

Welcome to webinar # 452
September 24, 2015 1:00 – 2:30 PM Eastern Time
(Teleconference open for participants at 12:50 ET)

Promising Practices Across Canada for Housing Women who are Older and Fleeing Abuse

Presenters:

Janice Abbott, CEO, Atira Women's Resource Society

Margaret Peters, Social Development & Education Worker, Yale First Nations

Step #1: *Teleconference*

All Audio by telephone

- If your line is 'bad' – hang up and call back in
- Participant lines muted
- Recording announcement



Step #2: *The Internet Conference* (via 'ADOBE CONNECT')

No audio via internet



- SEE the PowerPoint being shown.
- Post your comments/questions.
- See postings from your colleagues.
- Join in the interactive polls.



Difficulties? *You can still participate! (use the back up PowerPoint - post your comments via email)*

Step #3: *Back up PowerPoint Presentation*

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How to post comments/questions during the webinar



Joining in by
Telephone

+

Adobe Connect Internet Conference

Use the text box!



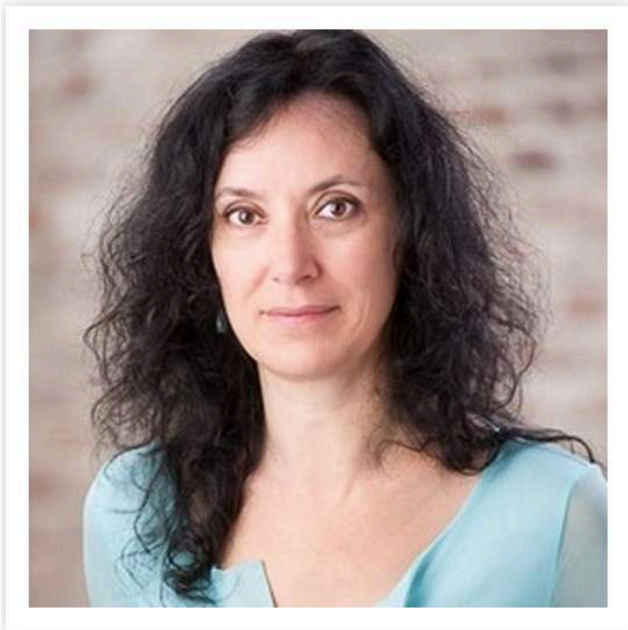
Joining by
Telephone +
Backup PowerPoint

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Please introduce yourself!

- *Name*
- *Organization*
- *Location*
- *Group in Attendance?*

Presenters



Janice Abbott

CEO

Atira Women's Resource Society

Janice has lead the Society through its incredible growth from a single transition house located in South Surrey, BC with a staff of seven to a large multi-service agency with two, for-profit subsidiaries, a development arm and more than 500 staff. She has headed up numerous innovative capital projects including Canada's first multi-unit recycled shipping container housing development, which was completed in August 2013.

Presenters



Margaret Peters

Social Development and Education
Worker

Yale First Nations

Margaret holds a Social Service Diploma from the University of the Fraser Valley College and has several years of volunteer and work experience with women, children, youth, and community. As the Social Development and Education Worker for Yale First Nation, she is responsible for client intake, assessment, eligibility for income assistance, and financial reporting, as well as education and career counselling.

What province/territory are you from?



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*Answer via Adobe Connect :
Poll*

*OR RSVP to access instruction
email*

- BC
- AB
- SK
- MB
- ON
- QC
- NB
- NS
- PEI
- NL
- YK
- NWT
- NU
- Other

Who is joining in?



Adobe Connect Poll

OR RSVP to access instruction email

√ What sector are you from?

- √ *Public Health*
- √ *Education*
- √ *Research*
- √ *Govt/Ministry*
- √ *Health practitioner*
- √ *NGO*
- √ *Other?*



Who is joining in?

