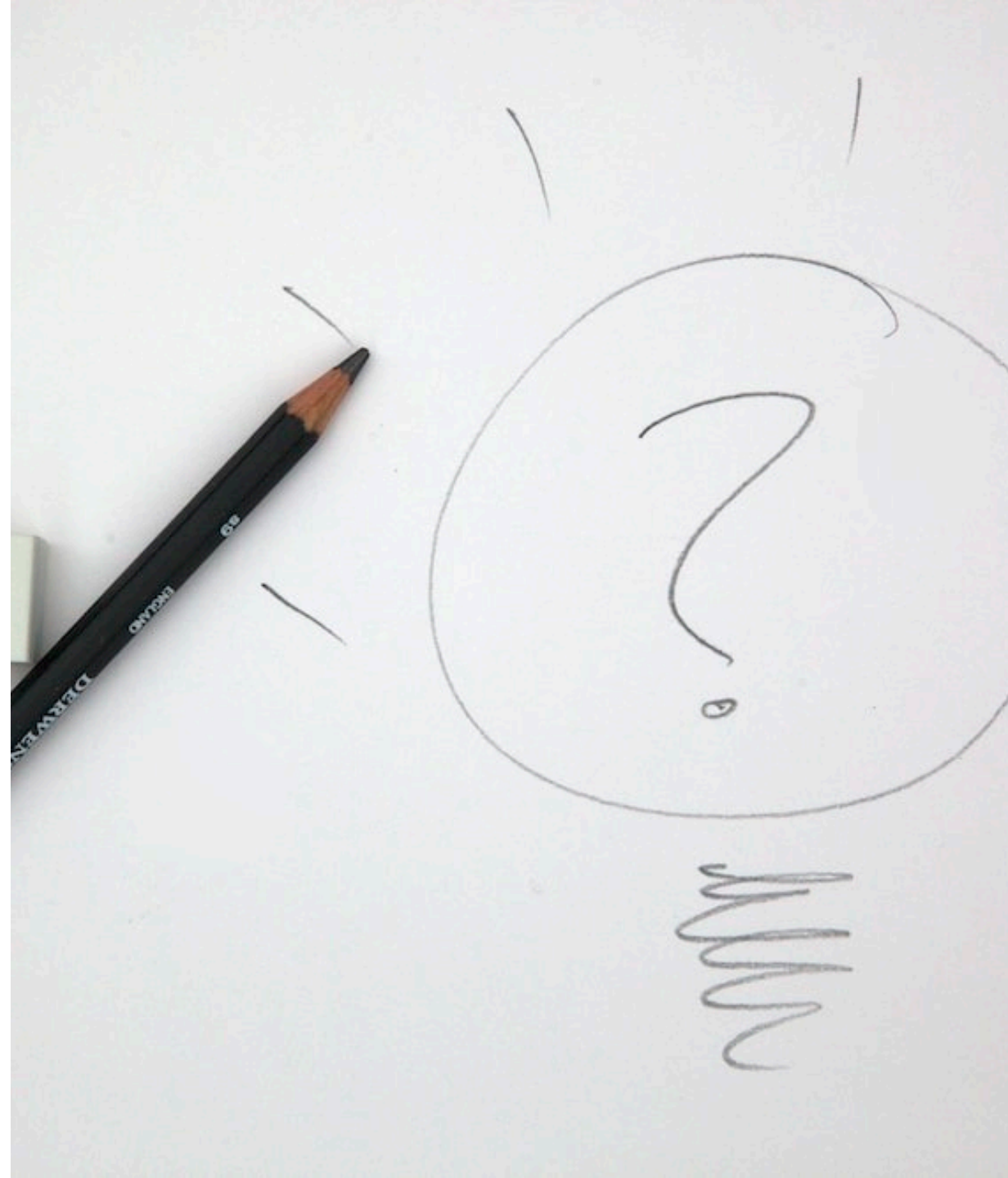


Land Acknowledgement



Presentation Objectives:

- Provide background about Gender-Based Analysis+ approaches to dealing with homelessness during pregnancy
- Share an animation video created as a knowledge mobilization and advocacy tool
- Describe an overview and results one-day symposium held in Toronto in June 2023





