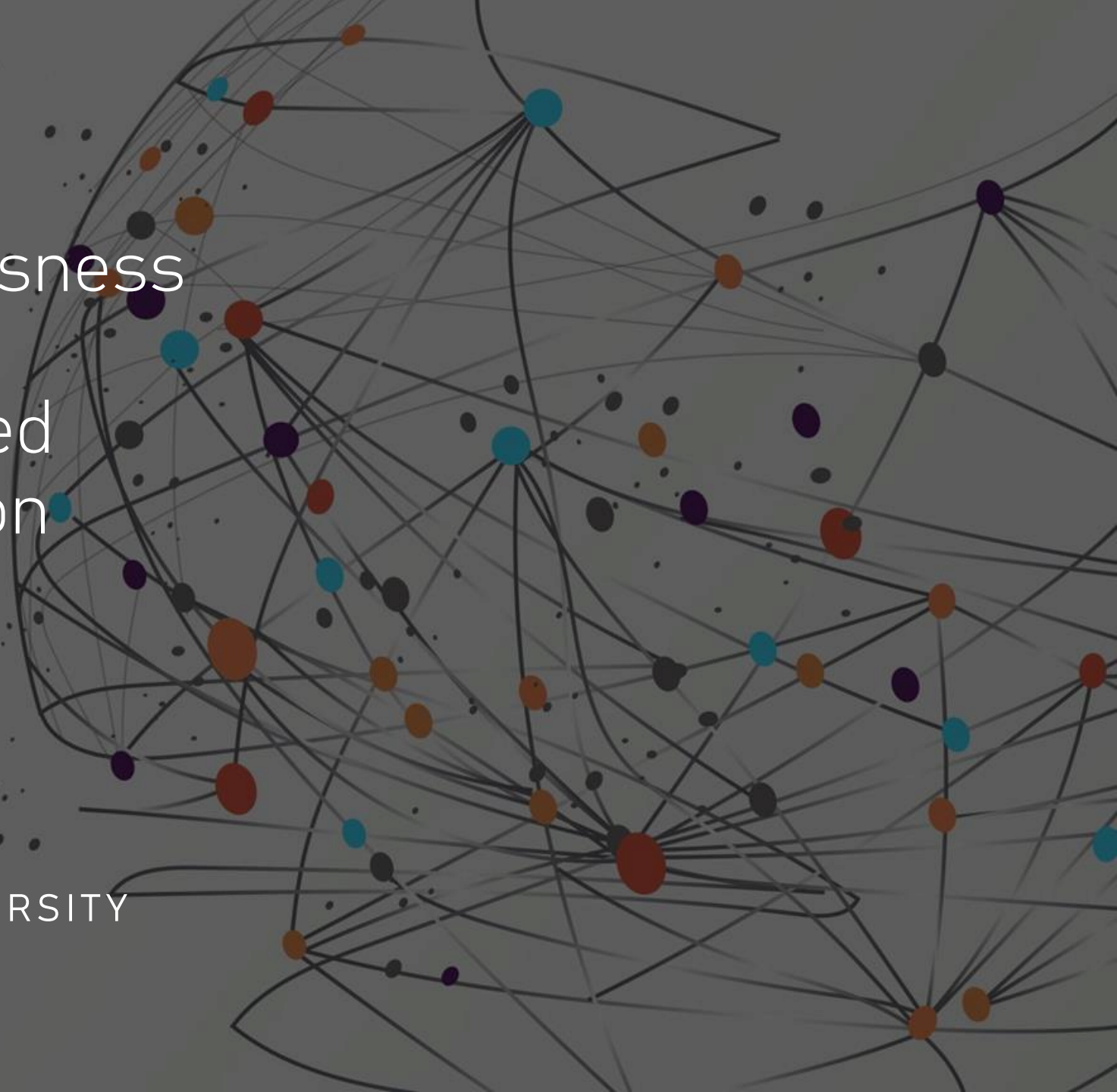

Preventing Homelessness for Justice-Involved Individuals: A Stepped Policy Transformation Approach

ISABEL GERVAIS, YMCA

LAURENCE ROY, MCGILL UNIVERSITY



Acknowledgments

- Lived experts
- Experts from the fields of intervention and policy – intersectoral group
- Québec Homelessness Prevention Policy Collective (cqpi.ca)
- No conflict of interest

