An Exploratory Study on Social Work Upstream Interventions for Families Facing/ At Risk of Homelessness

Next Age Institute – 28 July 2022

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Research Data provided by: AMKFSC Community Services Ltd.
Key Stakeholders: AMKFSC Community Services Ltd. & Ministry of Social and Family Development

Outline of Sharing

1. Introduction

2. Methodology

3. Findings

4. Discussion

5. Recommendations

6. Limitations & Future Research

7. Conclusion

01

INTRODUCTION

"Primary Homelessness" – people who "do not have accommodation and sleep in public spaces not intended for human habitation" (Ng, 2019)

Why Homelessness Prevention?

## Practice Curiosity in Transitional Shelter

- Could more preventive work be done at community level, for families who are at risk of or facing homelessness?

What is Homelessness Prevention?

"policies, practices, and interventions" that can eliminate or minimize the risk of experiencing homelessness, and addresses individual, situational, and structural factors

(Gaetz & Dej, 2017)

Are we doing homelessness prevention?

Primary   **Secondary**   **Tertiary**

| Upstream Interventions | Remedial Interventions |
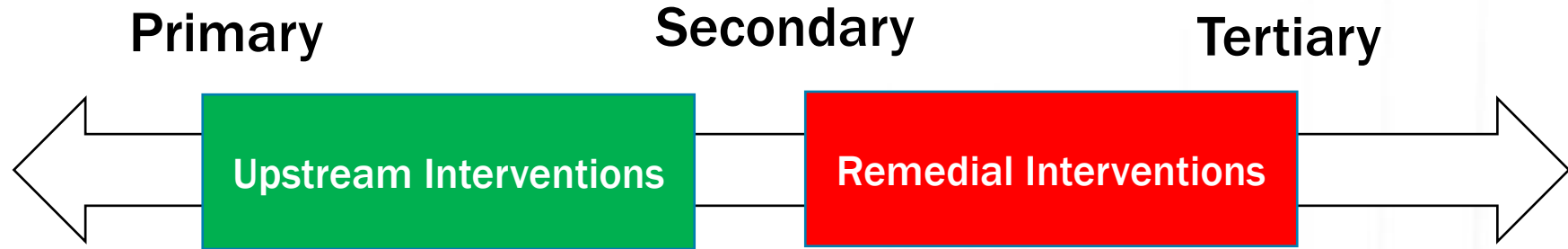
Preventing new cases "Working upstream"

- Universal interventions
- Targeted interventions for communities identified "at risk" of homelessness

Prevention of <u>long-term homelessness</u>

- Intervention with those at imminent risk of homelessness or just become homeless

Prevention of <u>recurrence of homelessness</u>

- Interventions with those who are currently homeless to exit homelessness and regain housing stability

3 Levels of Homelessness Prevention Policies (Gaetz & Dej, 2017; Sczeintuch, 2017)

Interventions **before** vs **after** housing issues occur and escalate into homelessness

Should we look at preventing long-term/recurrence of homelessness only or can we also look at preventing any risk of homelessness in the first place?

- Disruptive effects of housing crisis or immediate homelessness on families – affecting children's schooling needs (Shinn et al., 2013)

- High socio-economic cost –e.g. sustainability of remedial services such as shelters
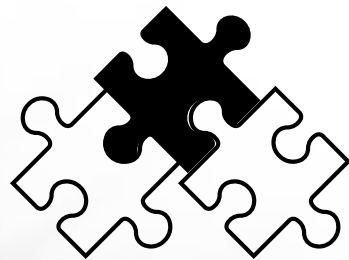
Primary prevention – *intervene earlier before housing issues or crisis occur* - can greatly complement and enhance existing practices.

📖 Rationale for Research

- No profiling study done

- Limited information on service usage patterns

- Limited local research on social work interventions (Ng & Neo, 2019)

Where can we start integrating primary prevention into practice ?

My Research Aims

1. To explore profiles of families facing/at risk of homelessness for increased awareness

2. To gain insights on most appropriate social work upstream interventions in the community to develop practice strategies

3. Contribute to local knowledge base on homelessness prevention

Research Questions

1. What are the profile demographics, housing characteristics and service usage patterns of families facing or at risk of homelessness?

2. What are the most appropriate social work upstream interventions for families facing or at risk of homelessness?

02

METHODOLOGY

Research Question, Design & Methodology

Exploratory study with mixed-method approach across two consecutive phases (July – November 2021)

Research Question 1: What are the **profile demographics, housing characteristics and service usage patterns** of families facing or at risk of homelessness?