Y.P.N.F.A

Young Parents No Fixed Address

Overview of Community Collaborator: YPNFA

- <https://www.ypnfa.org>
- Network of Toronto agencies and organizations
- Convened by Toronto Public Health in 1997 following the death of an infant in a shelter
- Strong interprofessional collaboration

*"20 YEARS AGO A TRAGEDY,
20 YEARS LATER A LEGACY. "*



Background

- 300 children born into homelessness in Toronto (Shah et al., 2017)
- Less access to prenatal support (Chyzy et al, forthcoming)
- Unsafe and transitory housing; frequent re-location
 - Moved 2-7 times in 8 months
 - Average number of moves 3.4 (Chyzy et al, forthcoming)
- Newcomers to Canada: challenges navigating the shelter system (Chyzy et al, forthcoming; Schwan et al, 2020)



Background

- Long-standing male-centric approaches to service provision (Chyzy et al, forthcoming; Schwan et al., 2020).
- Fear of child apprehension (Krahn et al., 2018)
- Emergency shelters feel stifling and oppressive (Azim et al., 2018; Chyzy et al., forthcoming; Swick & Williams, 2010)
- Lack of culturally appropriate care (Vecchio, 2019)



Gender Based Analysis + Approach

- Experiences of homelessness for women and gender diverse people are distinct from men (Schwan et al., 2020)
- Greater visibility of men in the homelessness





Need for a Symposium

- Siloed policies in shelters and fragmented social services cause barriers to access essential prenatal and postnatal support
- Vital need for knowledge exchange between key stakeholders such as people with lived experience, service providers, researchers and policymakers.



