

With child, without stigma:

BUILDING TRUST WITH PREGNANT WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS

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Overview:

- ▶ With Radius Health (Who is Radius Health)
- ▶ Pregnancy Pathways (Who we are from the start to present time)
- ▶ Some of the barriers for the women to access care
- ▶ Resources in Edmonton to help the women with:
 - ▶ ~medical needs, how we help them connect
 - ▶ ~Legal needs (Warrants, court, Domestic violence)
 - ▶ ~Children Services (Other children in care, and/or were in care themselves)
 - ▶ ~Addictions
 - ▶ ~Mental Health
- ▶ How staff work together to support the women



Radius Health

(Formerly Boyle McCauley Health Centre, rebranded in November 2022)

- **Community Health Centre**
- **Our Mission.**

Through primary care and health promotion, serve populations and individuals who face multiple barriers to accessing health services.

We work with our clients to address the broad determinants of health – not just medical health.

Common Client Characteristics

- **Low-Income**
- **Experiencing Homelessness**
- **Mental Health**
- **Substance Use Disorder**
- **Childhood and ongoing trauma**
- **Stigma**

Programs & Services



- **Primary Care Clinic**

- Family Physicians (Addictions Medicine Specialists)
- Nurse Practitioners
- Pediatrician

- **Specialized Clinic Services**

- Wound care
- Outreach services
- Social Worker/Health Advocate
- Mental health therapists (Psychologists & Psychiatrists)
- Dynalife Lab

- **Supervised Consumption Services**

- Community Response Team

- **Community Based Programming**

- **Off-site primary care clinics at:**
 - Miowayawan & iHuman
- **Community Programs:**
 - Kindred House (Sex Trade Exiting)
 - Mobile Clinic
 - HELP team collaboration

- **Dental Clinic**

- Accessible dental services with sliding scale billing approach based on income levels

- **Pathways to Housing**

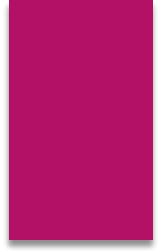
- Housing supports for individuals with severe/persistent mental health challenges

- **Pregnancy Pathways**

- Housing & social supports for pregnant women experiencing homelessness

- **Pandemic Response**

- Isolation Facility (operated March 2020-June 2022)
- Vaccine administration



Pregnancy Pathways



All supports are provided from a harm reduction, strengths-based and trauma informed perspective.

Staff celebrate when a woman is empowered to make choices about parenting, whether she decides she can have primary care of her child, places her child for adoption or gets to help Alberta Children's Services make decisions that are in the best interests of her child. The team takes joy in seeing a woman deal with outstanding warrants and build a feeling of trust in her relationships with authorities like police and Alberta Children's Services. Differences are noted when women can develop healthier relationships with their family, friends, and professional supports. Due to their short time in the program, rather than happy endings, there are happy beginnings - women beginning to imagine possibilities for their life they didn't see before, with more resilience to help them tackle whatever comes next.