Research Question 2: What are the **most appropriate social work upstream interventions** for families facing or at risk of homelessness?

Phase 1 – Clinical Data Mining (CDM)

All <u>complete</u> family shelter referrals from 1 April 2019- 31 March 2021 (N=208)

Phase 2 – Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

<u>13 participants in total, across 3 online FGDs</u> (FSC & Shelter social work practitioners) - Preliminary findings from Phase 1 were shared.
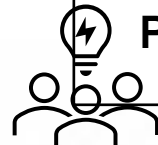
🔍 Phase 1 – CDM (N=208)

Data Collection

Inclusion Criteria:

All Shelter Referrals to TPJBM:

1. **Displaced families only**

2. Between **1 April 2019 – 31 March 2021**

3. Include at least a <u>Completed</u> Shelter Application Form

   *Double count referrals were removed

Data Analysis

- Descriptive profile statistics were generated via SPSS

- Total of **62** variables

- **33** variables selected for report

Phase 2 - FGD (N=13)

Data Collection

Convenience Sample via Recruitment Email

Inclusion criteria (FSCs) –

(1) **Past experience** working with families facing or at risk of homelessness **AND** have made/ supported with **at least two referrals to a transitional shelter**

(2) **Possessed minimally two years of work** experience in the FSC setting, as of 31 August 2021

Inclusion criteria (Shelter)

(1) At least **1 year of work experience** , inclusive of management of shelter referrals for families

Exclusion Criteria for both groups

(1) Had **any personal experiences of facing or being at risk of homelessness AND/OR**

(2) Who **do not consent to video-recording** of the online FGD session

Data Analysis

- Verbatim transcribing
- Thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006)

FGD Profiles:
2 FSC FGDs, 1 Shelter FGD, 4 -5 participants per FGD
50-50 ratio for senior and junior social workers

03

FINDINGS

Findings chosen based on discretion of researcher and interest of FGD participants.

CDM – KEY PROFILE DEMOGRAPHICS (HOUSEHOLD)

Single-parent Households

More than half (58.7%) are **single-parent households** (N=208).

Separation (44.3%) is the most common reason (N=122).

Close to 1 in 5 (18.9%) single-parent households comprise of those who are **single and unmarried** (N=122).

Prevalence of Divorce

Close to two-third of the families (69.4%) have members that are either **undergoing a divorce or have gone through at least one divorce** (N=206).

CDM – KEY PROFILE DEMOGRAPHICS (HOUSEHOLD)

Financial

Slightly more than one-third of families (34.2%) have zero income.

71.8% of families earn **$1500 and less.**

76.7% of families have **PCI $650 and below** (N=202).

Employment

Approximately 2 in 5 families (39.4%) have **all the adults working** (N=208).
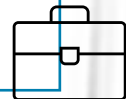
Citizenship

Approximately 2 in 5 families (39.9%) comprise of **at least one non-SC** (N=208).

CDM – KEY PROFILE DEMOGRAPHICS (CHILDREN CHARACTERISTICS)

Out of 208 families, 161 families (77.4%) **have children** (N=208).

Total number of children among 161 families :

275

Age of Children

76.4% of families have children **aged < 12 years old** (N=161).

29.2 % of families have children **aged 2 years old and below** (N=161).

Education – Children in School

Families with children most commonly have their children **studying at primary (40.4%) or secondary schools (41%)** (N=161).

Approximately **80.1% of families** have children who are all schooling (N=161).

CDM – KEY PROFILE DEMOGRAPHICS (OTHERS)

Prevalence of Health Issues

Close to half of families (44.8%) report having **medical health issues** (N=174).
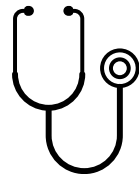
Presence of suicide/abuse/self-harm risk

16.8% of families had members that reported **presence of suicide/abuse/self-harm risk at point of referral** (N=208).
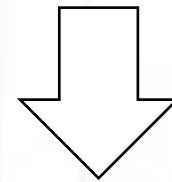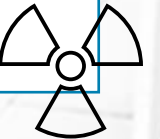
43.3% of families had members with **a history of suicide/abuse/self-harm risk** (N=208).

CDM – HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Most common source of accommodation at point of referral (N=208)
#1 - Temporary accommodation by informal support (20.2%)
#2 - Open market rental (17.3%)
#3 – Stay with family-of-origin (11.1%)

Approximately 2 in 5 families (38.9%) have **stayed at their source of accommodation for more than one year** (N=208).

