

Thunder Bay Dialogue Report Back

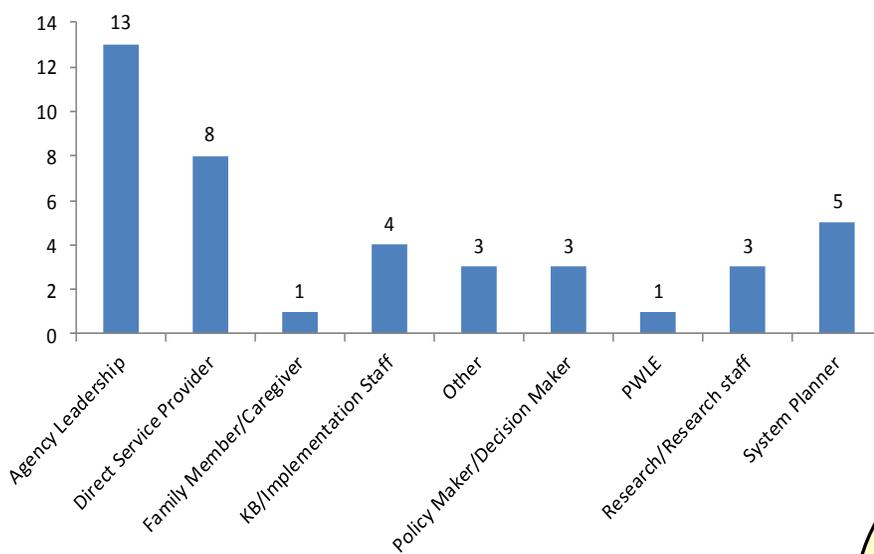
This report back highlights the diverse evidence needs prioritized by participants at the Sharing Together Thunder Bay dialogue held on January 24, 2017. Eight Sharing Together dialogues were held across the province from January to April 2017, and individual high level report backs have been created to share back what we heard from participants at each dialogue.



Through Sharing Together, EENet aims to co-create an evidence priority agenda that reflects regional and provincial mental health, substance use and addictions evidence needs, and includes diverse stakeholder perspectives. EENet and partners will use this co-created evidence priority agenda to shape the types of evidence we make available and accessible to stakeholders in Ontario. By addressing evidence needs, we hope Sharing Together will contribute to a more evidence-informed and connected system, leading to better experience and quality of care, and overall health and wellbeing, for all Ontarians.

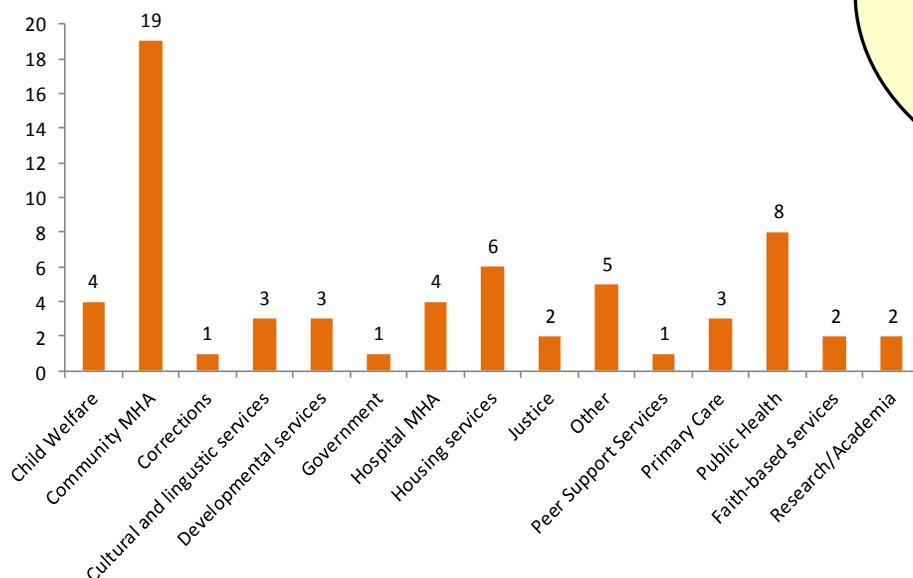
At this dialogue, 31 participants attended and indicated they either have lived experience or have worked with various diverse populations, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis, low income, women, children and youth, people who have experienced homelessness, people living with disabilities, LGBTQ (Lesbian Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Queer), older adults, religious/faith communities, and ethno-racial and linguistic communities. The majority of the attendees represented urban areas, but there were also a number that represented rural and remote locations. Below is a breakdown of attendees by stakeholder group and sector.

1. Which stakeholder group do you best represent? (Participants selected all that apply)



"I like the table discussions and how everyone has a chance to input their ideas and questions."
Dialogue participant

2. What sector do you work in? (Participants selected all that apply)



"I learned about community resources & agencies available that I was not previously aware of. Being aware of what these resources offer are great for myself & my colleagues to share during our work in the community."
Dialogue participant

"Get the opportunity to have discussions. interaction with people you would normally never interact or correspond with."
Dialogue participant

The top three evidence themes were selected by participants prior to attending the dialogue for discussion. At the dialogues, participants then discussed and prioritized specific evidence needs related to each theme. Listed below are the top evidence needs in order of prioritization.



Culturally competent and safe care that reflects cultural knowledge

- **Common definitions** of culturally safe and culturally competent care.
- **Effective cultural competence training approaches** for both service providers and within the secondary and post-secondary education systems.
- **Cultural safety standards and common assessment tools** to measure cultural competence in organizations.
- How to **make service delivery more culturally competent**.
- Build **awareness of existing local resources related to cultural competence**, through, for example, continued engagement with elders and culture caretakers.



Harm Reduction

- How to **integrate harm reduction approaches into the corrections and justice systems**, which could include more education for police officers.
- Approaches for **treating opioid dependence in rural and remote communities**.
- **Culturally appropriate** harm reduction approaches for Indigenous populations.
- **Outcomes of specific harm reduction approaches, including:**
 - Local managed alcohol programs; and
 - Approaches related to the use of liquids that contain alcohol but are not intended for consumption.
- Ways to **determine if an organization is ready to incorporate harm reduction approaches** into the services they deliver.



Continuum of housing and homelessness

- **Effectiveness of wet shelters** for youth and adult populations, as well as for substances other than alcohol.
- **Effectiveness of transitional housing models and services** for older adults and for individuals released from jail or discharged from hospital.
- **Enhance data collection related to local homelessness and housing stock**, to identify the services and supports that are needed locally.
- **Identify and implement standards** for different shelter and housing models.
- **Understand the continuum of housing and homelessness**, as well the different approaches that exist across the continuum and when they are most effective.

Next steps

We will extend participation in the Sharing Together process through an online survey to stakeholders across Ontario. Following that, we will analyze provincial trends to develop the evidence priority agenda for Ontario's mental health, substance use, and addictions system. The final step will be to disseminate the agenda to support knowledge exchange activities across Ontario. EENet will also collaborate with partners to respond to the evidence needs identified.

Resources have already been posted on the [Sharing Together webpage!](#)

Stay tuned as we gather more evidence and if you have relevant resources, share with us!