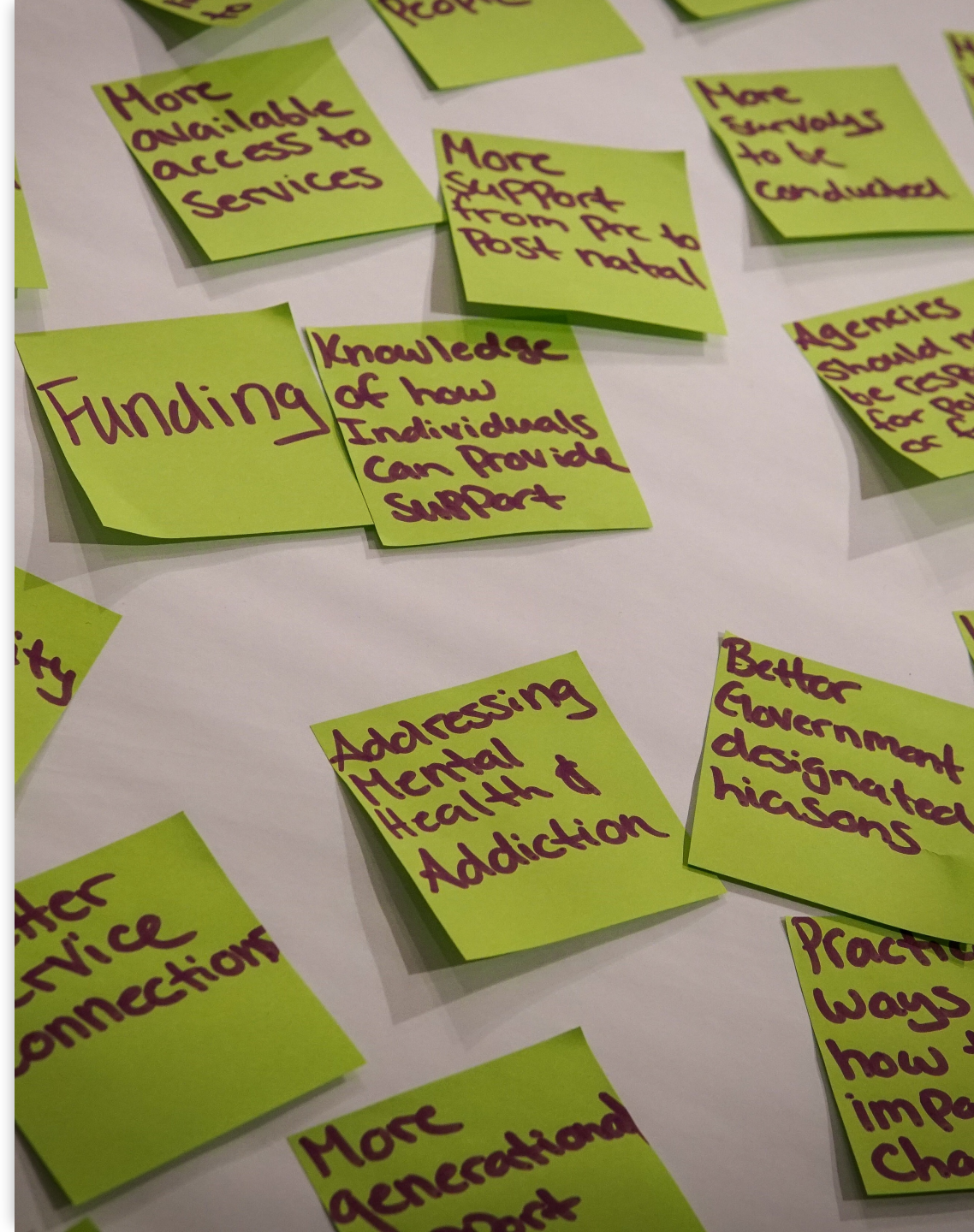
Homelessness During Pregnancy Symposium

June 8, 2023
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Objectives

The 4 objectives of the symposium were to:

1. mobilize experiential knowledge
2. identify gaps in existing knowledge and reach a consensus
3. disseminate key messages
4. establish collaborative, interdisciplinary, and reciprocal partnerships