There is usually **no single reason for homelessness**, with an average of 3-4 reasons contributing to homelessness (N=208).

Most commonly reported reasons for homelessness (N=208)
#1 - Presence of Financial Difficulties (82.7%)
#2 - Unable to stay with Family-of-Origin (75.0%)
#3 - Presence of housing policies/barriers (69.7%)

CDM – HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

More than half (69.3%) of families have **experienced forced displacement (N=199).**

Close to half of families (47.8%) **move once every 2 years and less** (N=205).

Majority of families (83.7%) have **no/ not reported any previous instance of public homelessness (N=208).**

Slightly more than half of families (52.8%) are/have been **legal owners / occupiers of HDB flats (N=195).**

Almost all families (98.1%) were **not experiencing debarment (N=208).**

CDM – SERVICE USAGE PATTERNS

Almost all referrals (89.9%) come from FSC (N=208).

Top 3 Presenting Issues (N=207)
#1 - Financial issues (53.1%)
#2 - Family issues (15.0%)
#3 - Family violence (11.6%)

Slightly more than one-quarter of families (27.0%) self-referred for accommodation issues (N=148).

More than half (56.8%)of families had to move out in ≤ 1 month upon referral to shelter (N=208).

More than one-fifth (29.0%) of families had been working with referral agency for more than 6 months prior to referral (N=208).

Around two-thirds of families (66.5%) were known to other social service agencies currently/previously (N=206).

Almost all (93.3%) were known to other informal support networks currently/previously (N=208).
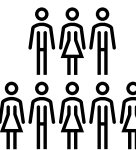
FGD Findings

Presenting Issues & Service Usage Patterns

Nature of Current Interventions

What are the most appropriate upstream interventions for families facing/at risk of homelessness in the community?

Micro-meso-macro Upstream Interventions

Barriers & Enablers of Upstream Interventions

FGD – Presenting Issues

Validate CDM Findings

*"Other issues usually are **loss of job, family relationship issues... financial issues stemming from not being able to upkeep open market rental**." – Shelter worker*

*"**I experience most cases of homelessness in the context of family violence.** So, for me, it would usually be that the family violence risk escalates to a point that ...no longer safe for the children. So that is the point where we start intervening at homelessness"- FSC worker*

Top 3 Presenting Issues
- Financial issues
- Family issues
- Family violence

FGD – Service Usage Patterns

Validate CDM Findings

Urgency of help-seeking/ service usage

"Most times, I experience families coming to us during their crisis, meaning they don't have anywhere else to go…either they are known to FSCs already or they are being directed to FSCs"- FSC worker

More than half (58.6%)of families have to move out in 1 month and less, when shelter receives the referral.

Limited awareness of help options

" families might not know that there's shelter…they are just going to SSAs to find out what resources they have…those who owe money to open market rental are expecting SSAs to help them to maintain and sustain open market rental, because there will be least displacement and movement" – Shelter worker

Slightly more one-quarter of families (27%) self-referred for accommodation support.

Housing Barriers beyond client's resourcefulness

*"they come in because of housing issue…not because the client don't know where to go, not because client themselves don't have the resources to go to HDB. **Actually they can and they are resourceful, but it's normally like an external factor that causes them to ineligible and not able to get the flat. which is where FSC comes in** "* –FSC worker

Reason #3 - Housing policies/barriers (70%)

