

A Collaborative Youth Strategy for Edmonton

FROM THE YOUTH AGENCY COLLABORATION

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to invite all friends and colleagues present today to join us in acknowledging that we live and work on Treaty 6 territory and Metis Nation Region 4, the traditional home, gathering place, and travelling route to the first peoples of these lands, the Cree, Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene, Iroquois and Nakota Sioux. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries, and we commit to ongoing meaningful relationship building through reconciliatory action within and without. We honour the wisdom of the first peoples and humbly look to them for knowledge and wisdom to the benefit of mother earth and all living beings.



The Youth Agency Collaboration (YAC)

**A group of more than 27 Edmonton youth agencies
building strategic and collaborative connections
between communities of care for youth aged 15 –
25 experiencing crisis**

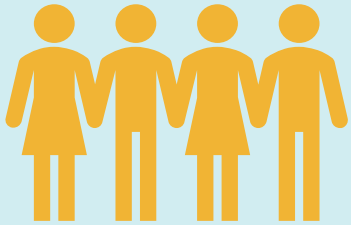
Where It Started

2017...

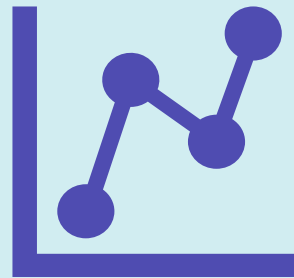
- **Focused on symptoms, not cause**
- **Focused on “opportunities” and programs, and not complex care**
- **Competitive, not collaborative**
- **Reactive, not strategic**
- **Focused on output, not outcomes**



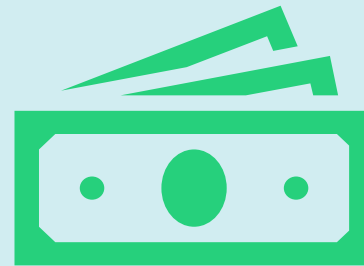
What If...



**We worked together
and involved the
experts (youth and
youth workers)**



**We tracked and
shared the same
outcomes**



**We didn't have to
compete for funding**



**We focused on
complex care**



YAC Project History

YAC Phase I: (5 Agencies)

- 2019-20 Mapping & Research

YAC Phase II: (10 Agencies)

- 2020-21 Foundations & Experiments and CYR

YAC Phase III: (20 Agencies)

- 2021-22 Building Governance & Modelling

YAC Phase IV: (23 Agencies)

- 2022-2023 Complex Care and Service Distribution

YAC PHASE V (26+ Agencies)

- Testing and evaluation: First Community Youth Support Centre

YAC Phase I
(5 Agencies)
2019-20 Mapping &
Research

Youth and
Youth workers
recommend:

Coordinated Access & Infrastructure

Coordinated Care

Coordinated Information Sharing

Strategic Coordination

Youth Engagement

Coordinated Funding

Collaborative Partnerships

Are You 15 to 24
and Need Help With:
Food • Shelter • Clothing
Medical Support

Do You Need Referrals
To Services Like:
Employment & Education
Pregnancy Services
Addictions • Mental Health
Safe Spaces • Housing

EDMONTON ●
● COORDINATED
● YOUTH
RESPONSE ●

kanawayim oskayak
(CAN - ah- WEEM oh-SKY-YAK)
ᑭᓇᓂᓄᓐ ᓂᓄᓄᓐ
taking care of the youth



