

Developing
capability and
the competence
to advance
health justice
partnerships:



Insights & lessons
learned from
research & practice

Health Justice Australia Conference 2025
University of Technology Sydney
December 4, 2025

Michele Leering, PhD, CM, Visiting Scholar
Queen's University Faculty of Law
Kingston, ON, Canada
michele.leering@queensu.ca

OVERVIEW

1. Influences on insights and lessons learned
2. What capabilities and competencies?
3. Sample of competencies to develop
4. What law can learn from health?
5. Reflection



Influences on insights and lessons learned...

- Early Australian innovators (Liz Curran, Mary Anne Noone, Peter Noble, Linda Gyorki ...) since 2009, especially 2014
- US medical legal partnerships (including academic MLPs) since 2009
- ED overseeing Local partnership work in 3-country area in ON, CA since 2015
- Ontario's Health & Justice Partnership Community of Practice since 2016
- LJFNSW & HJA (Suzie Forell)
- Health justice research in UK (Beardon & Genn)
- ON, CA mapping study of HJPs in our province (2019)
- Scoping review with Queen's University Dept of Family Medicine
- Measuring what Matters Background Paper on Four Countries (2021, 2024)
- People-centred Justice & enhanced competency frameworks for law (2025)
- White Paper: Knowledge for Implementation – Promise of MLPs/HJPs (2025)

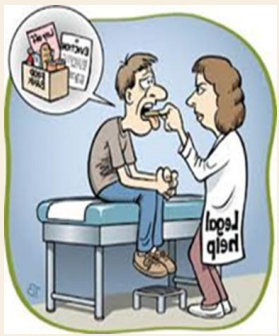


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Building capability and competence Skills, knowledge, and attitudes (values, mindset, confidence)



What phase of developing are you involved in? Are you in a leadership position or staff?

1. Conceptualizing & developing HJPs?
2. Maintaining & sustaining HJPs?
3. Healthcare capacity building?
4. Engaging in systemic advocacy?
5. Expanding & scaling up HJPs?

Getting started -

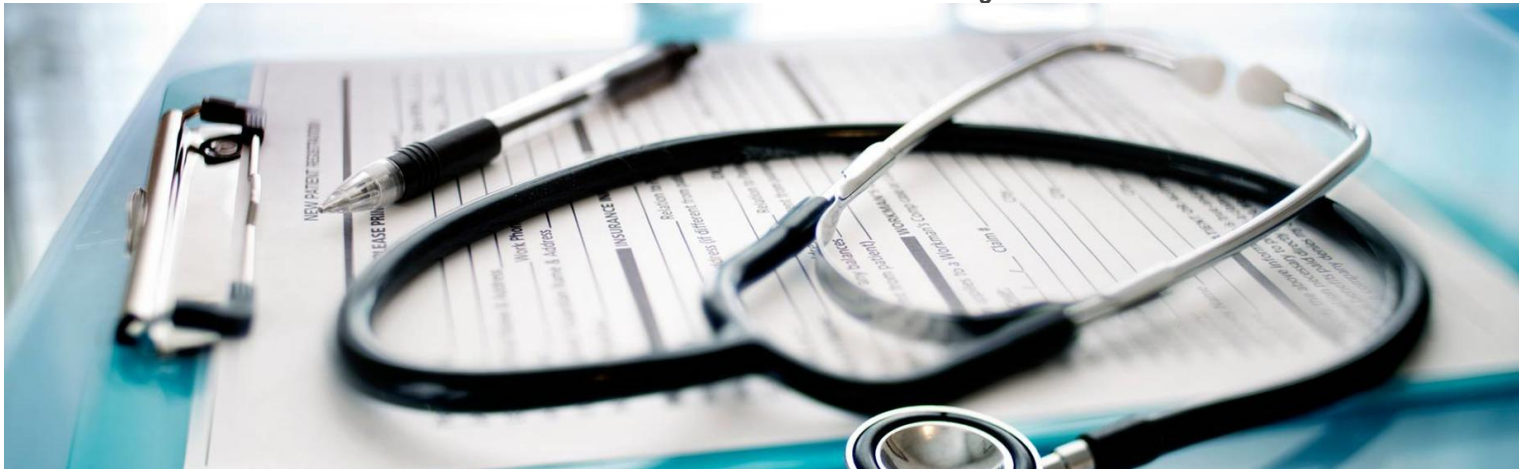
In addition to community lawyering skills - What else might help?