Plan for today

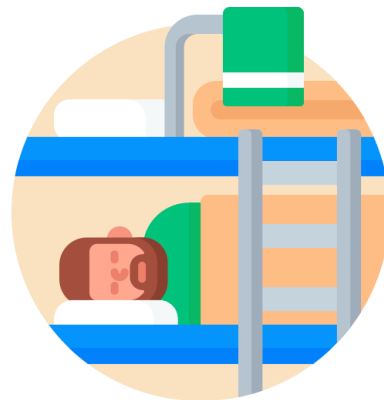
- Context of homelessness prevention in Québec
 - Focus on correctional, than judicial processes
- Phase 1 of policy transformation – Development process
- Outcome of policy development process: 10 recommendations
- Phase 2 of policy transformation – Reaching and Implementation
- Q & A

Context

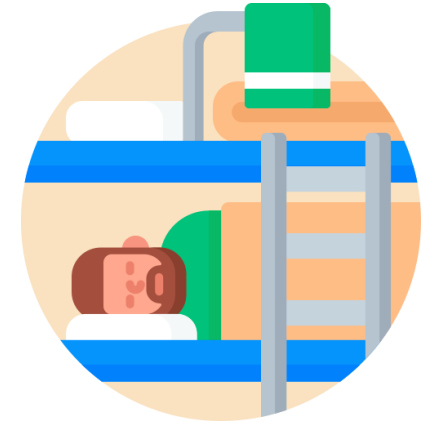
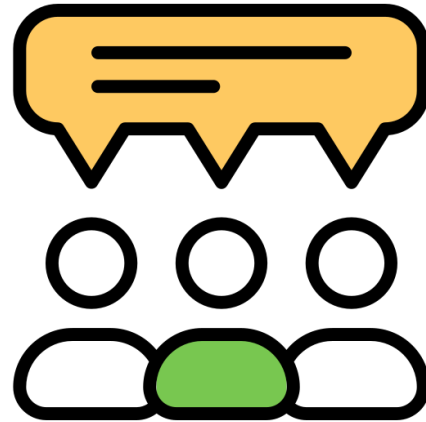
Le Collectif québécois pour la prévention de l'itinérance

Travailler ensemble pour prévenir l'itinérance au Québec. Un partenariat entre la Mission Old Brewery et le Département d'études sur l'équité, l'éthique et les politiques de l'Université McGill.