Adobe Connect Poll

OR RSVP to access instruction email

- **What is your role?**
 - Research
 - Practitioner
 - Manager
 - Decision Maker
 - Policy Maker
 - Community Leader
 - Other



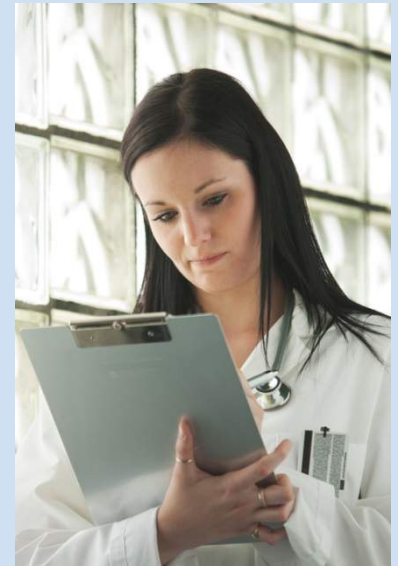
Re: Your Involvement

Adobe Connect Poll

OR RSVP to access instruction email

Are you currently working on this issue?

- Yes
- No
- ?





PROMISING PRACTICES ACROSS CANADA
FOR HOUSING WOMEN WHO ARE OLDER AND FLEEING ABUSE

PROMISING PRACTICES ACROSS CANADA

for Housing Women who are Older and Fleeing Abuse

This webinar will showcase a promising practices document created by women from a network of women and elder-serving organizations from across Canada, all of which offer programs accessible to women who are older and fleeing violence/abuse. The document explores women's lives across race, class, gender, sexual orientation and ability; women who are older and fleeing abuse are from all walks of life. Promising Practices challenges assumptions about women who are older and warns against stereotyping, and reflects a lived experience, identifying what practitioners and women who are older say they want, to meet their unique needs.

1. Nurture an environment that values women who are older

Nurturing an environment that values women who are older, means assumptions must not be made about a woman's ability to think clearly or to make her own decisions. It means never assuming what would be best for a woman. Instead ask her opinion and respect her knowledge and wisdom. Women who are older often feel ignored and invisible: it can be a powerful practice just to listen to a woman.



2. Develop outreach strategies tailored to women who are older

Sometimes women who are older may be unaware of anti-violence services available in the community as well as other options for leaving abuse. Common approaches to promote transition houses, safe houses and shelters such as brochures or social media ads, may not resonate with women who are older.



3. Provide individualized, woman-centred support for women who are older

Women who are older are diverse. They have unique needs, desires and abilities. It is important to ask and to listen in order to find out what a woman's priorities and needs are.

4. Focus on relationships and relationship-building for women who are older

It is important to support relationship-building between the staff and women living in the house, between the women living in the house and between women and their extended family and or community. Relationships with grandchildren and other family members can be very important to women who are older and the fear of potential loss of those relationships can keep women in abusive circumstances.

Intergenerational relationships can be crucial to a woman's healing. Friendships can help women to successfully navigate a transition period.



5. Focus on safety for women who are older

All women who are fleeing abuse need to have confidence that the transition or safe house that they turn to can offer them safety. Women who are older are no different. Safety can be created through various strategies, such as 24-hour staffing, security systems, reducing health and safety hazards, confidentiality around the location of the house, offering programs that foster cultural safety and developing a safety plan.

6. Facilitate access to health care for women who are older

A woman is more likely to successfully transition if she has access to health care and is supported so that she can navigate a complex health care system. This support can come from partnerships with service providers but it can also result from transition and safe house staff providing on-site care and assistance for women.

7. Develop strategic partnerships to help women who are older get the services they want and need

Supporting women who are older can require collaboration with many organizations, professionals, service providers and community members. Partnerships can be an effective strategy for bringing health services to the transition house, safe house or shelter - connecting women with regular nurse visits, local physicians and pharmacists who offer education sessions.

