

SHARING SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION PRACTICES THAT WORK REAL ME IDENTITY-BASED WRAPAROUND INTERVENTION

Centre for Newcomers to Calgary
Calgary, AB

Area of Practice:

Strategies for Engagement with Non-Settlement Service Providers

Video:

https://youtu.be/VtOaDeoS_RM

A Pathways to
Prosperity Project

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**PATHWAYS TO
PROSPERITY**
Promoting Welcoming Communities in Canada



**VOIES VERS LA
PROSPÉRITÉ**
Promouvoir des communautés accueillantes au Canada

BACKGROUND ON THE ORGANIZATION AND IMPETUS FOR THE PROGRAM

The Centre for Newcomers is a non-profit agency based in Calgary, AB. Founded in 1988, it provides training programs and support services to promote the full integration, cultural diversity, community participation, and citizenship for newcomers to Calgary. Its mission is to support newcomers and the receiving community in becoming a diverse, united community through services and initiatives that create conditions of success for newcomers and that foster a welcoming environment in Calgary.

Launched in 2014 with funding from Public Safety Canada, the Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention (IBWI) is a research-based, evidence-informed program to prevent immigrant youth involvement in crime and gangs in Calgary. It was developed through the combined experience of researchers and community organizations, and was tailored for the Calgary context, where gangs are ethno-racially diverse and immigrant youth in lower-income households and neighbourhoods are more vulnerable to gang recruitment than those in higher-income neighbourhoods. IBWI combines frontline work, related research, and public education. The frontline component takes place through the Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention at the Centre for Newcomers, while research and public education activities are managed by the University of Calgary's Faculty of Social Work.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

Name:

Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention

Description:

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention provides individualized support to high-risk and gang-involved youth from immigrant families, while furthering research, evaluation, and public education for this population. Using a High Fidelity Wraparound model, participants receive culturally-appropriate counselling, mentorship, academic support, family support, employment and life skills support, and learn "pro-social" activities.

Goal(s):

The goals of the Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention are to restore and strengthen positive identities of high-risk and gang-involved youth from immigrant families, and to reduce and prevent first- and second-generation immigrant youth gang involvement.

Target Client Group(s):

High-risk and criminally / gang-involved youth, aged 12 to 24 years old, from immigrant families.

Delivery Partner(s):

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention is co-delivered with the Calgary Catholic School District, Calgary Board of Education, Programmes Projet Appartenance MCHB/AHS, Calgary

Police Service, City of Calgary – Neighbourhood Department, Calgary Young Offender Centre, Calgary Youth Attendance Centre, RCMP K Division – Public Engagement Unit, Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Alberta Health Services – Youth Substance Use and Mental Health Services, Brenda Juby Consulting, Carya, WGM Psychological Services, Restorative Conversations, RDG Counselling Services, Antyx Community Arts, YMCA of Calgary, Centre for Sexuality, Calgary Home Tutoring, Tutor Doctor, Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth, Coalition for Equal Access to Education, Guyn Cooper Research Associates, University of Calgary – Faculty of Social Work, Calgary John Howard Society, Elizabeth Fry Society, Shory Law, and McMan Youth, Family and Community Services Association.

Human Resource(s):

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention team includes the Centre for Newcomer’s Vice President of Strategy, the Associate Director of Youth Programs, and the Human Resources Manager, as well as 4 case managers, 1.5 family support workers, 1 volunteer coordinator, 19 volunteers, and members from over 20 partner agencies.

Funding:

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention is funded by Family and Community Support Services, a joint municipal-provincial funding program, and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General through Guns and Gangs funding.

KEY FEATURES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THIS BEING A PROMISING PRACTICE

Effective:

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention uses a High Fidelity Wraparound model. Program staff collect information from participants on nine life domains, identify participants’ needs in each of these areas as well as goals they are trying to achieve, and work with participants to address these needs and goals through a collaborative case management plan. Identifying and understanding the needs of participants assists in mitigating potential vulnerabilities that may lead young people to become involved in criminal or gang activity.

Efficient:

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention is governed and supported by a network of more than 20 different non-profit organizations, social service organizations, and representatives from municipal, provincial and federal government systems, all of whom are engaged in the program. Partners openly share information with each other and participate in shared professional development training.

Relevant:

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention provides an individualized service for high-risk and criminally- or gang-involved youth, as well as six supplemental services for youth participants and their families. These include family support, counselling, education and employment support, tutoring, pro-social activities, and mentorship.

Sustainable:

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention has formal agreements with its delivery partners. Delivery partners are supported through quarterly in-person partnership meetings and monthly reports and updates. The program also uses a collaborative funding model.

Transferable:

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention could be replicated by other organizations across Canada. It is important to start small with a core group of delivery partners involved in the youth, justice, health, education, and settlement sectors. Partners and staff should be trained in the High Fidelity Wraparound model from the onset, which can take two to three years to implement successfully. Services should be delivered in a culturally competent and culturally responsive manner.

Innovative and Forward Thinking:

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention incorporates a High Fidelity Wraparound model in a crime prevention framework. Identity development is an intentional program component, which is unique among crime prevention programs targeting immigrant and first-generation youth in Canada. The program is delivered through an identity-based lens that does not shy away from conversations about race, colour, faith, and ethnicity.

Differs in Definable Ways from Other Similar Practices:

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention bridges the gap between immigration policy and mainstream integration. It uses a community-based approach to crime prevention and mental health, and includes a very strong family support component. Program staff are culturally competent and use culturally responsive practices in service delivery.

High Client Uptake:

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention has high client uptake. Most referrals come from schools, probation officers, youth correctional facilities, Children's Services, and parents. Between August 2014 and June 2018, 130 youth were enrolled in the program.

High Client Retention:

The Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention has high client retention. Its collaborative case management process addresses the needs of youth and their families, which supports participants' motivation to remain engaged for the duration of the program. The average length of intervention for each youth and family is 12 to 18 months. Of the 130 youth enrolled in the program between August 2014 and June 2018, 73 successfully completed or remained active in the program.

Strong Evidence of Successful Outcomes:

An external evaluation was conducted during the pilot phase of the Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention. The evaluation data included 232 Youth Questionnaire surveys and 182 Youth Level of Service / Case Management Inventory assessments, as well as extraction of criminal charge data from the Calgary Police Service for 85 youth who were referred to the program. The data show that the program created positive outcomes for youth participants who completed the program. Compared to program dropouts, participants had reduced risk in the areas of self-esteem,

anger and frustration, delinquent attitudes, peer influences, adult role models, some aspects of education, and leisure activities and use of time.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION STRATEGY

An evaluation was conducted between August 2014 and June 2018, during the pilot phase of the Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention. The evaluation assessed both the process (i.e., how well the program was implemented and whether the planned intervention was delivered to the appropriate population) and impact (i.e., whether the program resulted in positive change among participants) of the program. The quasi-experimental evaluation was designed by external researchers in consultation with an evaluation committee that included representatives from the University of Calgary's Faculty of Social Work, the Centre for Newcomers, Public Safety Canada, and the Calgary Police Service. Information was collected from participants upon admission to the program, then at 6-, 12-, and 18-month intervals during participation, where applicable, and at 6-months post participation, where possible. The primary approach was quantitative, but qualitative data were also obtained through open-ended survey questions, interviews with staff, and anecdotal reports. The findings were used to help shape the next phase of the Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Centre for Newcomers

<https://www.centrefornewcomers.ca>

Real Me Identity-Based Wraparound Intervention

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/ibwi/>