FGD – Nature of Current Interventions

Secure interim housing awaiting longer-term options
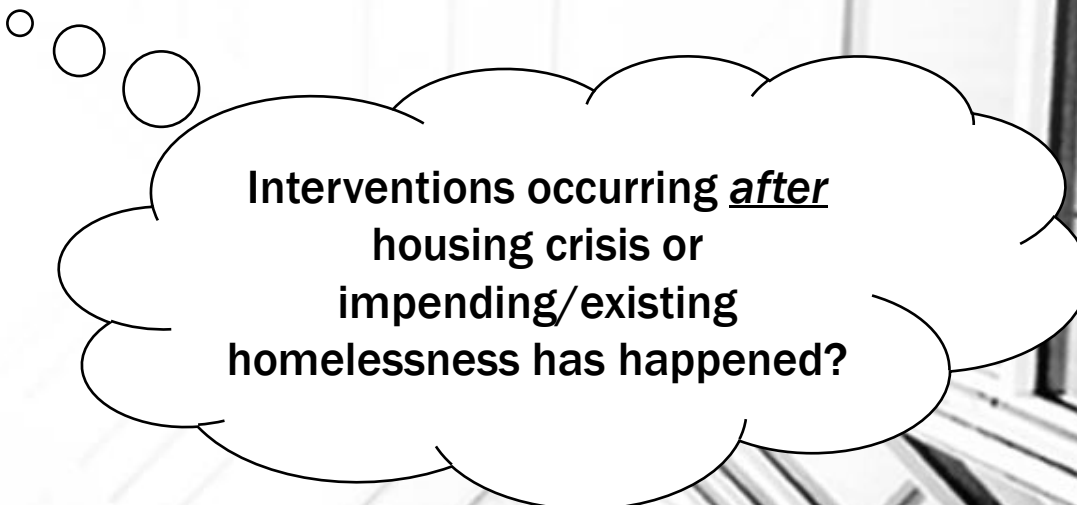
*"okay so the most common one which is **FSCs or SSAs will help with FA to put them in a hostel , negotiate with landlord** but those are just interim prolonging the eventual admission"* - Shelter worker

Work with systems to arrange for long-term housing options

*"One is going to be homeless; one is homeless already so **I worked with the polyclinic to get like nursing home and also senior group home** for the client"* – FSC worker

Broker conversations & resources

*"So, a brokering relationship with family members that they can't talk to on their own, and also **with HDB to sit down to talk about expectations and timelines**"* – FSC worker

Interventions occurring _after_ housing crisis or impending/existing homelessness has happened?

FGD – Upstream Interventions at Micro/Practice Level

Intentionally Assess Homelessness Risk based on Red Flags
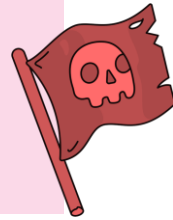
" *...it's like **connecting the dots** la. When I work with families with family issues, I wouldn't immediately think of homelessness or they might be evicted. So to me, it's maybe having more awareness...I think it will help workers be more mindful that maybe there are **certain signs that are coming out, that this person might be chased out**" – FSC worker*
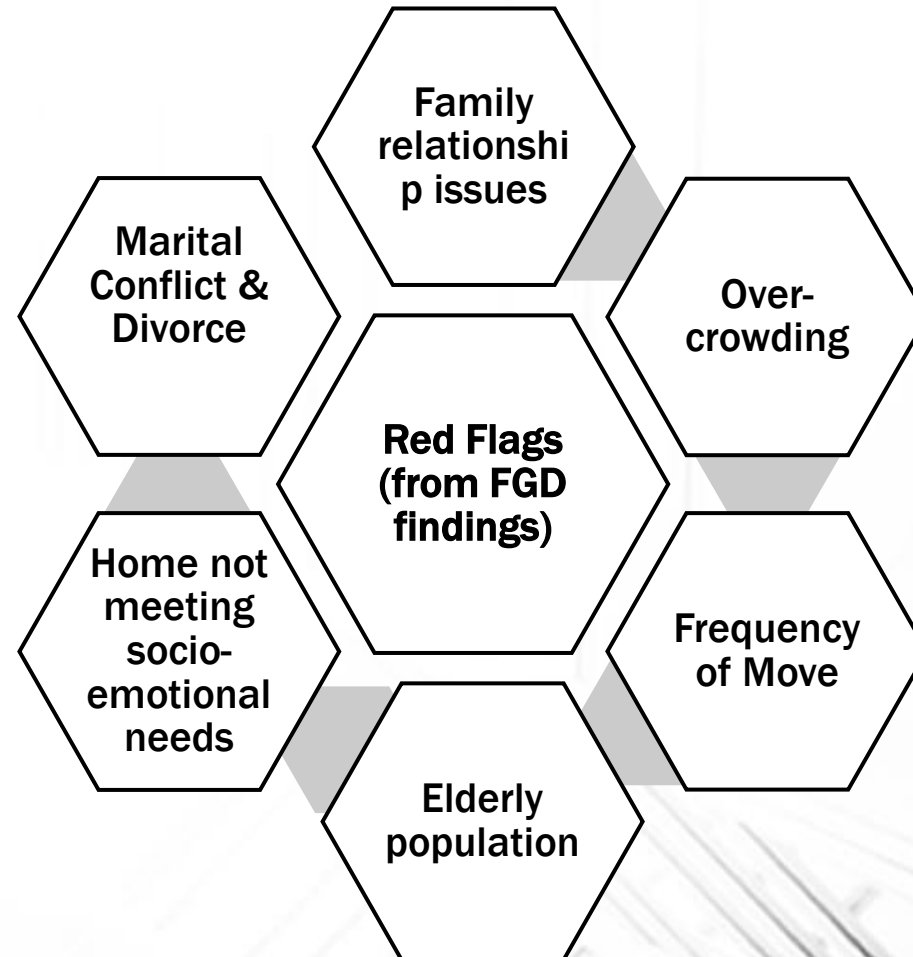
FGD – Upstream Interventions at Micro/Practice Level