1. Learn a new discourse
2. Consider interprofessional competencies
3. Skill up in project management
4. Diversify research expertise
5. Foster innovation, creativity, risk taking
6. Develop reflective practice(s)
7. Engage in action research
8. Promote evaluative thinking
9. Strengthen knowledge management & sharing
10. Build evaluation capacity

Developing a new cross- disciplinary discourse to work across disciplines

- Health-harming legal needs (HHLN)
- Social/structural determinants of health (SDOH)
- Reflective practice
- Action research
- Early intervention & prevention
- Holistic intake
- Cold, warm, and hot referrals
- Triage
- Legal health checks

- Red flag training
- Referral fatigue
- Secondary consultations
- Service provider hotlines
- Collaborative problem-solving
- Interprofessional care
- Community lawyering
- Legal capability care, empowerment, health, literacy
- Legal needs and capacity assessment
- Intersecting legal needs
- Evidence-based practice
- Evaluation research
- Research methodologies
- Systemic advocacy
- Justice ecosystem



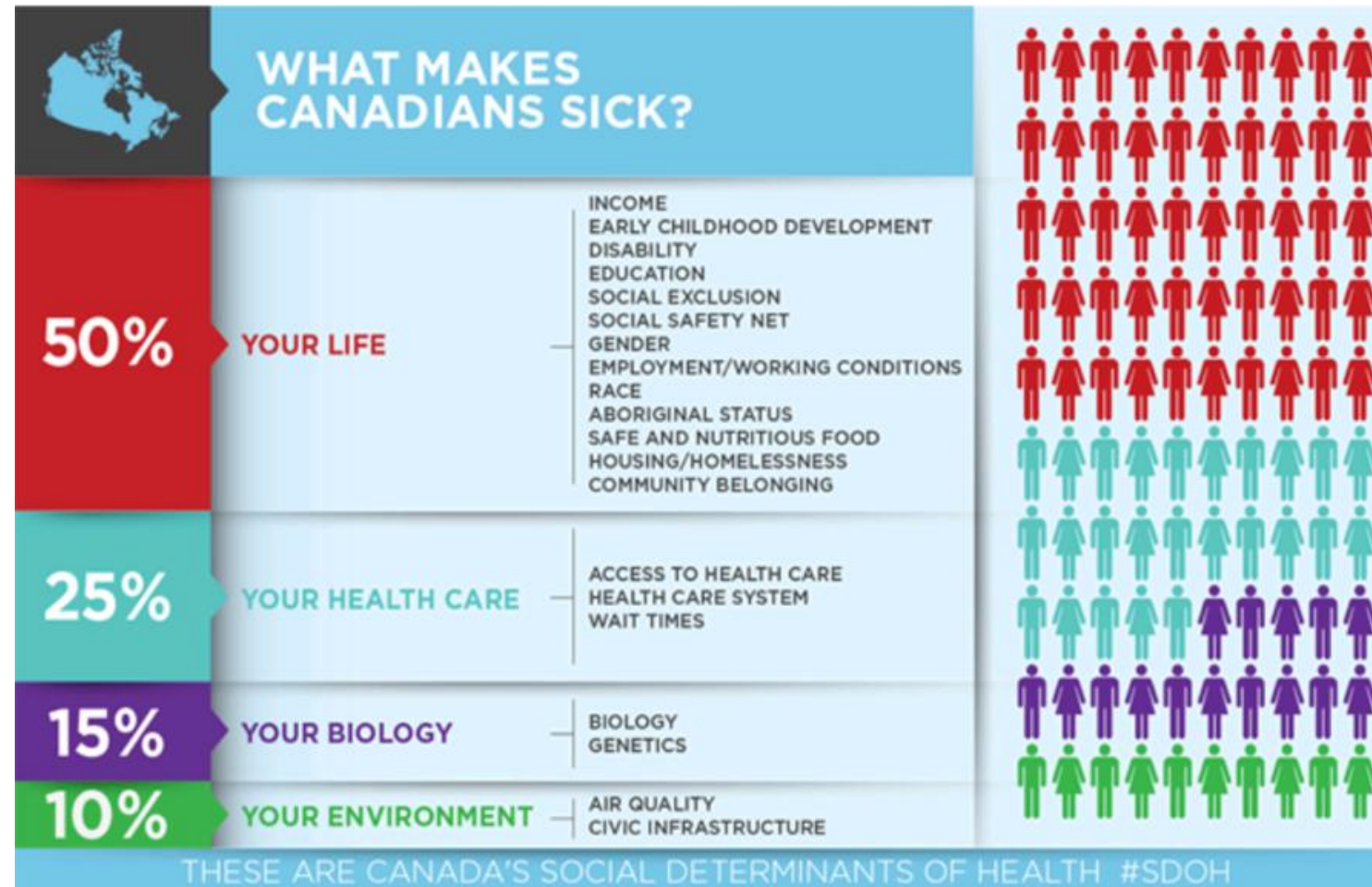


What are the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)?

