



The Story of the

Krasmancentre

...Guided by Principles and Values

Reflections from a CSI on the occasion of its 20th
Anniversary

Celebrating 20 years!

Outline:

- Early development
- Navigating dilemmas and challenges
- Milestones and successes along the journey
- Current challenges faced by CSI's/Peer Support Programs
- Exploring what success will look like for CSI's and Peer Support in the years and decades to come.

A CSI's Grassroots Beginnings

- In memorium and with gratitude
 - Peer resource centre established
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- Implementing a drop-in centre model
 - Addition of our satellite location in Alliston - 2009
 - New programs: Warm Line, CLHIN C/S Network, PREFER, Application Support, supports for people experiencing homelessness

Expansion and Growth

- Investment into ‘crisis services’: Warm Line expansion to 24/7, WRAPhub Program, Peer Navigators in 2 hospital emergency departments
- First forays into formal partnerships with clinical services – bridging the gaps and demonstrating positive impacts from within mainstream settings
- New ground – Newmarket Drop-in in partnership with LOFT Crosslinks Housing and Support Services
- “Housing to Health (H2H)” collaborative – Housing First approach
- Enhancing support for people affected by addictions: “Wellness Collaborative”

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Accreditation journey

- External climate / pressures / funding requirements – we had to make a decision
- Our concerns: How might accreditation standards impact our organization?
- Overview of the standards
- Our challenges
- Our successes – Accredited as of May 2018 – 2022!

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Organizational Review and Design Project (2016)

- Why it was time to take a ‘step back’, reflect and think to the future:
 - Rapid growth and expansion
 - Stretched resources
 - Risk of diffusion
- Refreshed Strategic Plan, refined ‘Mission’ and ‘Vision’ statements
- Identified areas Krasman Centre needed to strengthen for ongoing success
- Complemented our pursuit to become accredited.

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Organizational Review and Design

9 Recommended Themes for Implementation:

- Advocacy
- Brand Development
- Funding
- Organizational Re-Design
- Personal Wellbeing
- Professional Development
- Space
- Strategic Plan
- Technology

Recent developments / areas of priority

'In The News':

- Org Re-Design Implementation
- Training: Peer Recovery Education Program (PREP)
- PeerZone Coordinators for Ontario
- Mobile / Outreach Peer Supporters
- Harm Reduction initiatives

Priorities:

- Wellbeing
- Space
- 'Branding'
- Diversifying funding

Recent strategies that have helped to ensure Krasman Centre's viability and success

Overview:

- Maintaining our stand-alone status
- Timely Org Review
- Appropriate partnerships/collaborations
- Pursuing Accredited status

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Crucial role of CSI's today

- Historical knowledge and expertise – grassroots, connection to broader peer support movement
- Touchstone for peer principles and values / resist peer drift and co-optation
- Peer values and principles into practice: training, employment, informing program and service design, peer based supervision, supporting communities of practice
- Person-centered at our core: raising up voices and perspectives of PWLE
- Beacons of Hope

Tips and Ideas for Sustaining CSI's and/or Peer Support Programs

- Ground our work in peer principles and values
- Utilize expertise of local CSI's: value and respect for historical knowledge and expertise
- Advocate for more funding for Peer Support programs
- Research – build on the evidence – area of growth and development for Krasman Centre
- Diversify funding
- Strive to provide supports in ways that are informed by our lived experiences and what is in the best interest of the people and communities we support
- Critical analysis of the status quo – advocating for positive change

Small Group Discussion:

1. What are the most important contributions of stand-alone CSI's?
2. What the most important contributions of Peer Support Programs that are integrated within larger 'mainstream' organizations?
3. Will it be more difficult to sustain stand-alone CSI's or Peer Support Programs moving forward?
4. How can we ensure both forms of Peer Support will be sustained in the long term?

Future visioning for Peer Support / CSI's - important considerations

What are 3 (three) main threats/challenges facing Peer Support and/or CSI's?

What are 3 (three) key strengths for Peer Support and/or CSI's to build on?

Thank you for participating!

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Krasman Centre: Celebrating 20 Years of

'Inspiring Excellence in Peer Support, One Connection at a Time'

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