Call or Text **211** to get help –
or walk in to a youth agency

CYR Demographic Information

2,000 unique interactions with youth September 2020 to June 2021

Age: 16 to 24

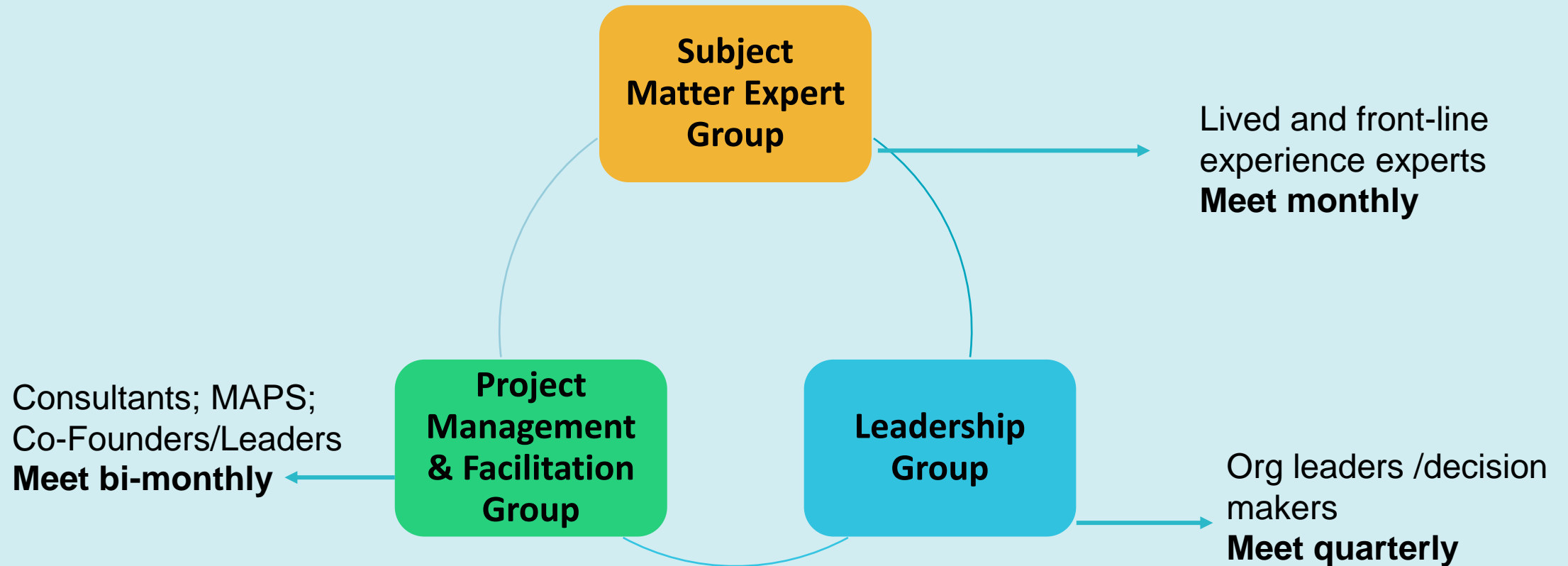
Gender: Males (50%) Females (39%) Trans (4%) Undisclosed (13%)

Ethnicity: Indigenous (52%) Unknown (20%) White (18%) African Decent (11%)

Services Accessed: Basic needs (food, shelter, hygiene) - 41% Addictions - 17% Mental Health - 12% Recreation/Art -11%

