

Engaging Youth in Applied Research: Hope for the Future of Youth Housing

Presented by
Lorraine Closs & Kenda Grant Guanti



WEDNESDAY FEB 7 12-1PM EASTERN TIME



**WINTER 2023 E-LEARNING SERIES:
YOUNG PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH**



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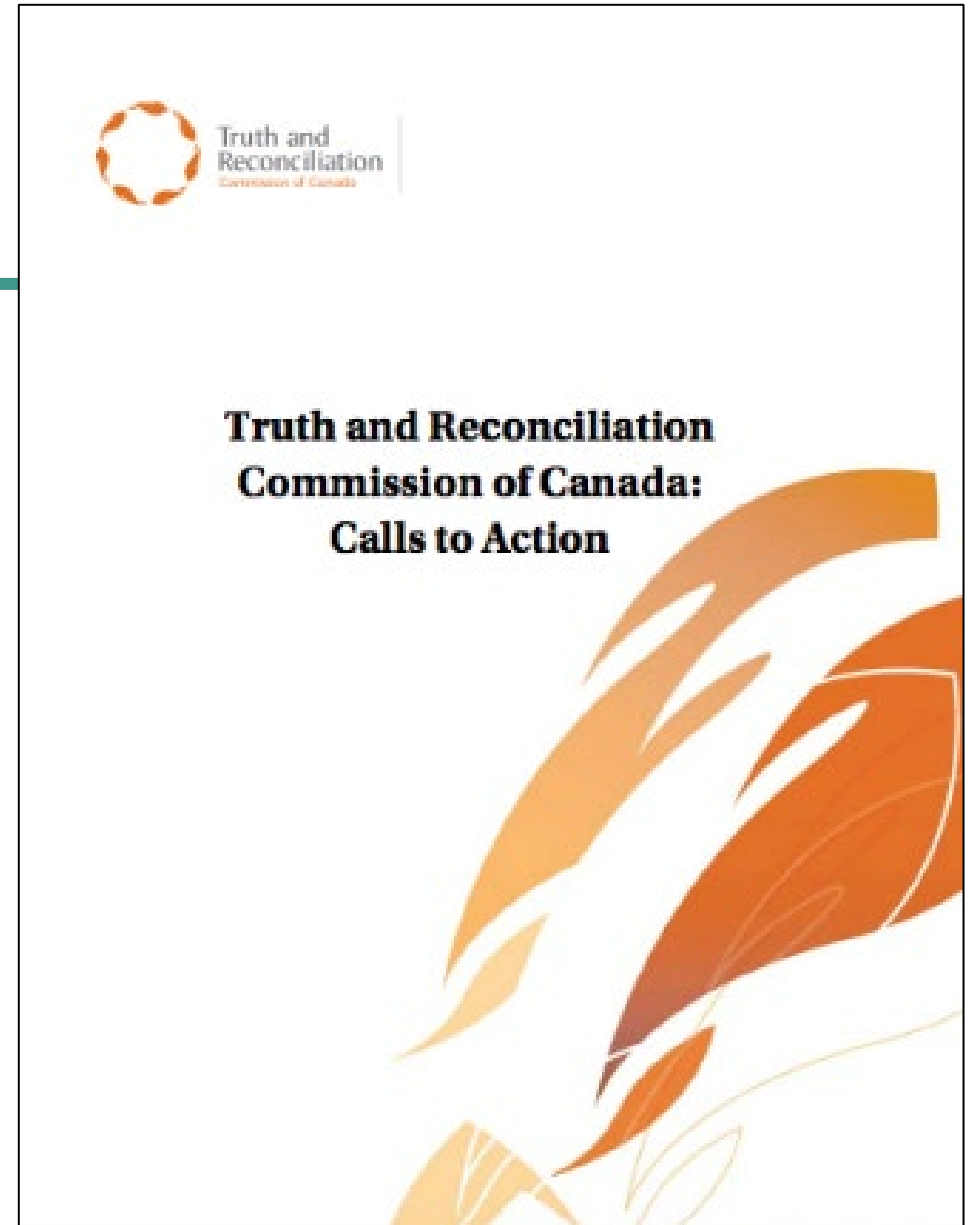


Community Based Research Canada

Call to Action #1 ii

“We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care by:

ii. Providing adequate resources to enable Aboriginal communities and child-welfare organizations to keep Aboriginal families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments, regardless of where they reside.



Agenda



Opening



Presentation



Q&A



Closing

Presenters



Lorraine Closs, M.S.W
Professor, Faculty of Social and
Community Services
Durham College



Kendra Grant Guanti
Research Steering Committee Member



TOGETHER, WE'RE LEADING THE WAY.



