



# Don't Hog the Wisdom: Sharing and Caring Beyond the Setting

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# We Are Pretty Smart

- Moving from institutional forms of care to creating communities of care within our settings
- Interfaces of individual and group-based approaches to care and care planning
- Toward holistic approaches to care and treatment
- Experimenting with healing and restorative practices
- Centering family and community

# What is Different Today?

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More than 50% of North American high school students report a diagnosable mental health issue

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Anxiety and Depression are top of the list

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We are shifting into a period of time where being anxious and depressed is actually rational and reasonable

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Overwhelmingly, who we end up helping in our service systems is a matter of coincidence

# Services and Needs

The congruence of what we provide and what is needed:

Trauma-informed practices

Ecological approaches

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Social and relational connections

Relational safety

# A Word on Equity and Diversity

At the leadership level, we are still overwhelmingly white and disproportionately male, able-bodied, and cis-gendered

Our concept of care, and our ideas about success, still reflect primarily a white lived experience

Many aspects of our services continue to be not very inviting spaces for racialized people, trans people, or people with disabilities

We know that almost all institutional structures in North America perpetuate inequities – health inequity, inequities in education, in justice, and in opportunity

Where  
Needs  
Manifest

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In recreational activity settings

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At school

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In peer groups

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On social media

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In kinship networks

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At work

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# Thinking about Impact

Case-based and  
outcome-focused  
metrics versus  
community  
impact

Measuring  
impact

Impacting Impact

# Expanding the Setting

From residential setting to:

Social housing

Employment

Recreation

Faith

Culture

Digital worlds



# Transformative Practice through Shared Wisdom

- Expanding what we mean by interdisciplinary
- From 'in' community to 'of' community
- From placement of last resort to flow through houses of wisdom



Can Our  
Accumulated  
Wisdom  
Build  
Capacity?

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Residential care skills for security  
guards at the Mall

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Interdisciplinary teams for  
recreational clubs

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Kinship networks with child and  
youth care skills

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Can we transform Schools?

# Can We Do Our Work without Ownership?

## Running

Running an evening shift in the community, at the food court in the Mall, in the recess spaces of high schools

## Setting

Setting up 'residential care' in large, urban apartment blocks

## Creating

Creating a virtual group home (or treatment home)

# A Time for Sharing

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We know that our systems are set up competitively

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We also know that the things we learned over the years can have an impact in community

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The time has come to re-think the things we take for granted, including:

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What is our purpose: Is it to have the best service possible, or is to help shape communities to determine what is best for them?



Thank you!



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