



Ability and Substance Abuse Issues in Saskatchewan: From Needs Assessment to Building Capacity

Johner, R. & Novotna, G., Novik, N.,
Jeffery, B., & McCarron, M.

Community-Based Research Showcase
November 6, 2015



SHRF Collaborative Innovation Development Grant, Pilot 2014-15



The Project Research Team

Co-Principal Investigators

- Gabriela Novotna & Randy Johner, Faculty of Social Work

Co-Investigators

- Nuelle Novik, FSW
- Bonnie Jeffery, FSW
- Michelle McCarron, RQHR

Graduate Students/ Research Assistants

- Meagan Taylor
- Michelle Jones

The Project Collaborators

- **Todd Cullen: Addiction/Disability Youth Counsellor**

- **Dr. Colleen Dell: Addiction Research Chair**



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

- **Dr. Corey Hadden**



- **Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers**



- **Chris Pepin**



Background

- The rates of alcohol and drug use in persons with ability issues (PAIs) higher than in the general population:
 - Traumatic Brain Injury & Spinal Cord Injuries (< 60%)
 - Sensory impairments (40-50%)
 - Intellectual Abilities (12-14%)
- Disproportionally low utilization of SU treatment services by PAIs
- Access to SU services - a basic human right

The provincial context...

- Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Health: *Clinical Principles for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Services in Saskatchewan*. December, 2012.
 - Providing drug and alcohol treatment to special populations including PAIs identified as one of the priorities
- *“People Before Systems: The Saskatchewan Disability Strategy” (June, 2015)*

Recommendation #1

- **SHIFTING ACCOUNTABILITY:** Make disability programs and services, within and outside Government, accountable to the people they support

Summary of the Project Activities

Purpose: Build partnerships with service providers, service planners and services users to inform future research based on the identified needs

Objective 1:

To identify current EIPs in assessment and treatment of alcohol & drug problems in PAIs

Method:
Literature review

Objective 2:

To identify needs in policy and service development

Method:
Interviews,
2 community listening sessions

We
are
here
now

Objective 3:

To develop a research project informed by the literature & the needs assessment

Method:
A Networking Meeting

Literature Review

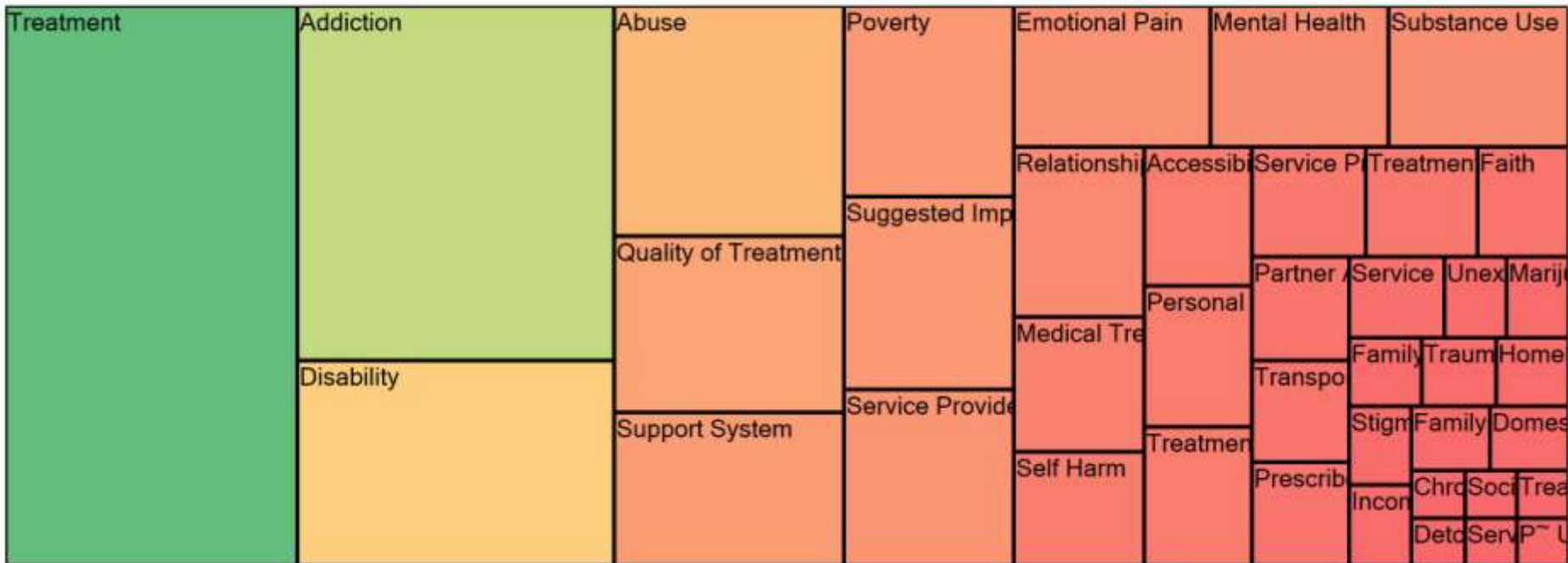
- A lack of validated screening and assessment tools
 - E.g. for persons with intellectual ability issues; TBIs, hearing and visual impairment; persons accessing rehabilitation services;
- SU Treatment service providers overestimate accessibility of their services
- Professional skills and attitudes toward PAIs