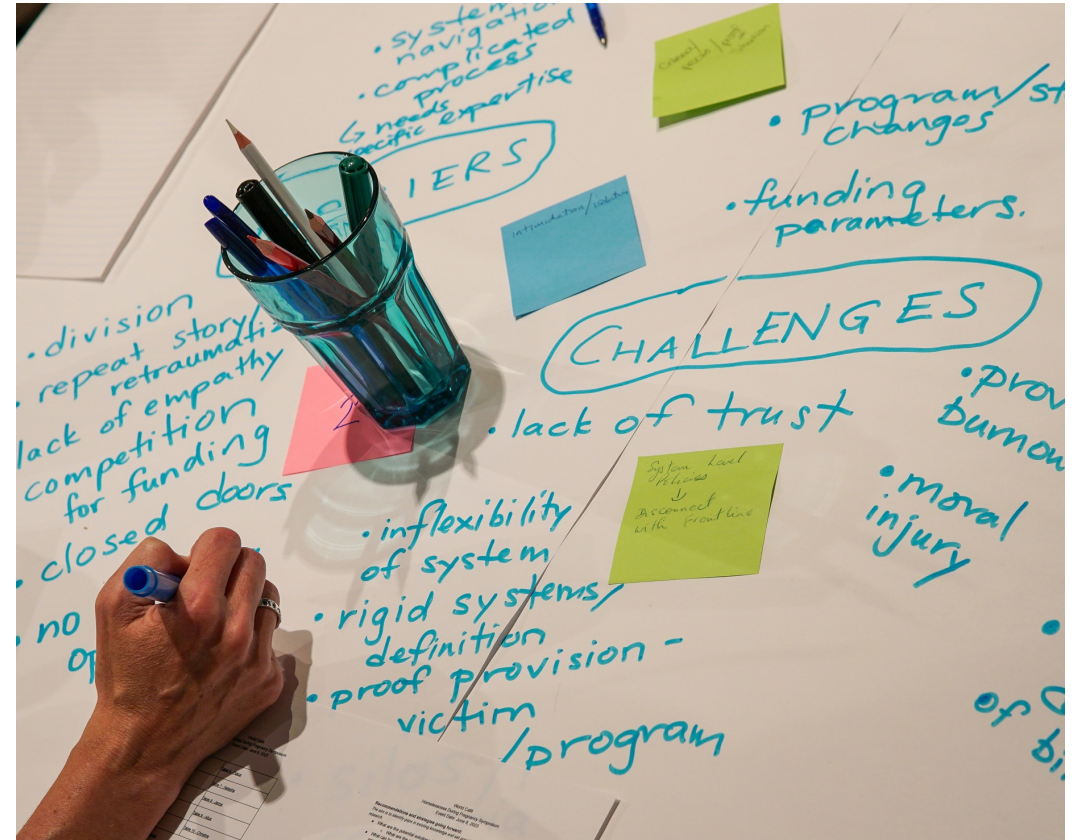
Symposium Overview

Morning: Presentations
Afternoon: World Café



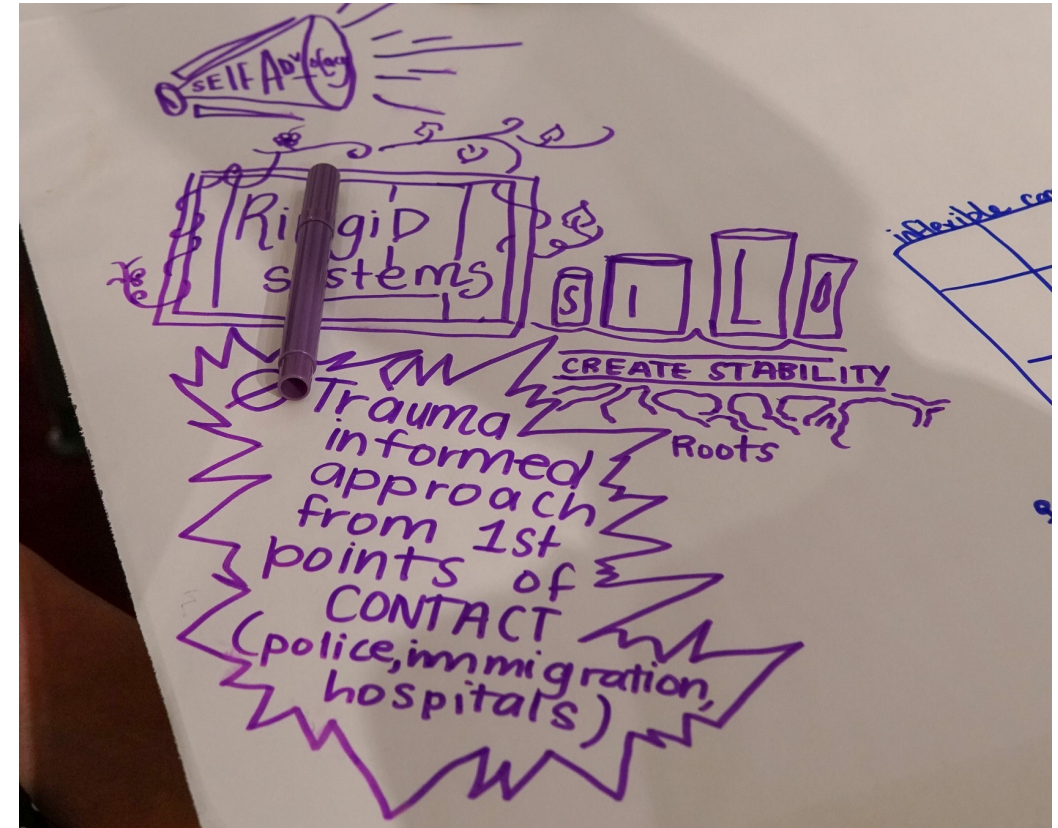
Barriers & Challenges

- Siloed care
- Inflexibility of services
- Confusion navigating the shelter system
- Perpetuation of trauma
- Barriers exiting homelessness
- Immigration status
- Lack of personal skills related to self-advocacy



Recommendations

- Integrated care and increased intersectoral collaboration
- Trauma-informed service provision
- Developing strategies to exit homelessness
- More affordable and supportive housing
- Barriers exiting homelessness
- Further research needed (streets needs assessment)



Next Steps!

Human Rights
Claims Review Panel

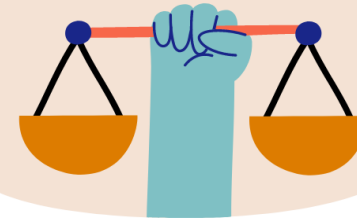
Federal Housing
Advocate



Marie-Josée Houle

The voices of
rights-holders
are at the
forefront

HOUSING *is a*
HUMAN RIGHT



The Minister of
Housing must
respond within
120 days

A public record
documenting human
rights violations will be
created

Recommendations
can be used to
pursue justice at
the international
level

WHY THIS PROCCES MATTERS

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