34 Young People Utilized the Isolation Rooms Offered at YESS

YAC “Ad-Hoc” Governance Model



What We've Learned

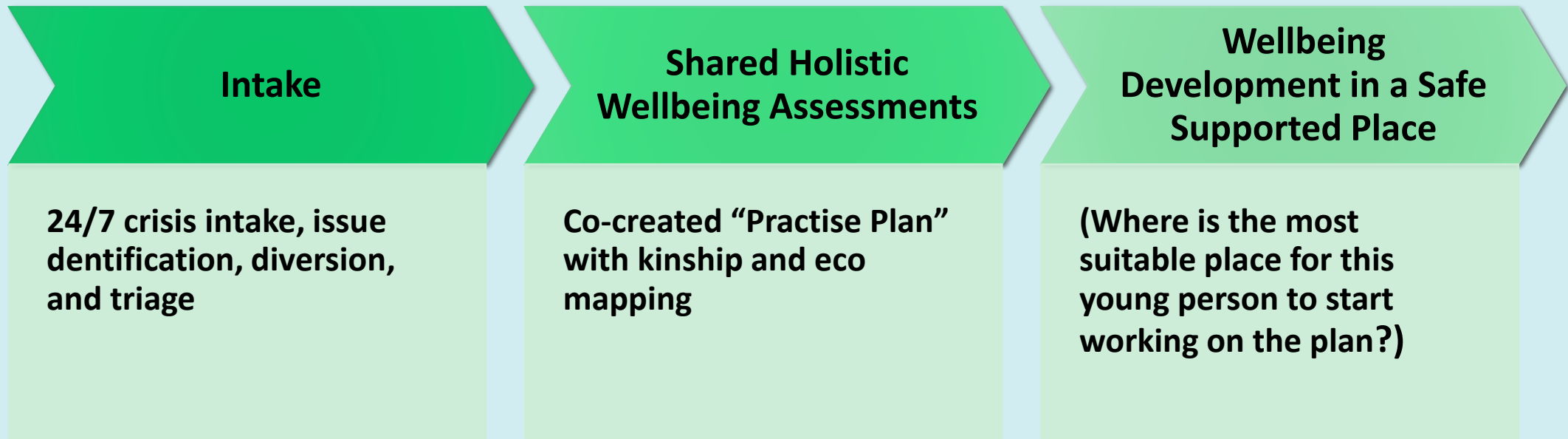
- Youth need the right help at the right time. Some of the biggest issues we are seeing in our community are young people under 30 in mental health crisis. They currently have no free, easy access to trauma-specific treatment.
- Asking youth to pay for transportation and leave their community to get help in a crisis creates more crisis and serious negative impacts. Small, community supports for youth and families are best.
- Youth have better results when they face fewer barriers to supports and services.
- Shelters, as they are currently funded and modelled, do not work. They aggregate crisis, are 1 to many staff ratios, and are perpetuating issues
- Building 1:1 trusting relationships is key, this requires funding for more trained staff
- We don't need to be one, we just need to act as one

We are shifting away from alleviating symptoms (like homelessness) and focusing on the Holistic Wellbeing of Youth