- As defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), the SDOH are broadly defined as the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and people's access to power, money and resources, and have a powerful influence on health inequities.
- These determinants typically fall outside of the scope of biological and medical factors that affect health and wellbeing.

MORE ON THE SDOH ...

ANALYSIS BASED ON UN COMMISSION ON THE SDOH (2005 – 2008)



ACCESS TO JUSTICE SHOULD BE FRAMED AS A SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH (SDOH)

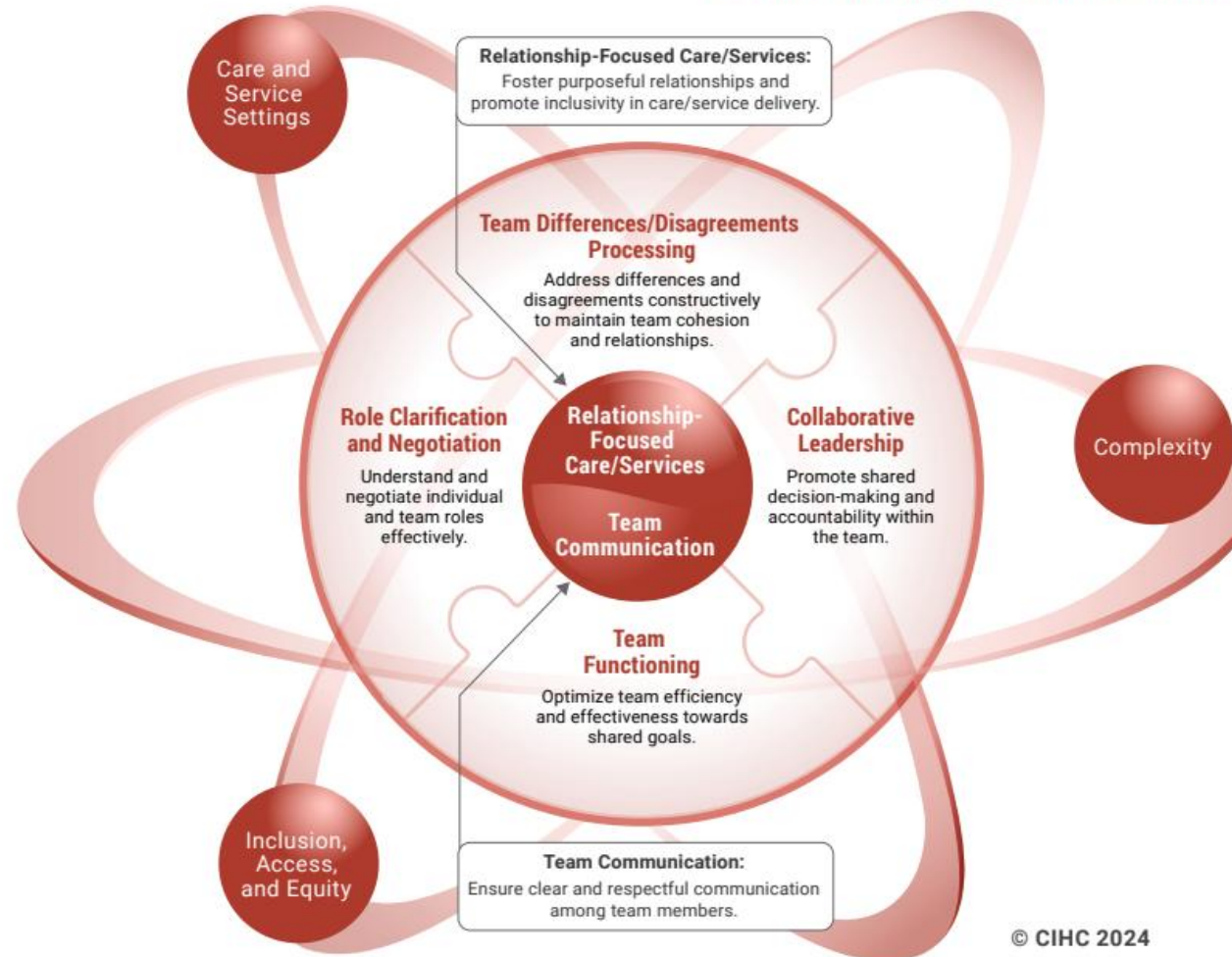


Law impacts many SDOH

- Access to justice itself can be considered an SDOH. Pathways include:
 - Access to poverty law services to address key SDOH like housing, income, employment, legal status, etc.
 - Legal challenges can hold governments accountable for actions that threaten the health of marginalized populations
 - Health justice partnerships can build relationships and capacity among health and legal practitioners

