

Stella's Circle

Hope Lives Here

All-Party Committee on Mental Health
March 2, 2016



StellasCircle.ca

About Stella's Circle

- 125 staff
- Volunteer Board of Directors & Foundation Board
- Operating budget \$8 million
- Serves 1000+ participants annually



WHO WE SERVE

People who have faced challenges that prevent them from full participation in our community, including:

- Poverty
- Mental and/or physical health concerns
- History of conflict with the law
- Addictions
- History of abuse or neglect
- Homelessness
- Incarceration
- Illiteracy, interrupted education, & learning disabilities
- Limited or broken work history



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JUST US WOMEN'S CENTRE

- 2 social workers + outreach worker
- Funding received from Dept of Justice and Public Safety, Corrections Canada, NL Housing - Supportive Living Program
- Offer services at the NL Correctional Facility for Women in Clarenville and in the St. John's community

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JUST US – 2014-15 STATS

- 104 assessments were carried out and 114 new participants introduced to programming.
- 669 face-to-face individual sessions were held with women
- Groups offered - addictions, trauma, anger management, peer support group, Photovoice + additional 18 workshops and recreational outings took place.
- Staff also supported the work and women at Jess's Place, the three-bed transitional house for women in recovery from addictions
- Provide 7 hours a week to Correctional Facility for Women in Clarendville

Correctional Facility for Women

- Offering groups: addictions, trauma, anger management
- Individual counselling
- Referrals to community based programs
- Help support women from prison to community release on Temporary Absence Program, under Parole and Probation supervision, on bail.

ISSUES

- Impact on those incarcerated as numbers in the institution increase
- Implications on staff re increased numbers
- Stigma
- Women and family
- Aboriginal community

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Clearly understanding the issues – Gender and Justice Network
- More focus on community services/collaboration
- Co-ordination of services, what are we each offering
- Stigma different for women in criminal justice system

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