Intervene as early as possible ⧗

" ...maybe the barrier is because of divorce cert, which the client has not yet gotten. And so, if the case is known to FSC, **FSC can assist client to get divorce cert earlier, rather than when they are going to get or already become displaced**"- Shelter worker

"... **for my young adult clients who have that hope to have longer-term housing but always cannot get to the plan to do it right** - is this part of the effect that we are seeing? At the stage where I am in contact with them, is it also a good time to revisit this person's experience with housing, ...could be one way to also **process it intergenerationally**"- FSC worker

FGD – Upstream Interventions at Meso/Macro Level

Roll out <u>sector practice resources</u> [Shelter] 📖

" *...maybe we have something similar to a toolkit **to discuss with the family before like they have such issues,** like divorce, then this document is shared with all the FSCs." – Shelter worker*

<u>Review housing policies</u> based on trends and preventive needs [FSC]

*"If you were to approach the system, they cannot do anything as of now because the family is still intact, **but what's going to happen once they are officially divorced**?" – FSC worker*

*"I think with regards to... **safeguarding the young adults aged 19-25,** perhaps some policies can be put in place?"-FSC worker*

FGD – Barriers to Upstream Interventions

Heavy workload – Limited Time & Capacity

"it's difficult because firstly, we don't have time. We are busy actually solving the issue that is on-hand. To even think about housing, we don't have that capacity"- FSC worker

Limited Bandwidth to intervene beyond presenting issues due to work constraints

" Client may say –" oh there are 12 ppl in my 2-room flat but now I need FA, my kids don't have milk". Will worker go and ask "Should we talk about housing?" Likely no. Why? Because worker is also swarmed with so many cases, of course they will only deal with what comes." –Shelter worker

Need to prioritize Service & Risks

".... need to prioritize presenting issue, risk management. Then when displacement happens, it becomes a crisis"- Shelter worker

FGD – Barriers to Upstream Interventions

Lack of Client Readiness [FSC]

*"I think sometimes with clients, **they don't recognize it as an issue until it becomes an issue.** Even if I bring it up, **I will just get dismissed.** Then when things happen already, then it's like "oh yah maybe I should have talked about it earlier"* – FSC worker

Unclear expectations in preventive work [FSC]

*"When we talk about preventive solutions...what is the role of the Social Worker? **What are the roles that we expect ourselves to play and the role that the State expects us to play in resolving housing issues?** "* FSC worker"

FGD – Enablers of Upstream Interventions

Lens of Intervention begins with mindset

*"I think it's about the mindset shift. If really want to work on preventing homelessness, **then I guess right at the start where client enter into wanting to get a house**, is looking at the bigger picture already and intervening."* –FSC worker

Shift to a "Prevention is Priority" Mindset

*"Once workers know that clients don't have stable housing, this aspect of it should be looked into at a very prioritized manner. Because to put someone in a shelter, it takes some time. **For someone who is displaced to be placed back into stable housing, it takes even a longer time.** So there's a value to bring that message across."* - Shelter worker

Urgency of prevention mindset shaped by perception of impact

*"There is first a need to shape workers' thinking about the impact of homelessness. So they can see that, " **oh yah, I think I better act now if not when they are displaced, it's worse. It will become a bigger problem from there.**"* – Shelter worker

FGD – Enablers of Upstream Interventions

Whole-of-society approach to prevention [FSC]

*"….these are broader things that society has to deal with when it comes to "can people live sustainably" in our country, I think. So when we think about preventive approach, it may be beyond the scope of your research **but prevention needs to be undertaken more than just the social services**."*
- FSC worker

FGD – Interplay between Barriers & Enablers?