The following graphic illustrates the configuration of the six domains and highlights the influential factors that impact how the framework may be applied in different situations.

Goal: Enhancing healthcare and human services through collaborative, relationship-focused partnerships to shared decision-making around health and social matters.



What would Interprofessional competencies look like in the justice sector?

Diversify research expertise: Use the evidence and create new evidence

The impact of health justice partnerships:
International systematic scoping review findings
(Beardon et al., 2021) – 118 studies

Preventing	Preventing health and legal problems
Accessing	Accessing legal assistance
Improving	Improving health
Resolving	Resolving legal problems
Improving	Improving patient care
Supporting	Supporting healthcare services and providers
Addressing	Addressing inequalities
Catalyzing	Catalyzing systemic change

Evidence from Other Scoping & Systematic Review Findings



- Multiple beneficial outcomes from welfare rights advice delivered in healthcare settings (Adams et al., 2006)
- Plotted causal pathways between advice interventions and health outcomes (Allmark et al., 2013)
- Reduced health disparities for people with HIV (Martinez et al., 2017)
- Benefits for immigrant, refugee and asylum seekers (League et al., 2020)
- Improved financial security, health and welfare benefits for patients and health care service, and ROI of 27£:1£ based on 14 studies from 2010 – 2020 (Reece et al., 2022)
- Improved patient health status & healthcare utilization; justice, social, and economic benefits, health-justice integration and collaboration (Jomaa et al., 2023)
- Cancer patients had high numbers of health-harming needs, and legal help reduced stress and ensured better compliance with treatment, also [strange] RCT (Dowling et al., 2023)
- Positive effectiveness of teaching SDoH through MLPs (Welch et al., 2023)
- Trauma-patients and positive impacts (Alur et al., 2023)
- Systematic narrative review of MLPs and how they work (Johnson et al., 2024)

Creating capacity for innovation: Developing our “reflective muscle” to support multi-disciplinary practice



Integrative reflective practice



Goal: praxis



Getting started
on the path:
enabling
innovation

Integrative reflective
practice

What is
the change
we seek through
reflection?
Naming and
claiming five
reflective
domains