Engaging Youth in Applied Research:
Hope for the Future



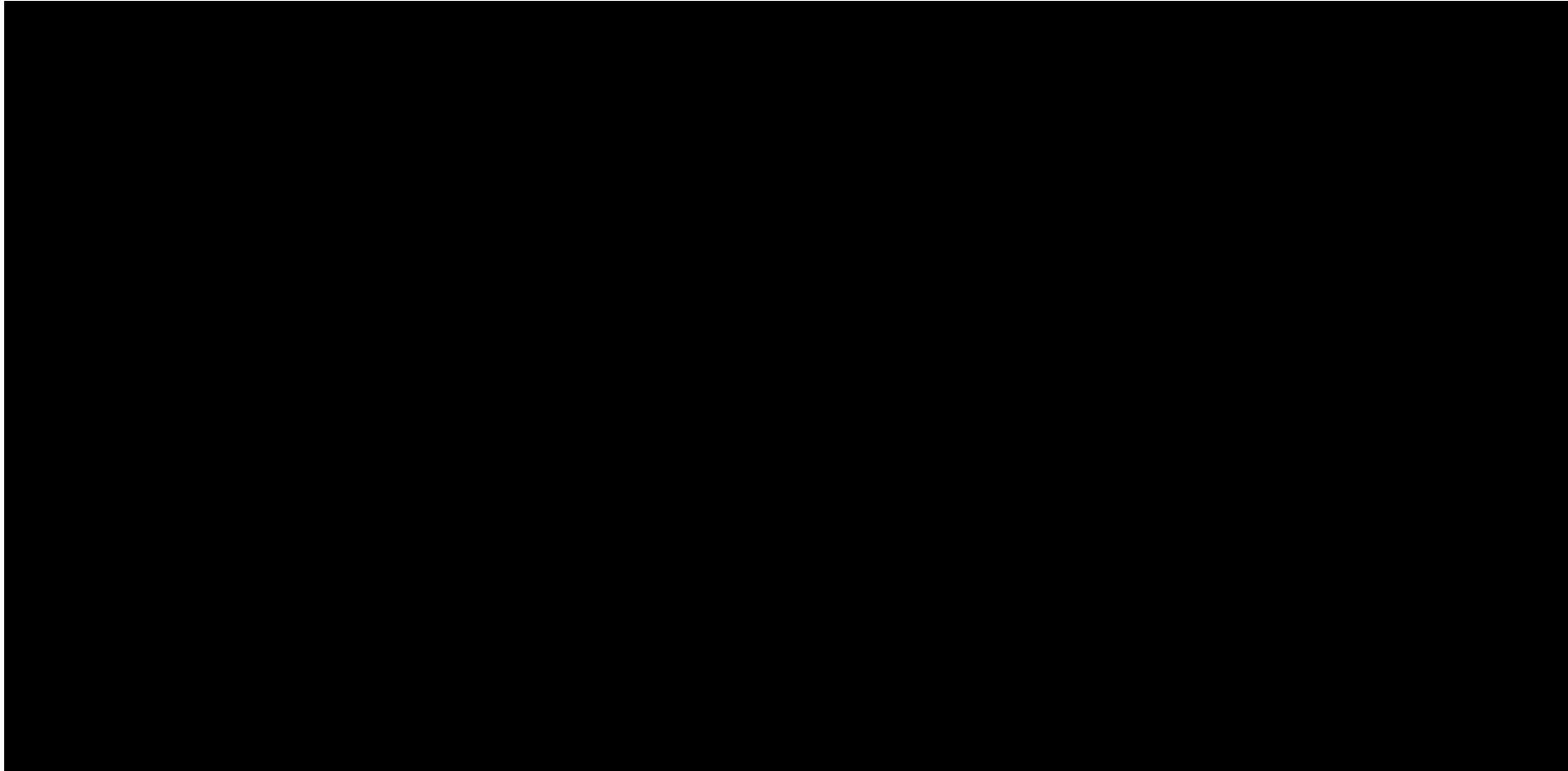
Land Acknowledgement



We are linked by our work supporting the Durham Region community on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among the Mississauga Peoples, and is the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, and territories covered under the Williams Treaties. I am very grateful for the opportunity to work and live on this land and I commit to embedding reconciliation in my words and actions. This includes learning about and understanding truths—truths about myself as someone with settler-colonial ancestry, truths about Canada’s history, and truths about the land and people that I—like many other settler people—have benefited from.