Preliminary Findings

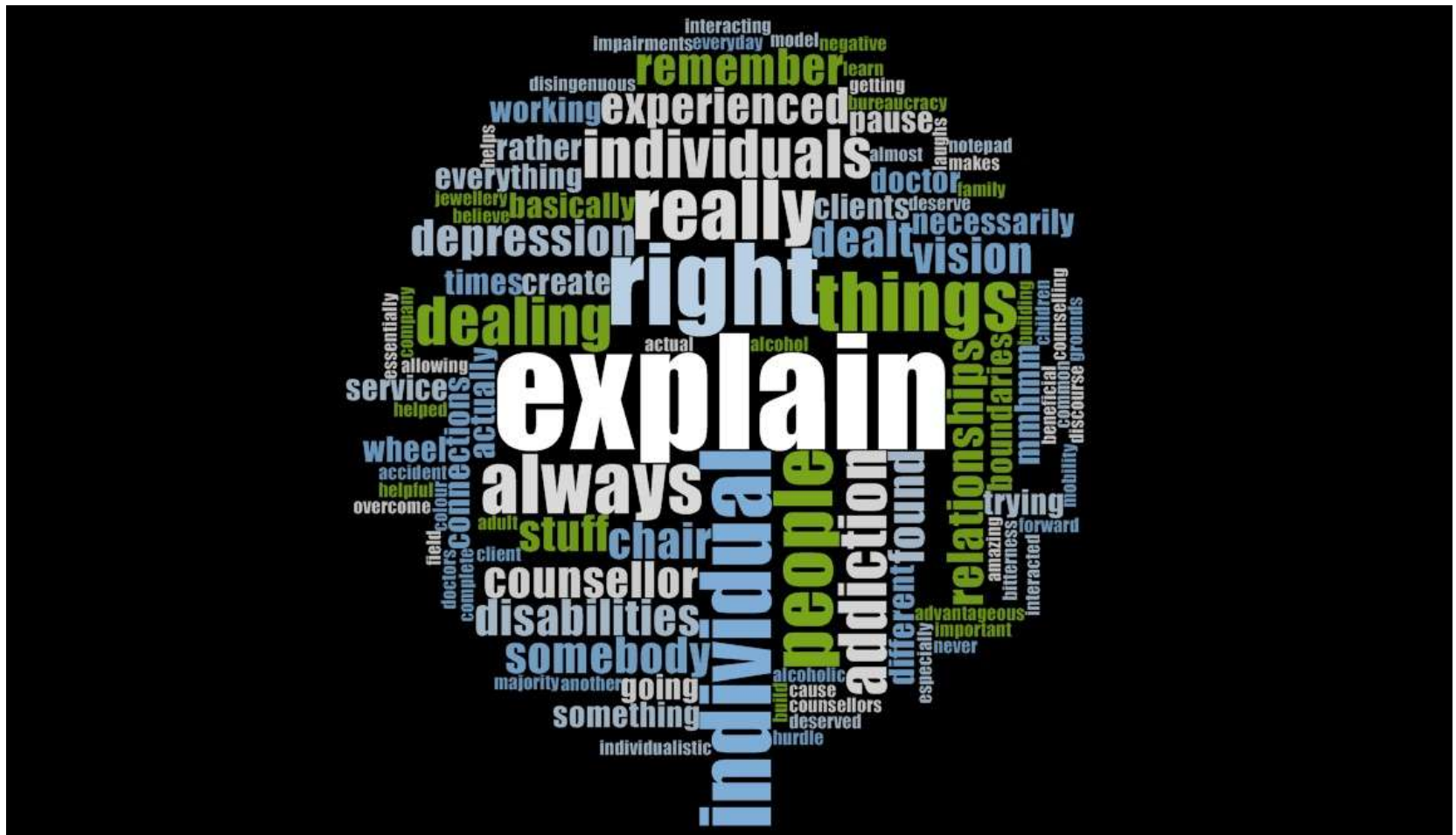
Qualitative Data

Tree Map (service users)

Nodes compared by number of coding references



Preliminary Findings-Word Cloud (Service Provider Relations)



Service Provider Relations

“Service providers do not need to necessarily dumb things down but they need to remember who they are talking to---to the individuals they are working with...and learn a different discourse on how to explain things”

Discussion



References

- Burgard, J. F., Donohue, B., Azrin, N. H., & Teichner, G. (2000). Prevalence and treatment of substance abuse in the mentally retarded population: An empirical review. *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 32, 293–298.
- DeLambo, D. A., Chandras, K. V., Homa, D., & Chandras, S. V. (2010). Spinal cord injury and substance abuse: Implications for rehabilitation professionals. *Ideas and Research You Can Use: VISTAS*. Retrieved from http://counselingoutfitters.com/vistas/vistas10/Article_83.pdf
- Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Health. *Clinical Principles for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Services in Saskatchewan*. December, 2012.
- Krahn, G., Deck, D., Gabriel, R., & Farrell, N. (2006). A population-based study on substance abuse treatment for adults with disabilities: access, utilization, and treatment outcomes. *American Journal of Drug & Alcohol Abuse*, 33(6):791-798.