Enabler-
Mindset shift
"Prevention is
Priority"

Barrier –
Lack of
Client
readiness

Barrier - Limited
Bandwidth
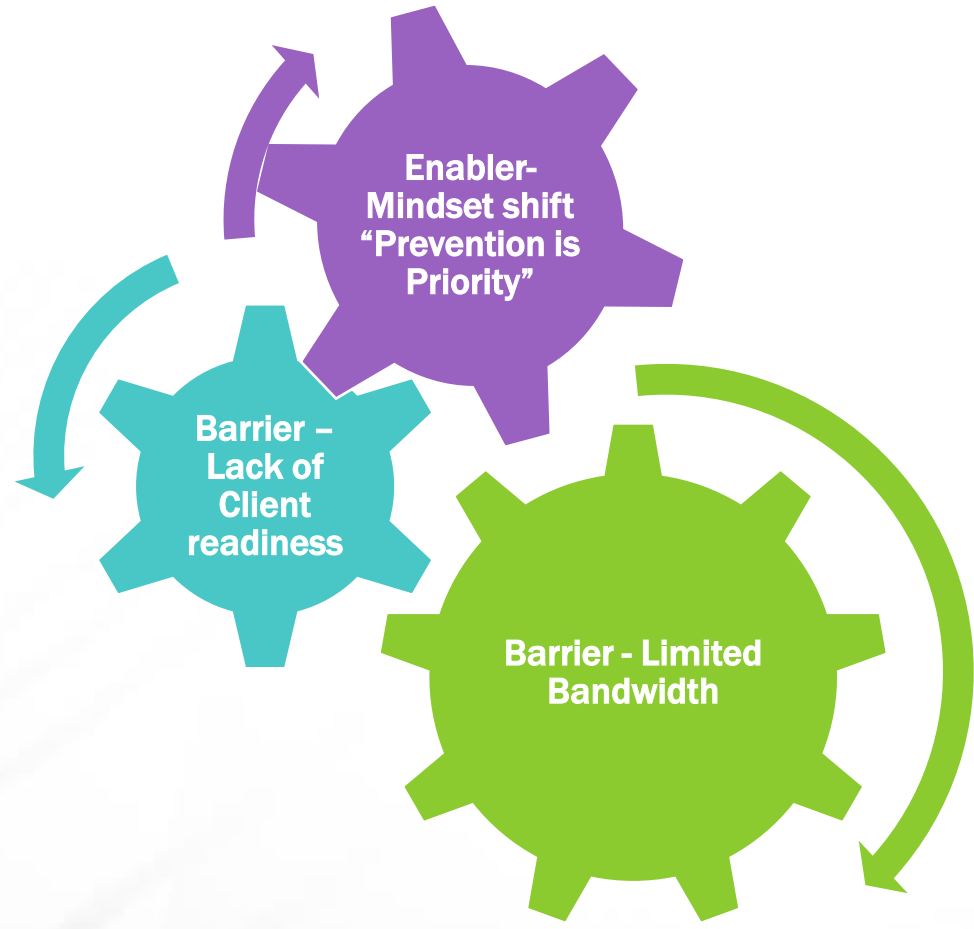
Creative Interplay to better facilitate upstream interventions –
e.g. Psychoeducation interventions ? [FSC]

*"...maybe something more feasible might **be sharing options with clients so that they know what is out there**. Even if they don't need it, at least maybe in terms of that conversation, I can imagine that it might be a bit more palatable than if we were to you know, "what if you go homeless? Then how?" trying to get that worry out of them – **instead of that we tell them "If worst come to worst, there's no place to stay, actually there are these places and support that we can look into..."** – FSC worker*

04

DISCUSSION

How Findings Relate to Wider Literature &
Insights & Implications for Local Context

FINDINGS CONSISTENT WITH LITERATURE

Repeated findings emphasizing **family-related issues such as conflict & violence** in relation to homelessness

- ✓ "family or relationship breakdown" (including violence) is *one of the pathways to homelessness* (MacKenzie and Chamberlain , 2003; as cited by Minnery & Greenhalgh, 2007).

FINDINGS CONSISTENT WITH LITERATURE

Findings concur with literature on **individual-level factors** explaining homelessness such as

- Physical health
- Domestic Violence
- Single parenthood
- Poverty or
- Combination of all

(Fetig et al., 2008; Haskett, 2017; Shinn et al., 1998).

Findings concur with literature on **structural factors** that explains homelessness at **community level** such as

- Housing policies , processes, barriers

- Difficulties in <u>Access</u> (e.g. exclusion of family profiles such as separated single-parent households, families with non-resident spouses)
- Difficulties in <u>Navigation of Public Housing</u> (e.g. increased complexity of housing barriers given previous ownership/occupancy of flat)

(Fetig et al., 2008)

FINDINGS CONSISTENT WITH LITERATURE

Findings on micro-level upstream interventions similar consistent with preventive strategies proposed in literature

Using knowledge on identified possible predictive factors to "screen families for high homelessness risk" and target resources and interventions towards them (Burt et al., 2007).