Hope for the Future

Co-design of a Youth-led Housing Hub: Developing a Unique and Scalable Housing Model for Youth Living on their Own



Meaningful Engagement of Youth in Community Based Research

- Youth kept a journal of their experiences and reflections over a 2 year period
- They further shared their reflections during an interview led by a research assistant at the end of the project
- Themes about youth engagement emerged



Get the Right People at the Table

- Youth will benefit from a trusted/known adult who can “shepherd them” into the group
- Ask youth who is missing?
- Who might be hard to have at the table?



Slow the Process Down

- Youth have inexperience with how meetings are typically run by adults
- Does the way you run your meeting create a barrier for youth?
- Youth helped us reflect on our meeting “norms” and reconsider if they served a purpose

“...we ask questions and voice our opinion when we don’t understand something.”



Acknowledgement through Compensation

- Youth were compensated with an hourly wage and given help with transportation
- Youth were getting a wage to be there, just like everyone else at the table
- Free bus passes and sometimes personal pick ups and drop offs



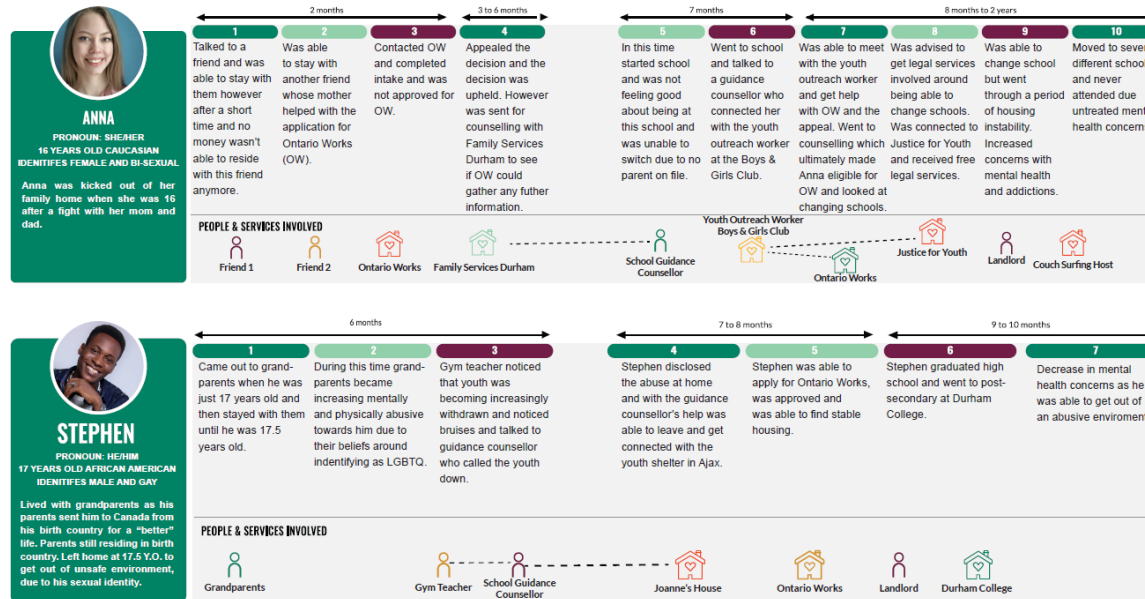
Shared Vulnerability

- Youth exposed elements of their personal lives just by agreeing to be part of the project
- We “leveled the playing field” by incorporating exercises where all participants shared who they are outside of their service provider role



Give youth meaningful roles

- Youth participated on sub-committees that created tangible products
- Creation of authentic “User Journeys”



Youth Encourage other Youth to join

- Youth shared their positive experiences with other youth and this encouraged others to join
- Multiple youth at the table increased comfort levels as well as multiplied their voices
- Youth were deeply invested in helping other youth



**“Kids listen to kids.”
— Trusteed youth**

Check Stereotypes and Biases

- We learned we had biases and stereotypes about young people
- What are your assumptions? Are they correct?
- If youth are comfortable enough they will call you out—this is what you want



Share a Meal

- A component of building relationship and trust
- Youth appreciated collaborating on menu selections, and felt confident here
- Carried leftovers home after each event



The Impact of Youth Voices

- 3 Co-design sessions and a consensus building session were held where the data collected was analyzed and interpreted
- Youth co-designed with service providers their ideal supportive housing model
- The research and youth voices were used in a successful funding proposal for a youth supportive housing project in Oshawa



“...it seems obvious when you think about it that you should include those people [service users] in trying to design the services to make sure that it's something actually useful and valuable for them, but it isn't the way that it often actually works.”

Kendra's Remarks!



Thank you



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Questions?




Question and Answer



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MARCH 7 12-1PM EASTERN TIME



Presented by Ilona Dougherty & the Youth Advisory Council



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