

# Poverty & Social Inclusion

A Community-University Research  
Alliance (CURA2)

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# Background: Poverty and Mental Health

- In Canada, 27% of psychiatric survivors live in poverty, compared to 12.6% of non-disabled persons
- A single person living on ODSP receives less than \$12,000 per year (63% of poverty line)
- 3 relational patterns between poverty and MH:
  - ‘Additive’ relationship (poverty’s adverse effects contribute to the poor functioning caused by illness)
  - ‘Interactive’ relationship (poverty’s potentially negative effects are intensified by presence of other illness factors)
  - ‘Transforming’ relationship (poverty and illness’ interrelation can result in each being different than when occurring separately)

# Background: Social Inclusion

- Individuals with psychiatric disorders experience discrimination in the housing market, employment and social relationships
- Loss of connections and housing are more related to societal responses to psychiatric illness than the illness itself
- Social exclusion and discrimination for this population exacerbates the problems of poverty
- Greater impetus on social inclusion for psychiatric survivors is still required to overcome the exclusionary nature of current social policies

# Current Project: Purpose and Goals

- Overall purpose:
  - To better understand the inter-relationships between poverty and social inclusion for psychiatric survivors
  - To identify and explore how psychiatric survivors can overcome existing marginalization and social disadvantage
  - To develop concrete data with community partners in order to increase our capacity to evaluate successful policies
  - To engender community-based initiatives to counteract poverty and promote social inclusion for psychiatric survivors
- Timeline: We have received a 5-year grant from SSHRC (March 2011 – February 2016)

# Components to Project

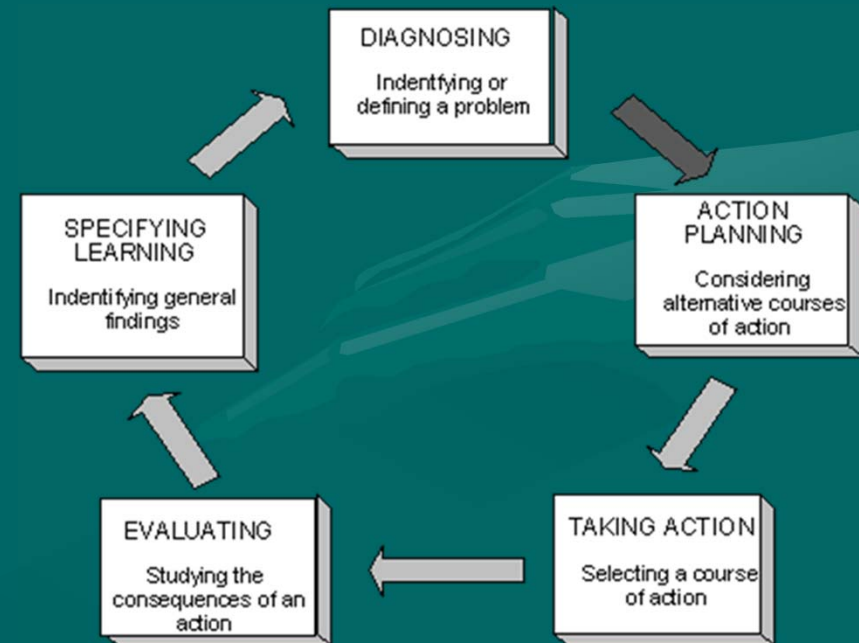
- This CURA will consist of 3 components:
  1. Research
  2. Training (e.g. in the context of research projects, activities credited as part of coursework, etc.)
  3. Community Capacity Development (e.g. workshops, seminars, publications, public lectures, etc.)