Most common Barriers

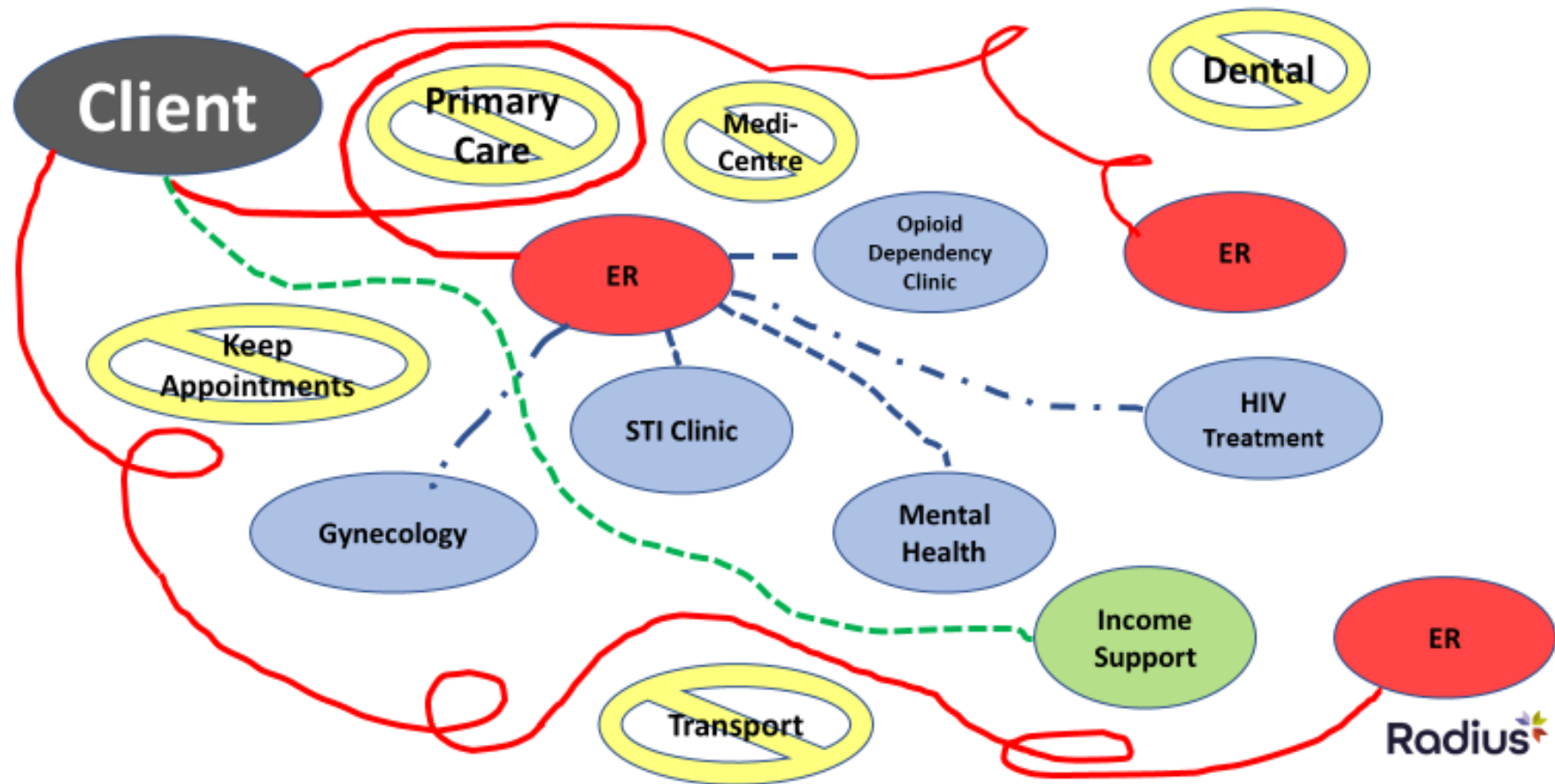
Shame

Warrants

Known triggers at health centres, and other care providers

Refused service or care due to mental health or addictions

Without Radius...



With Radius...

Client

- Primary Care Health Services
 - Wound Care
 - Psychologist/Psychiatrist
- Addictions Medicine Specialists
- Supervised Consumption Site
 - Opioid Agonist Therapy
- HEP C & HIV Treatment (collaboration with NAP)
 - STI Assessment & Treatment
- Women's Health/Pregnancy Test/IUD Insertion
 - Health Advocates
 - Outreach Support

AHS NAP

BMHC
Dental
Clinic

AB
Supports
In-person/
phone

ER

Radius

Medical Resources we connect our participants with:

Radius Clinic

Indigenous Wellness Clinic

iHuman Medical team

Boyle Street HER Team

Health 4 Two Nurse

AND ME! (We attend appointments and deliveries when they need our support)



Legal Needs: Warrants/Court

EPS:

~Warrant and Apprehension Division (WADU) (Helping to serve warrants through PTA or taking them in to see a JP, making connections with a social worker for any other help i.e. ID, addictions counselling etc.) They always show up in plain clothes.

~Northwest Beats Officers (Making connections with participants and supports, checking on the safety of the area, connecting everyone with the community through special events)

Our team:

~We give reminders of upcoming Court Dates (Court support, and talking to the lawyers about our program) and we attend the appointments to put them at ease.

Legal Needs: Domestic Violence

Domestic Offender Crimes Section (EPO, Restraining Order, Safety Planning)

The officers that they have connected with have been available to help them by talking to the partner, take the statement from the participant, fill out EPOs, etc.

Additional Help from our officers:

Making Christmas supper, buying gifts for the families and delivering them.

Advising us on how to assist the women with difficult scenarios like filing missing persons, assisting when they have to make statements, following up with us when there has been a stressful event.



Children's Services: How we help build the relationship

- ~CFS Workers assigned to other children in care
- ~Safety planning before baby arrives
- ~SFFA Workers
- ~Meetings with CAART Team, (officers, Children Services) to improve communication in crisis



Addictions Assistance that we connect the women with



- ~ Residential Treatment Centres that specialize in pregnant women
- ~ Residential Treatment Centres that accept women and children
- ~ Residential Treatment Centres that accept the women without children in care is more accessible, but difficult for the moms to bond with baby.
- ~ Day treatment
- ~ Follow up support through meetings, support outside of treatment

How Staff are educated to care for the women as a team:

[Brain Story Certification » Alberta Family Wellness Initiative](#)

[Indigenous Canada | Coursera](#)

[Motivational Interviewing: Understanding Motivational Interviewing | Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers \(MINT\)](#)

[Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® Training | Crisis Prevention Institute \(CPI\)](#)

Trauma informed Care

- Avoid repeated questionnaires and "history" taking
- Avoid judgment of risk factors and behaviours (e.g. teeth brushing and underwear not a priority if you can't make rent or buy diapers?)
- Consideration of trauma experiences (ACE)
- Substance misuse (and tolerance of same)
- The impressions of time and money (e.g. "What ELSE are you doing with your time? Why can't you make your appointments?")

EPS Involvement



Our Community/Family





Thank you!

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