En savoir plus



Phase 1 – Policy Development

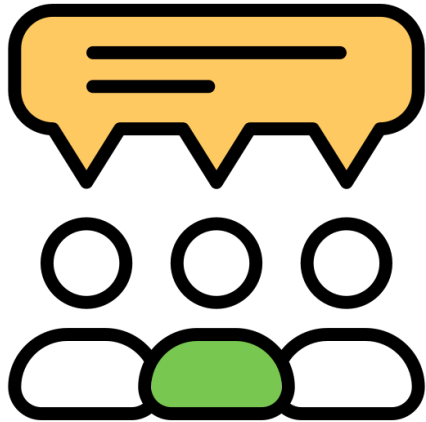


Systematic literature review on prison release interventions/prevention

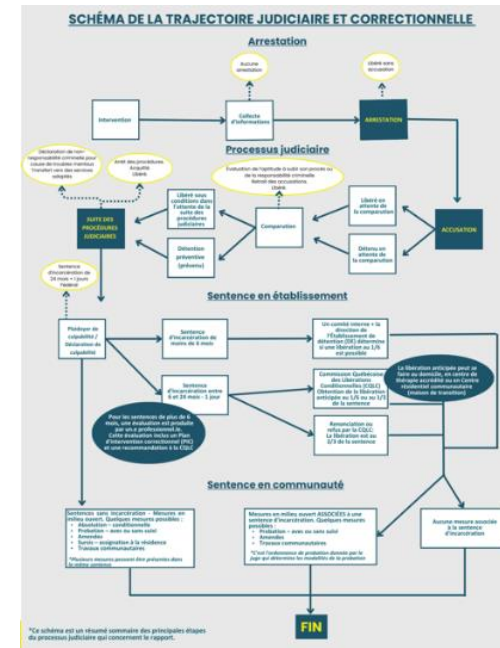
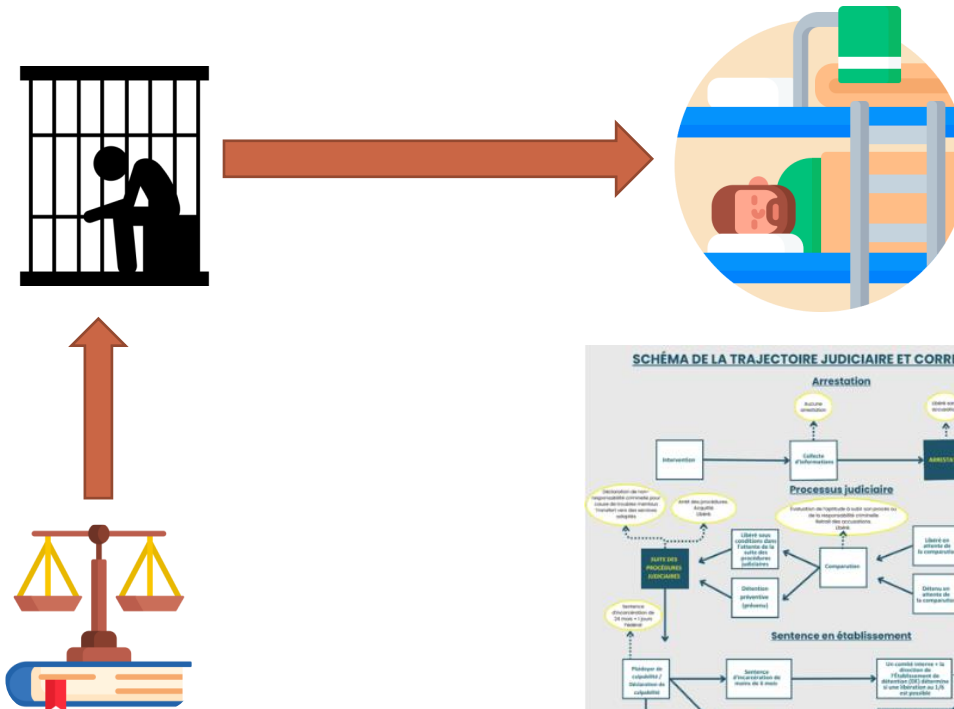


Not much published!
Two larger studies on Critical Time Intervention showed limited outcomes

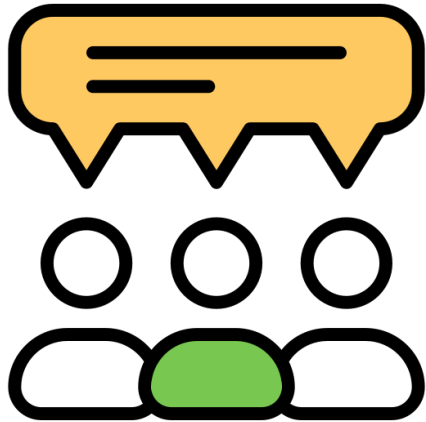
Phase 1 - Policy Development



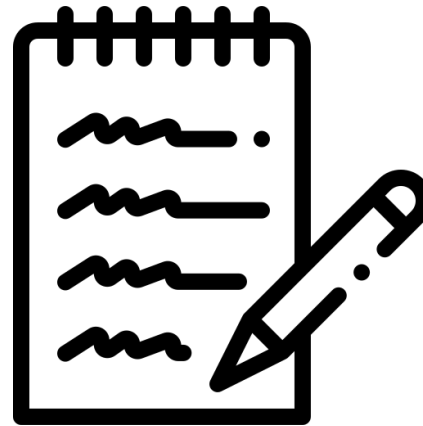
Cross-sector working group: met approximately 1/month for 2 years