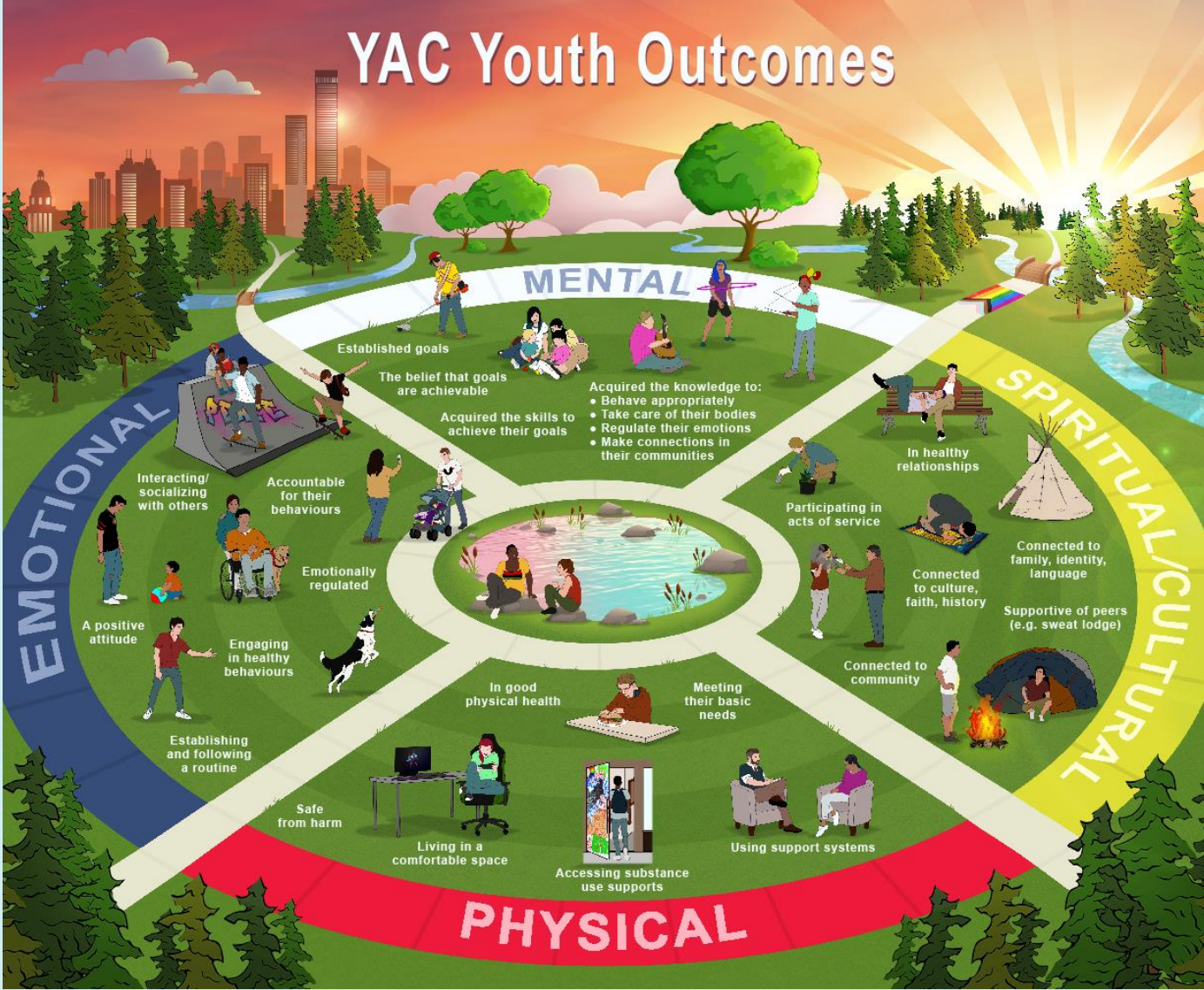
What We Are Building

**24/7 intake (with crisis intervention) into
connected, collaborative communities of care**

Collaborative Care Flow and Data Management



Holistic Youth Success Outcomes



OUTCOME

Physical Well-being

Emotional Well-being

Mental Well-being

Spiritual / Cultural Well-being

CONDITION	Stability of Living Condition	Basic Needs	Substance Use	Mental Health	Health Care	Emotional Health	Behavioural Health	Self-worth	Goal Oriented	Creation Activities	Connectedness	Cultural Identity
5. Independent	Is able to maintain housing without subsidy	Access to regular meals and the basic supplies of life without issue	Substance use does not impact life or mental health	Mental health does not impact day-to-day life.	In good health OR receiving all the health care needed to manage their conditions	Emotionally in control; habits have been developed to deal with social, cultural and economic pressures.	Engaging in healthy behaviours; accountable for their behaviours	Has a firm sense of purpose and meaning in their life; interacting / socializing with others	Spends their day pursuing long-term goals. Demonstrates resilience in crisis	Actively participating in creation activities / volunteering; is pursuing goals around creation activities	Connected to community, family, identity, language. In healthy relationships. Supportive of peers.	Connected to culture, faith, history. Actively and regularly participates in cultural activities / events / ceremonies.