(Leering, 2014, 2023)
michele.leering@queensu.ca



practice

self

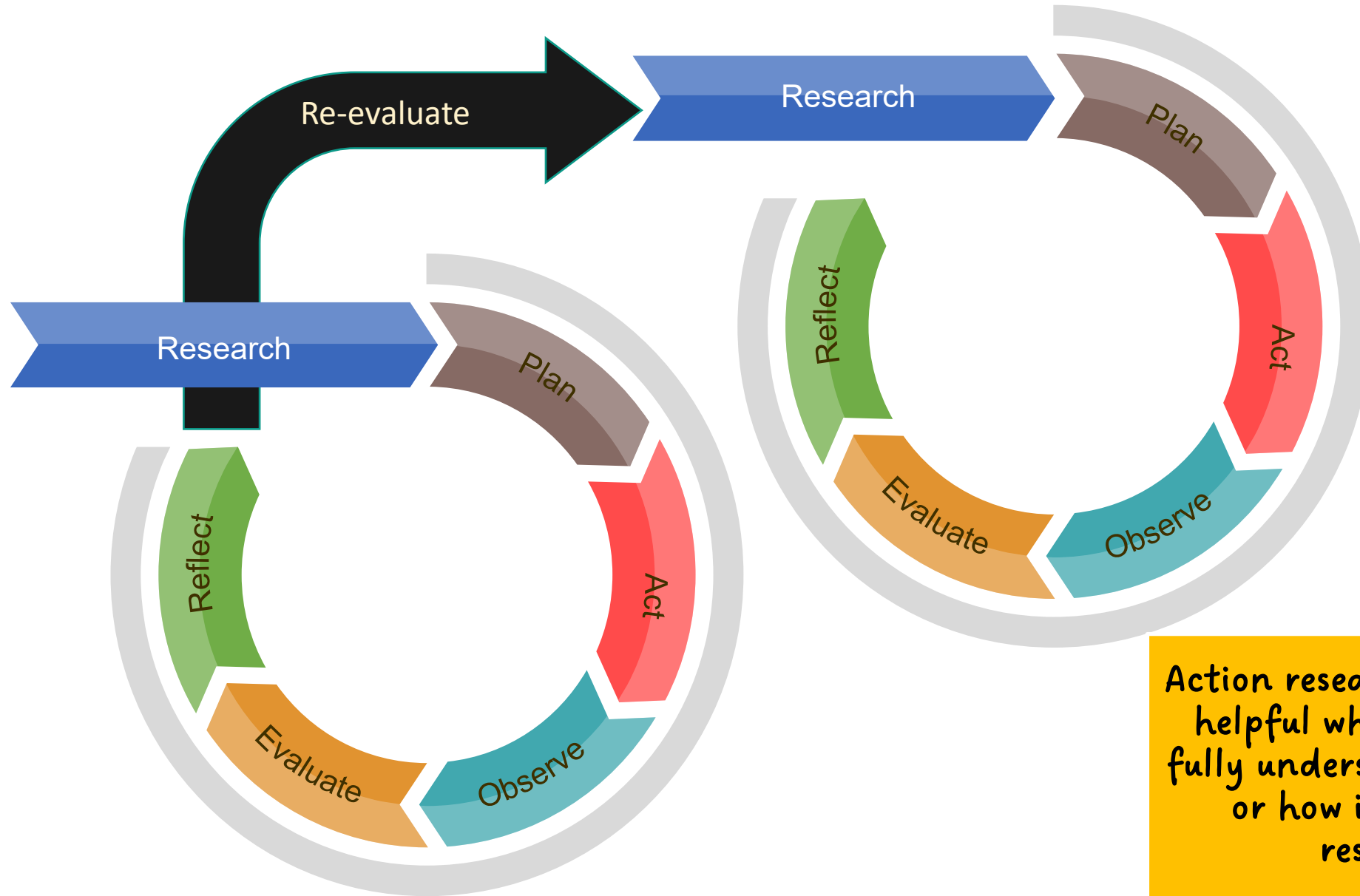
critical

collective

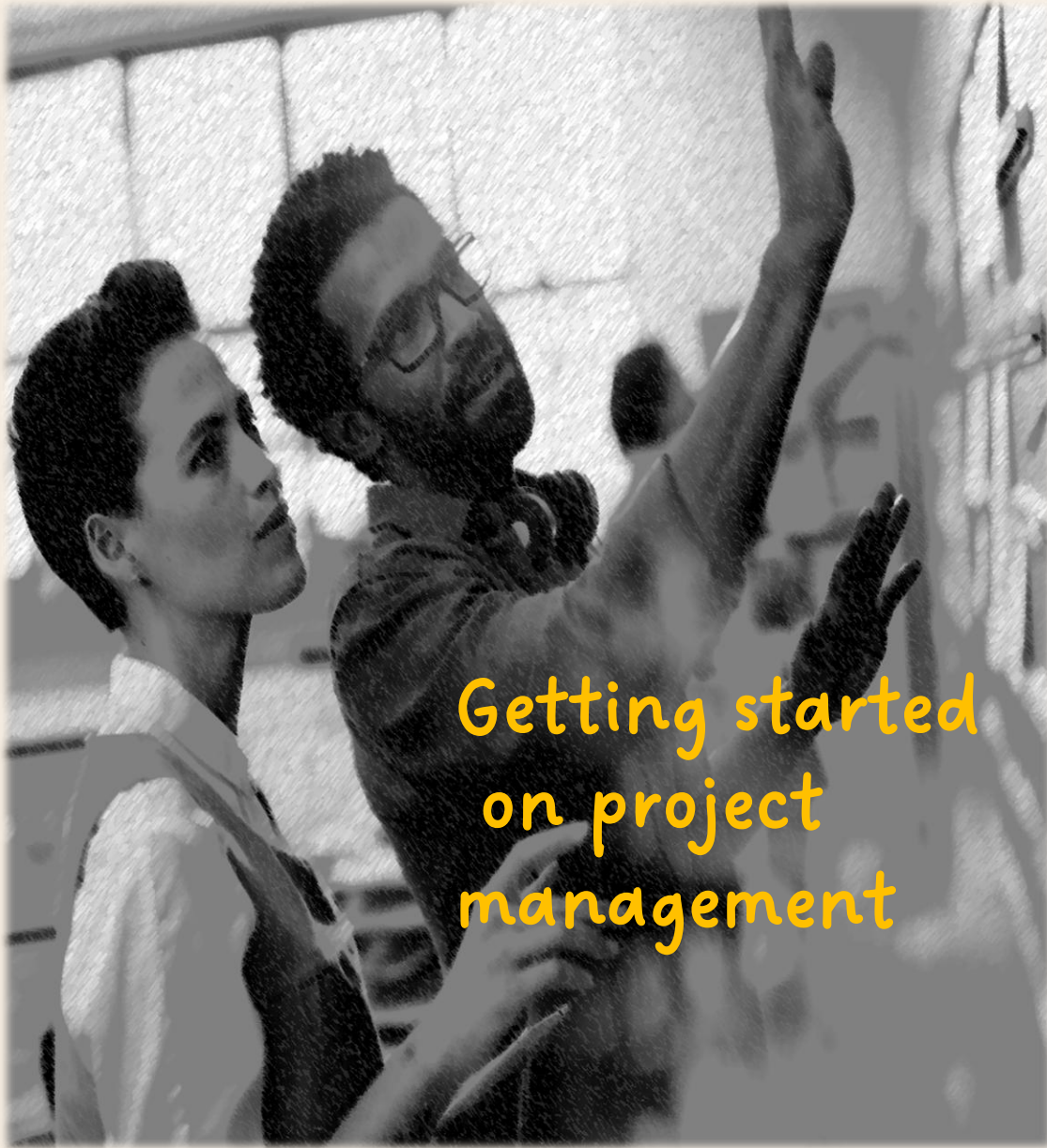
integrative



Action research: Key strategy in the toolkit of reflective practitioners



Action research cycle: very helpful when you don't fully understand the issue or how it might be resolved