# CURA2 Organization & Structure



# Participatory Action Research

- Integration of scientific investigation with education and community action
- Researchers and community members work together to understand and resolve community problems, to empower members and to democratize research



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# Expected Outcomes

- Increased understanding of poverty as experienced by psychiatric survivors and the role played by inclusion and exclusion
- New university-level curricula and positions for students
- Community-based projects addressing poverty and social inclusion on individual, community and societal levels
- Critical assessment of current policies and recommendations for social inclusion strategies



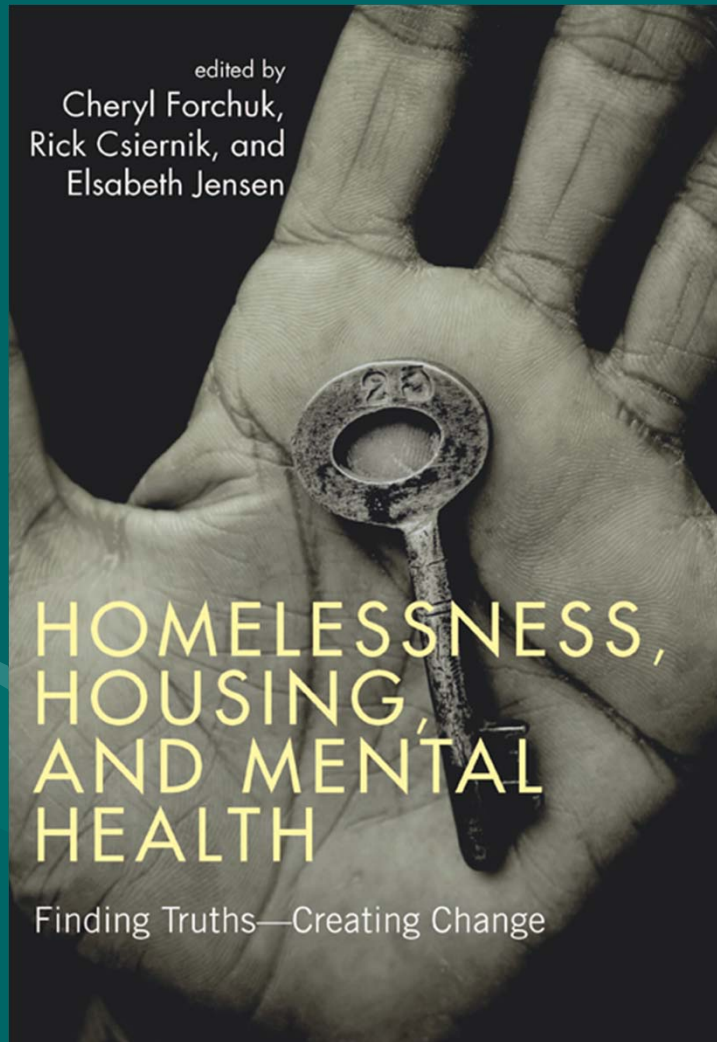
# Partners for Current CURA

- Partners Involved in this Grant
  - CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association) London
  - CMHA-Ontario
  - CMHA-Sudbury
  - Can-Voice
  - Centre for Research and Education on Violence against Women and Children
  - City of London, Community Services Department
  - Lawson Health Research Institute
  - London InterCommunity Health Centre
  - MerryMount Children's Centre
  - Mission Services of London

# Partners for Current CURA

- Partners Involved in this Grant
  - Neighborhood Legal Services
  - Raising the Roof
  - Regional Mental Health Centre
  - The Salvation Army
  - University of Manitoba – Nursing
  - Western
  - WOTCH (Western ON Therapeutic Community Hostel)
  - Women's Community House
  - Youth Opportunities Unlimited

# CURA: Mental Health and Housing



- Collection of articles from previous CURA
- Includes journal publications from researchers and consumer/community co-authors

# The ask?

- Participation in CURA: committees? Annual forum (Oct 18, 2012)
- Awareness: let us know if there is potential areas of collaboration

# Contact

- Academic Director: Cheryl Forchuk
  - UWO/LHRI
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  - E-mail: [cforchuk@uwo.ca](mailto:cforchuk@uwo.ca)
- Community Co-Directors: Susan Ouseley and Betty Edwards
  - Can-Voice
  - Phone: (519) 434-8303
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# Contact

- Project webpage:
  - <http://publish.uwo.ca/~cforchuk/cura2/>
- CURA office:
  - London Health Sciences – Research
  - South Street Hospital, Room E208 NR
  - Phone: (519) 685-8500 ext. 75896
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