4. Stable	Has long-term housing (subsidized or market); may be minimally supported or in a supervised living arrangement	Is able to provide sufficient food for self, with occasional assistance. Has clean, appropriate clothing for most activities. Dresses appropriately for situation and weather	Substance use is controlled and intentional, with minimal impact to daily life	Controlled and intentional; minimal impact on daily activities	In good health most of the time OR receiving adequate health care for their day-to-day needs with some ongoing, untreated conditions; able to navigate core services	Emotionally in control most of the time; able to cope with most social, cultural and economic pressures	Engaging in healthy behaviours most of the time; accountable for their behaviours with coaching	Has some sense of purpose in their life. Attempts to interact / socialize with others	Goal-oriented and stable, though requiring assistance in crisis.	Regularly participates in creation activities	Begins to establish connections with community, family, identity, language. Starts to build healthy relationships.	Regularly participates in cultural activities / events / ceremonies
3. Safe	Has short-term housing but currently requires ongoing support or assisted-living support services	Is able to provide sufficient food for self through utilization of food assistance. Has adequate clothing for day-to-day living	Substance use is controlled most of the time, with occasional bouts of negative use; can go about daily activities most of the time	Mildly anxious / depressed; can go about daily activities most of the time	Access core health services (e.g., doctor, dentist, pharmacist) regularly, with few to no visits to emergency treatment	Usually able to handle common social and economic pressures. Learning new coping routines / habits	Recognizing what healthy behaviours are and what appropriate actions are in certain situations.	Taking steps to improve sense of self-worth with the assistance of others	Has established long-term goals and occasionally works to pursue them OR can pursue goals with assistance	Acknowledges the value of volunteering for / participating in creation activities, but does so inconsistently	Acknowledges importance of connection to community, family, identity, language and recognizes differences between good and bad relationships.	Participates in cultural activities / events / ceremonies but sporadically
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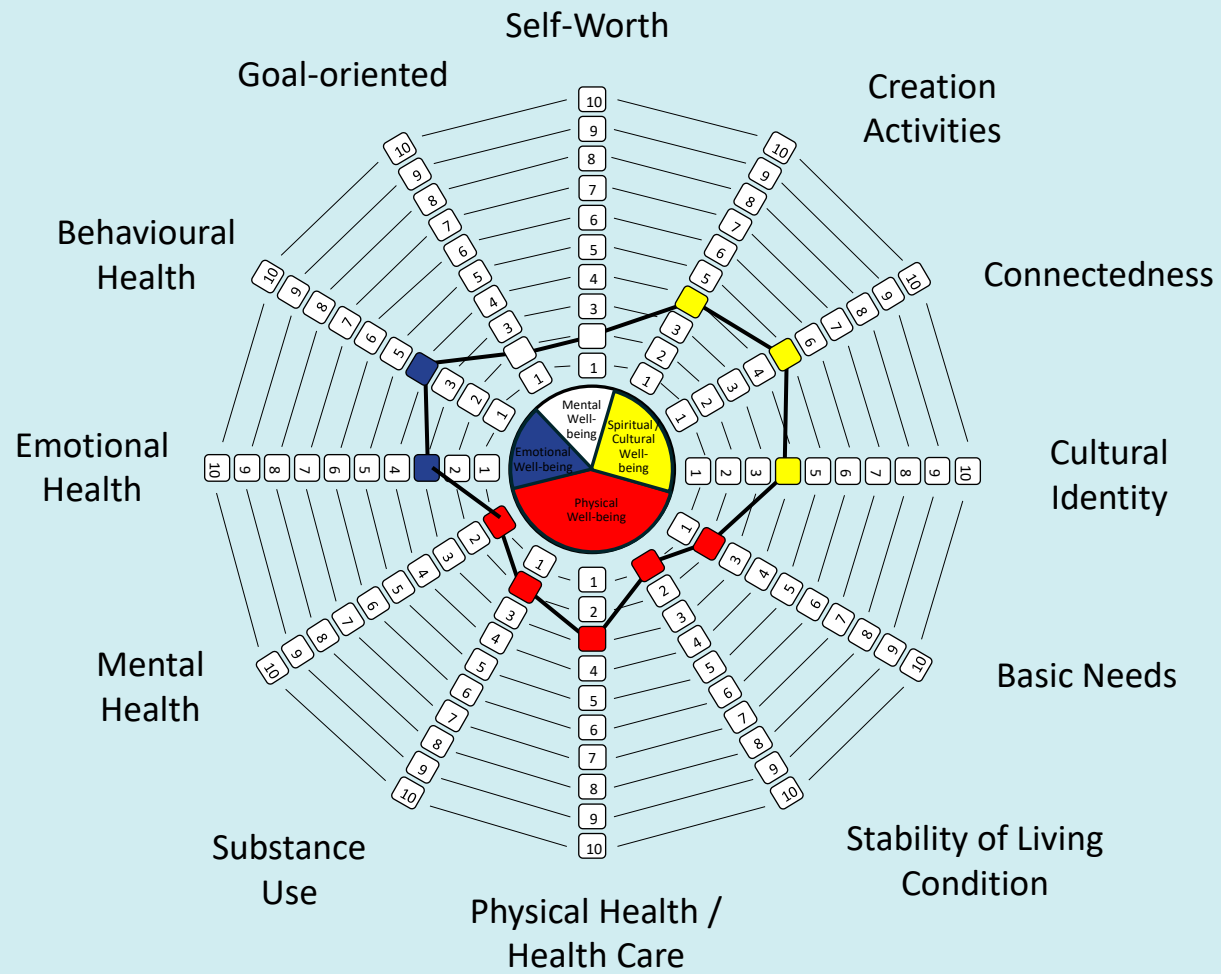
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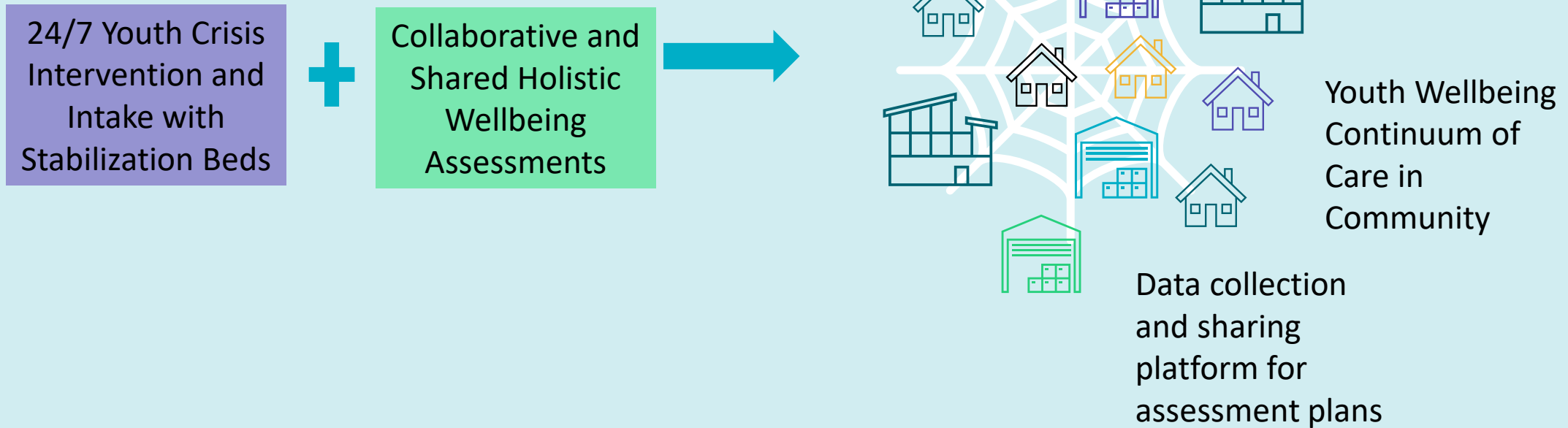
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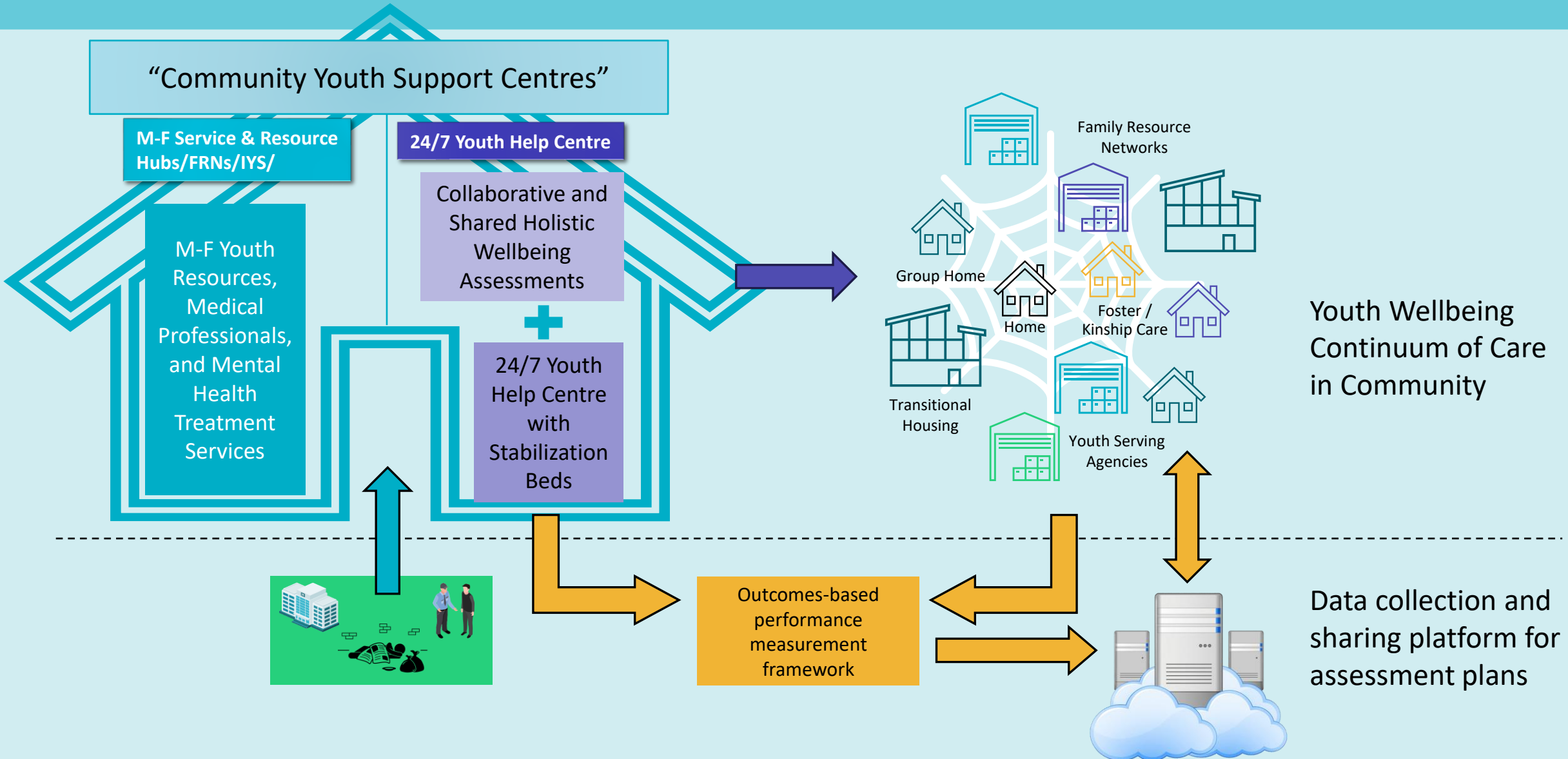
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YAC Collaborative Youth Strategy