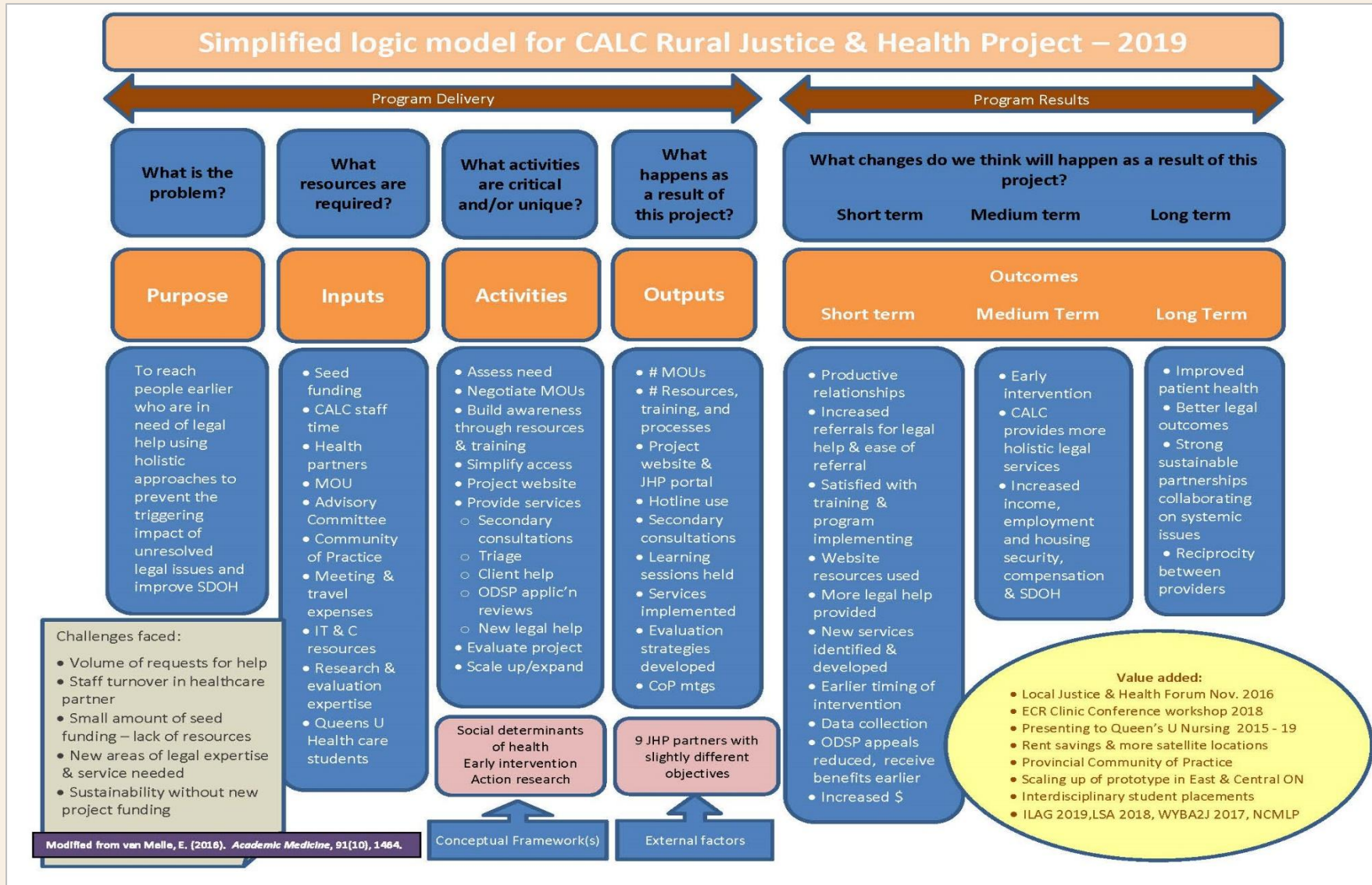


Getting started on project management

Name of Project/Initiative	How will we know we are successful? ✓ ✓
WHERE WE WANT TO BE (What is the change we are trying to create - the high level vision?)	
1.	
2.	
3.	
HOW DO WE GET THERE? The Action Plan – The theory of change	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
WHERE ARE WE? Scan the environment. Assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	

Developing evaluation capacity:

Creating program logic models – surfacing assumptions and theory of change



Developing evaluation capacity: Creating program logic models – second sample

PROGRAM DELIVERY				PROGRAM RESULTS		
What is the problem?	What resources are required?	What activities are critical and/or unique?	What happens as a result of this project?	What changes do we think will happen as a result of this project?		
Purpose	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes		
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Challenges Faced		Conceptual Framework(s)	External Factors	Value Added		
• • • • •				• • • • •		



What can law learn from health?

Celebrating the medical and healthcare professions possible contributions!

Evidence-based practice

People-centred care

Health equity

Social determinants of health

Structural determinants of health

Social accountability

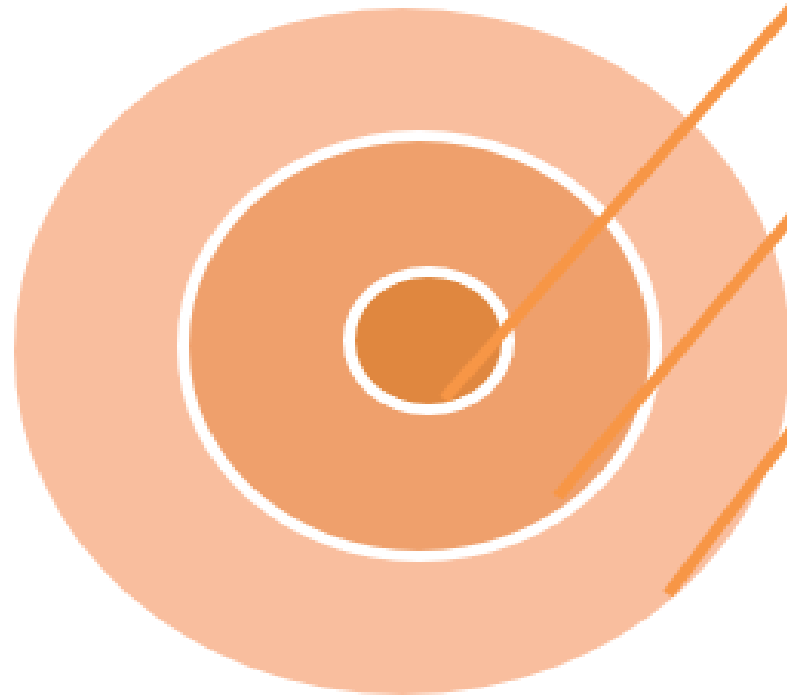
CanMEDS competency framework

“Health advocate” role

Interprofessional collaboration

Health justice partnerships - building the evidence base, supporting a culture of reflective inquiry/practice and action research to create change (Leering, 2024, p. 77)

What needs to happen next?