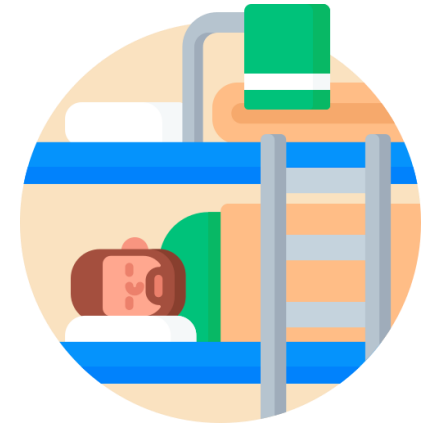
Phase 1 – Policy Development



Cross-sector
working group



Drafts of
recommendations

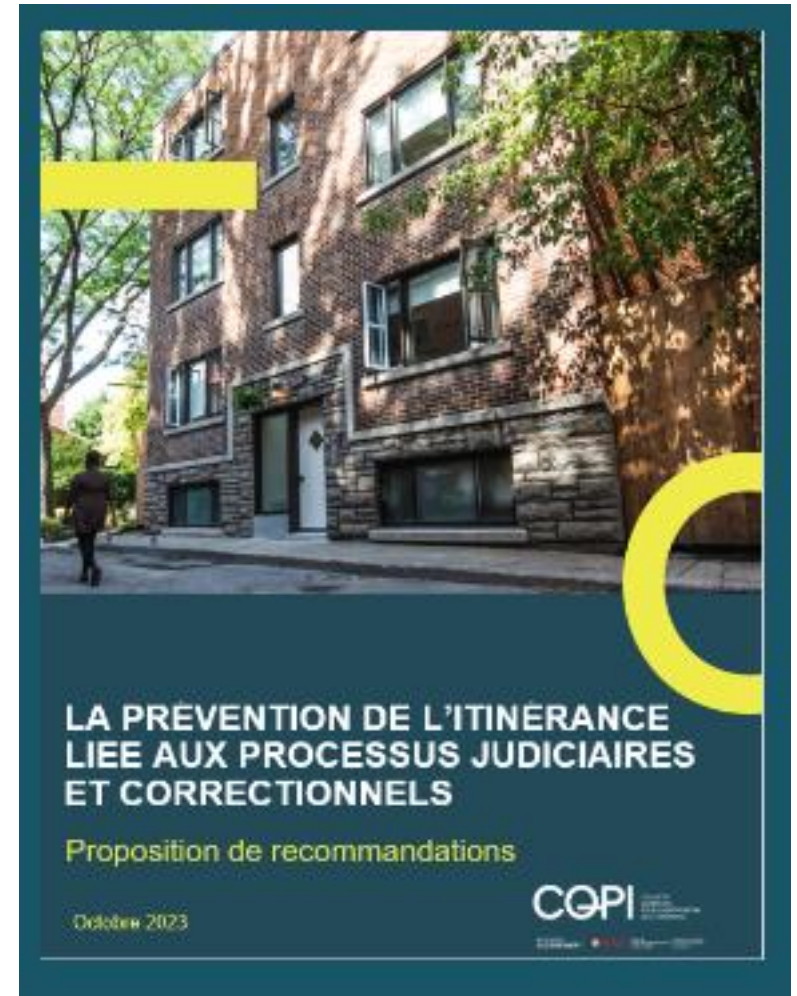


Group of lived
experts

Outcome: A Policy Report

10 recommandations, 3 axes:

1. Provide supports for individuals
 2. Build service-level capacity
 3. Improve access to services and cross-sector work
- + 1 cross-cutting recommandation



Axis 1: Provide supports

Systematically detect risk of homelessness throughout the criminal justice trajectory



Justice-homelessness case management services



Keep medical or psychosocial files open



Access to a decent income



Transform detention conditions to decrease post-release vulnerability



Axis 2: Build capacity

Assess capacity in each sector and create training curricula



Capitalize on existing training programs
« Homelessness 101 »



Create opportunities for cross-sector training and dialogue

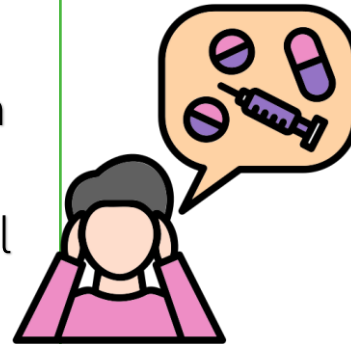


Axis 3: Improve access and work cross-sector

Improve communication and collaboration between detention and community services



Create spaces for people with addictions at risk of criminal justice involvement



Improve access to legal aid



Enhance quality and access to justice-related data



Build research capacity to better understand cross-sector trajectories and services



Cross-cutting recommendation: Listen and act upon experiential knowledge

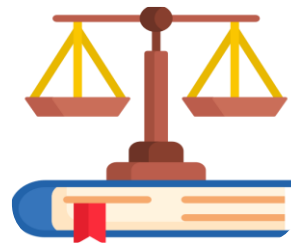
Improve procedural justice through case management



Foster meaningful participation in decision-making spaces



Enhance supports for legal clinics



Phase 2 – Policy Transformation through Reaching Out and Implementation

- Pre-release meeting with representatives from Ministry of Health and Social Services, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Public Safety
- Strategic timing of release
- Buy-in from cross-sector working group
- Media and communication
- Post-release positioning





Phase 2 – Lessons learned and challenges

11/8/2023

- Pick-and-choose approach
- Breaking silos across the ladder
- Avoiding reductionism and over-simplifying
- Caring for frontline service providers



Merci!

Questions?