EARLY DETECTION THROUGH IDENTIFICATION OF LOCAL "RED FLAGS"
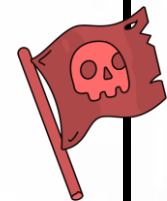
FINDINGS CONSISTENT WITH LITERATURE

The **need for different levels of upstream interventions (e.g. meso/macro) is echoed in literature**, given how homelessness is rooted in a continuum of causes spanning across personal and structural issues (Minnery & Greenhalgh, 2007).

Role of community agencies is important but insufficient

as multiple reasons for homelessness reflect need for complex solutions involving other stakeholders (Grey et al., 2019)
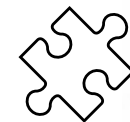
One of the key successes of prevention initiatives internationally has been the response and collaborative work across multiple sectors (Gaetz & Dej, 2017)

LOCALIZED BARRIERS & ENABLERS TO UPSTREAM INTERVENTIONS

Differences (Barriers)

For example, barriers such as difficulty targeting "right" population did not surface in findings, perhaps because "prevention" is still too new for practitioners to even think and evaluate it (Szeintuch,2017; Burt et al., 2007).

Similarities (Enablers)

- Incorporating of a whole-of-society approach to homelessness prevention is backed up by current prevention frameworks, especially given how the multiple causes of homelessness, require different stakeholders to collectively tackle this issue (Gaetz & Dej, 2017).

KEY DISCOVERIES OF PROFILES TO THINK ABOUT

VULNERABILITIES

Overrepresentation of Single-parent Households

Very high prevalence of divorce

High proportion of physical health concerns

History of traumatic experiences – *i.e. forced displacement, past suicide/abuse/self-harm risks*

Presence of financially "sandwiched" group – *earn beyond qualifying cap for rental and financial assistance but insufficient earnings to achieve housing stability*

Significant proportion of young children facing/at risk of homelessness - *equally traumatic as adverse childhood experience (Kain et al., 2018)*

STRENGTHS

Findings on proportion of all employed surprising contrast to common stereotypes of homeless people as lazy and unmotivated to work (Goh, 2020)

Efforts to harness formal and informal social support networks, though likely either unable to provide accommodation support or have been exhausted (Fetig et al., 2008).

- *Valuable insights on key touchpoints in the community, notably schools & hospitals.*

RETHINK THE VALUE HOMELESSNESS (PRIMARY) PREVENTION CAN BRING

What is the **impact of a housing crisis on a family**, especially the vulnerable (e.g. children) in the family?

- Exacerbated disruptions in social functioning & negative impact of housing instability
- Traumatic impact
- Poorer health outcomes given that stress, trauma, social exclusions (homelessness) are all social determinants of health

How does **dealing with a housing crisis impact on various systems apart from the family**?

Urgency of help-seeking/service usage?

Intensive crisis management & its consequences?

Prevention not of the situation but of the different kinds of **IMPACT** of housing crisis/ homelessness

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRIMARY PREVENTION

If Primary prevention (upstream interventions) is possible, why not?

✓ Value of homelessness prevention for families and systems/workers

✓ Sizeable number of families already known to referral agency at least 6 months prior to referral

✓ Limited current upstream interventions as emphasis only on secondary prevention

E.g. Secure interim housing awaiting longer-term options

✓ Growing knowledge & resources to facilitate this

RE-EXAMINE EXISTING NORMS OF HOUSING STABILITY (TO INTERVENE EARLIER)?

Renting from open market and staying with family-of-origin shown to be related to housing instability

Duration of stay may not be indicative of housing stability – needs to be assessed in context of relationships

High frequency of move commonly associated in literature with housing stability (Shinn et al., 1998)

➢ Disproportionately impact children given psychological losses and transitions into a new environment —— where literature has shown strong associations between changing residences three or more times and increased behavioural, emotional and school problems (Shinn and Weitzman, 1996; as cited by Burt et al., 2007).

HARNESS STUDY INSIGHTS ON SERVICE USAGE PATTERNS TO PLUG GAPS

Urgency of help-seeking/ service usage

⇩

Intervene earlier to minimize urgent usage of services?