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24/7 Help and Community Intake

“Community Youth Support Centres”

Resource and services (M-F)

- Onsite Medical
- Onsite Mental Health
- Housing connections
- Cultural and identity supports
- Employment and Education connections
- Programming and rec

24/7 Intake and help with beds

- Crisis identification, diversion, triage, de-escalation and stabilization
- Reserved and emergency beds
- Holistic assessment and entry into YAC connected communities of care

Next Steps

Share and seek feedback and support on YAC Youth Strategy



YESS to continue share learnings and evaluation of model (if funded)



Finalize youth success outcomes and evaluation framework



Create a governance structure that will oversee the collaboration and block funding



Find funding and develop Phase II of Data Platform: Intake, Assessment and Plan sharing



City mapping and agency strategic planning



Youth Agency Collaboration Members

Africa Centre
African Canadian Civic Engagement Council
AltaCare Resources
Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton & Area
Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
Boyle Street Community Services
Chimo YRC (Youth Retreat Centre)
C-5 North-East Community Hub/Ubuntu*
Edmonton 2 Spirit Society
Edmonton John Howard Society
Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
The Family Centre
Family Futures Resource Network
iHuman Youth Society

Inner City Youth Edmonton
Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women
fYreFly
Islamic Family Social Services Association
Multicultural Health Brokers
Niginan Housing Ventures
Reach Edmonton Council
SkillCity Institute
Tegler Youth Centre – Hope Mission
Terra Centre
Old Strathcona Youth Society
Pride Centre of Edmonton
Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS)
YMCA Northern Alberta