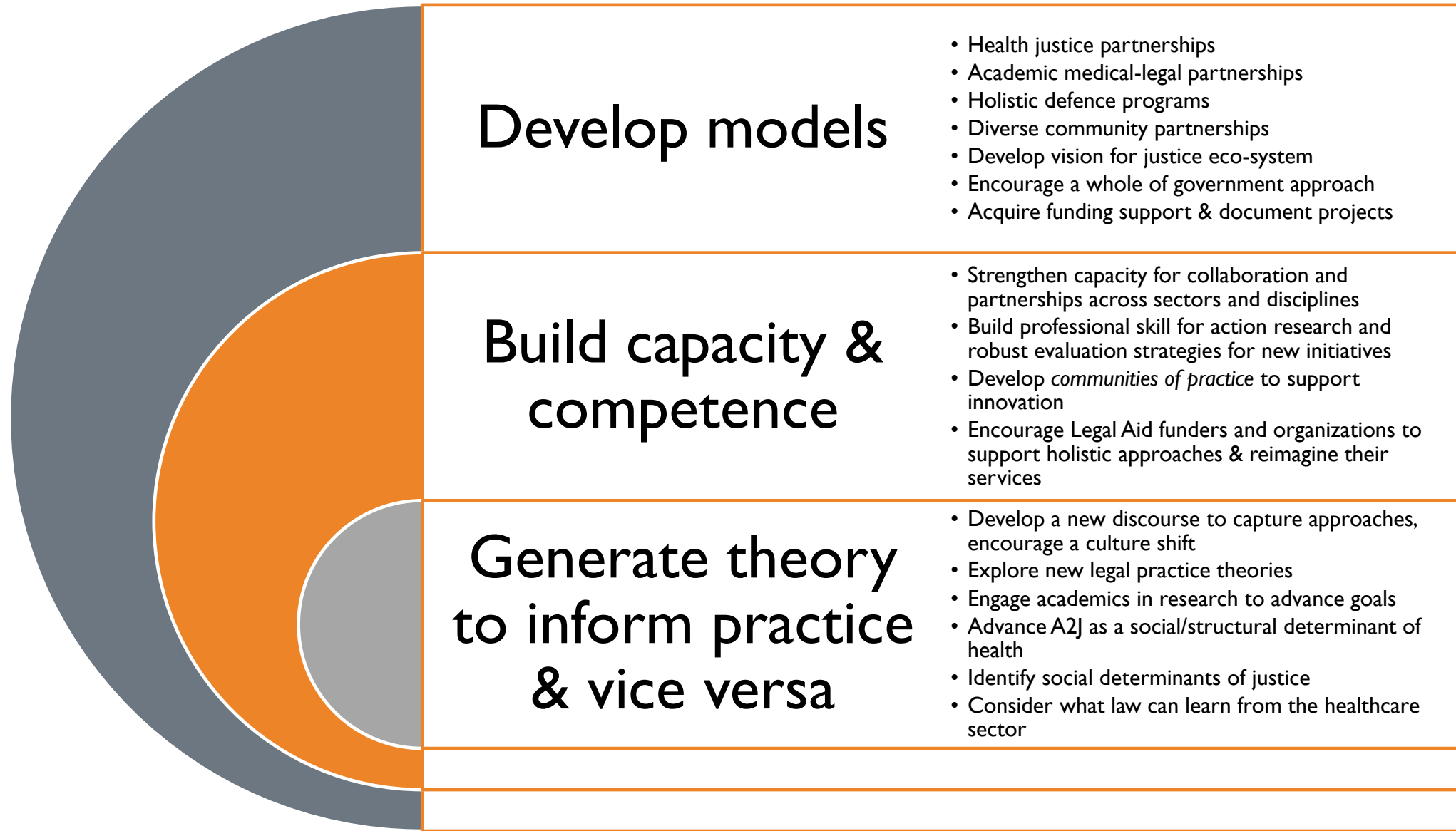
Micro: Strengthen local partnerships, and ensure sustainable. Increase impact. Support diversity of approaches. Document impact.

Meso: Build impetus and knowledge base for more partnerships across Ontario. Build a movement. Gather evidence.

Macro: Promote acceptance of viability of health justice approach by legal and health care professions, funders, and three levels of government. Support a culture shift.

Figure 23: Pragmatic rationales for building a stronger evidence base on HJP practice and impact

CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD: WHAT COULD HELP?



Some (not all) references

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