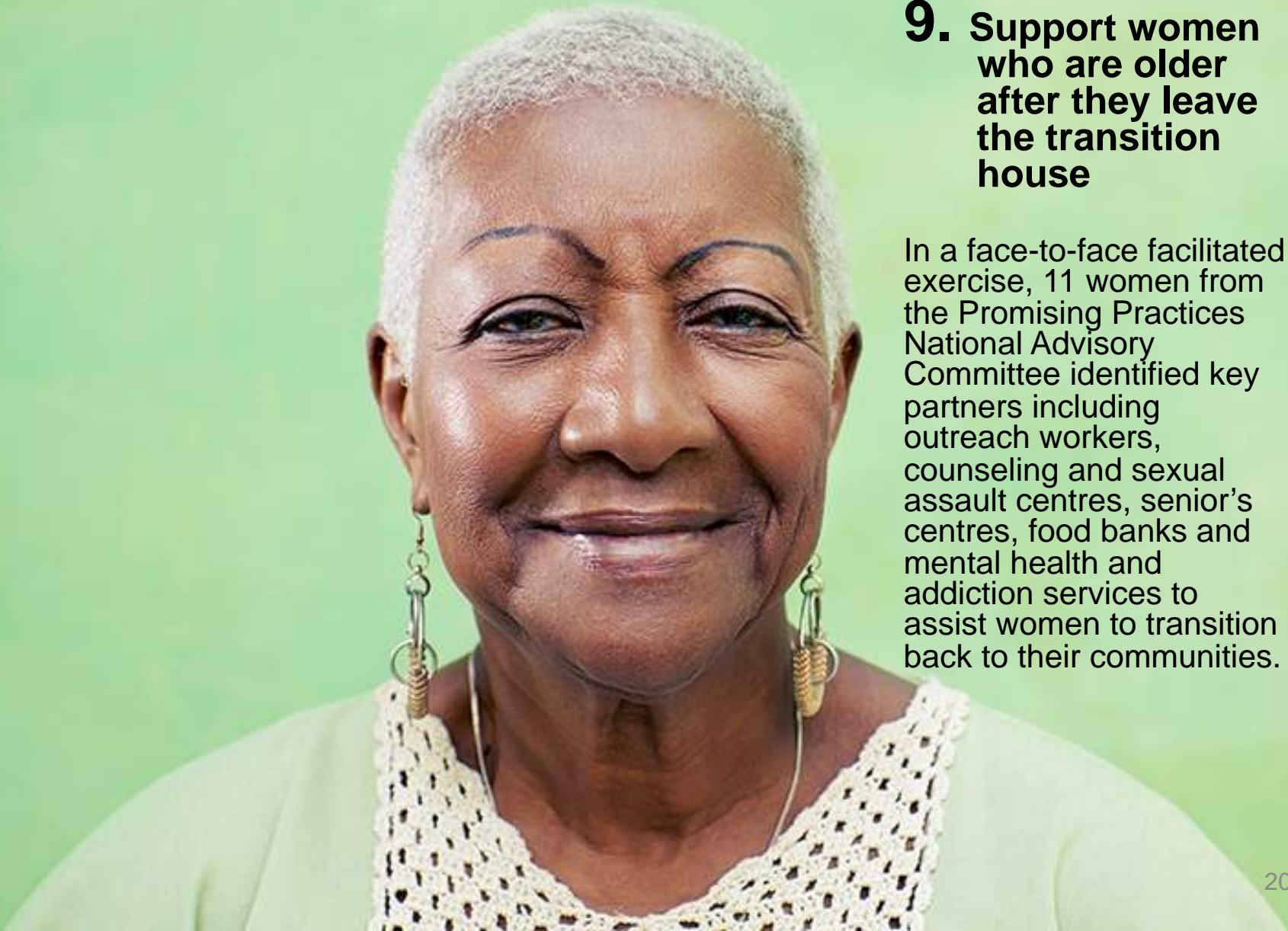


8. Provide women who are older with more time to transition

Women who are older may need more time than younger women to find suitable housing and prepare themselves to leave the transition house.

9. Support women who are older after they leave the transition house

In a face-to-face facilitated exercise, 11 women from the Promising Practices National Advisory Committee identified key partners including outreach workers, counseling and sexual assault centres, senior's centres, food banks and mental health and addiction services to assist women to transition back to their communities.



10. Integrate evaluation into practice, including documentation of use of services by women who are older

Integrating women-centred evaluation into practice will achieve a wide range of goals. Women-centred evaluation is central to, among other things, improving or expanding programs for women, based on evidence.



11. Work towards system change for women who are older

An overarching goal of the Promising Practices across Canada for Housing Women who are Older and Fleeing Abuse is systemic change, influencing community values and organizational practice and policies.



THANK YOU!

WEB LINK:

[HTTP://WWW.ATIRA.BC.CA/PROMISING-PRACTICES-ACROSS-CANADA-HOUSING-WOMEN-WHO-ARE-OLDER-AND-FLEEING-ABUSE](http://www.atira.bc.ca/promising-practices-across-canada-housing-women-who-are-older-and-fleeing-abuse)

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Your comments/questions please!



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question is for...*

*If you are referring to a
particular slide ...*