



# Thunder Bay and District Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Panel November 26, 2019

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## Geography and Demographics

Land Area: 230,000 sq. km

Population: 146,048 (2016)

Indigenous Pop: 15,075 (2016)

(not accurate as some may choose to not Participate in Census)

Highest proportion of the population of any Major Cdn. Community

Young compared to non-indigenous pop

13 First Nations Communities

Indigenous Birth Rate – 4x national avg.





# **Current State in Community** **re: Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health**

## ***System of Care/Cross Sectoral Partnerships***

### **Child and Youth Community Partners Table**

- EarlyON's, CMH/ID Providers, Childrens Treatment Centre; School Boards, Health Unit, Social Service Admin. Board, Child Care, Child Welfare, IFC, CapC/CPNP funded org.
- Mandate: To Promote the healthy development of children in the District of Thunder Bay – Early Years Screening Process; Collaboration, Engagement and Info. Sharing; Training and Capacity Building



## **Early Years Screening Steering Committee**

Early Stages – replacing the Fair Start Screening Process – will likely become a sub-committee of the Child and Youth Community Partners Table

- The purpose is to ensure an equitable start in life for all children regardless of who they are, what they have or where they live. Furthermore, we seek to
- Target our screening resources to those most in need
- Invest our resources at the earliest possible time in a child's life
- Improve both short and long term outcomes for children
- Provide accurate information and seamless pathways to services for families
- Level the field of opportunities for disadvantaged, marginalized, racialized and oppressed infants, young children and their families



## **Maternal Substance Use and Child Working Group**

- a working group of the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy Implementation Panel – members include TBRHSC (hospital), Lakehead University, Child Welfare Agencies, Children’s MH Agencies, Adult Addictions Services, Women’s Shelters, LHIN, Social Service Advisory Bd (housing, OW), Primary Health Care providers,
- Mandate: develop strategies for supporting pregnant or parenting mothers who use substances, their children, partners to improve family health outcomes

## **0-6 Children’s Mental Health Northern Network**

- With Algoma Family Services
- All agencies with 0-6 CMH \$ - training and capacity building
- 4x per year – Presentations/Webinars via OTN – all partners



# ***Challenges***

- Highest Rate Opiate addiction/deaths and NAS in province
- Fear of Service Providers
- Multi-generational Trauma – Residential Schools
- Transience/homelessness esp. Indigenous People
- Access to Primary Care/Paediatricians
- Distance/Winter
- HR crisis – SLP's, PHC Providers, ECE's, CYW's, Psychiatry, Psychology
- Funding – frequently based on per capita – lack of consideration for rural/remote needs



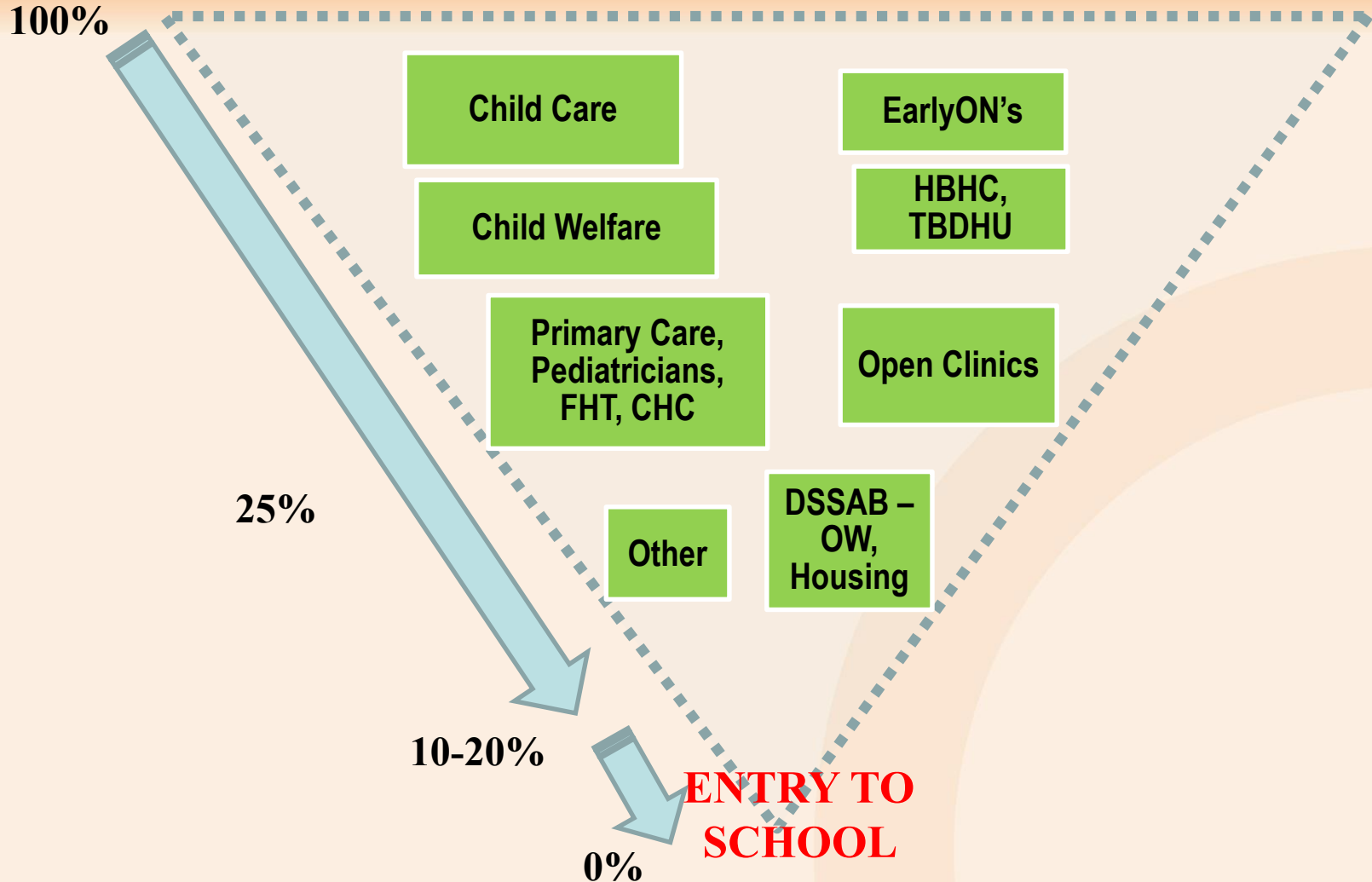
# ***Mitigation Strategies/Innovation***

Cross Sectoral Partnerships leading to innovative work - education/courageous conversations with mainstream service providers – Indigenous World View/holistic service

- Sherbrooke School Pilot Project – JK/SK, CMH Walk-In Clinic
- Indigenous EarlyON Centres – 5
- Early Years Screening – Kaizan Process/Nanibijou Daycare Pilot Project with new process
- Access to Tele-mental Health through Sick Kids



# Sieve-based Targeted to Universal Screening







# Successes

- Relationships among service providers – holistic view to service, outside the box thinking
- Indigenous EarlyON's - #'s show there was a need for a culturally safe, inviting space – food, ceremony, non-intrusive help through relationship building, role modelling, one-stop shopping for additional services
- June Steeve Lendrum Family Resource Centre – Apartment building for single women age 16-24 who are pregnant or parenting a child under age 6 - partnership with housing, Daycare provider and Dilico Anishinabek Family Care MH services – support from youth addictions, shelters, food bank, adult MH, Health Unit,
- Fan Out Process for Crisis – both in city and in First Nation Communities



# Thank you, Miigwetch