Limited awareness of help options

⇩

Raise public awareness of help options?

Housing Barriers beyond client's resourcefulness

⇩

Strengthen advocacy skills for social workers in the community?

05

RECOMMENDATIONS

Implications for Practice & Policy

NEED FOR SYSTEMIC PERSPECTIVE FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Macro

E.g. policy and structural changes

Meso

E.g. community partnerships

Micro

E.g. direct practice with clients
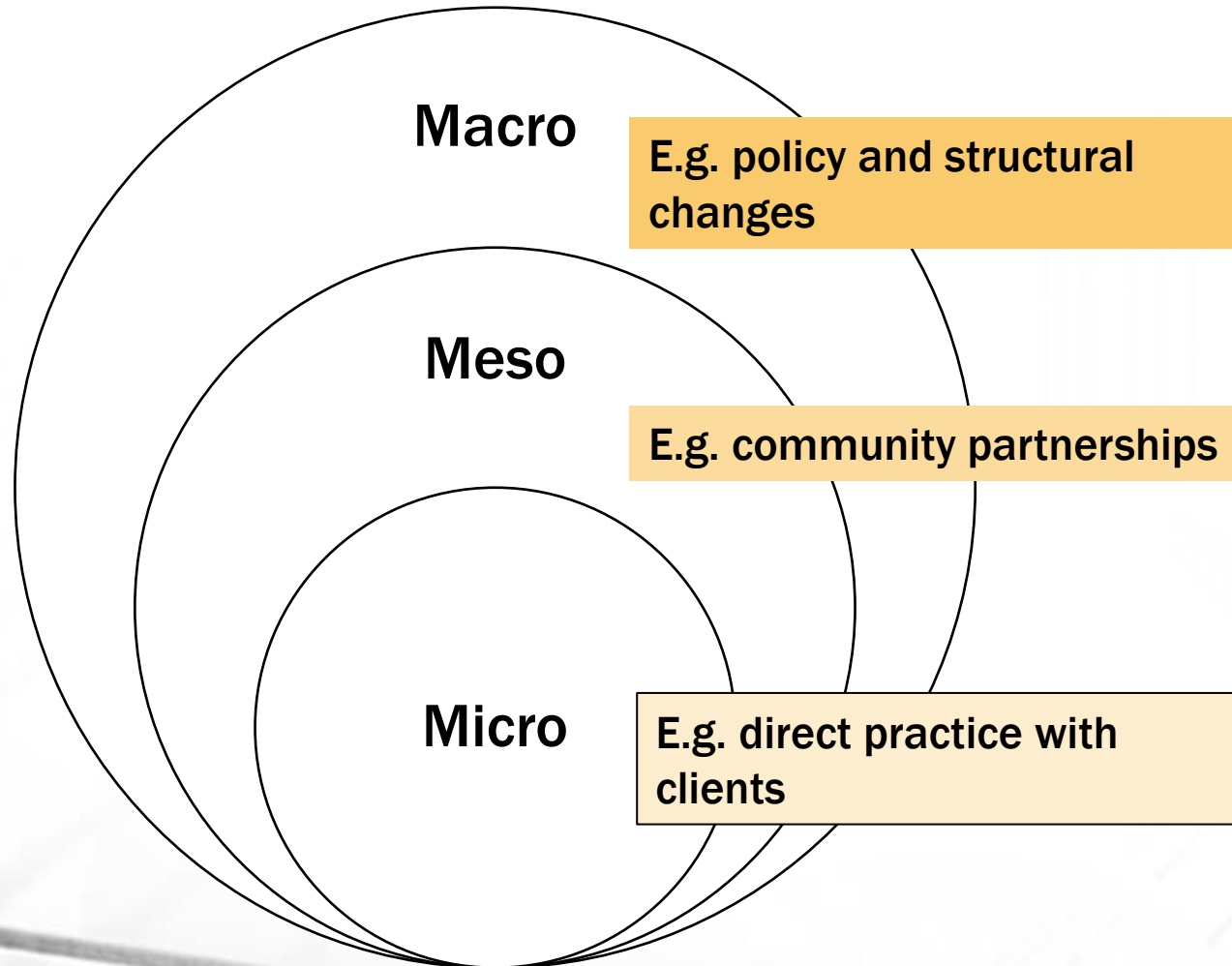
ROLE OF SOCIAL SERVICE SECTOR & SOCIETY AT-LARGE IN UPSTREAM INTERVENTIONS

One of the key successes of prevention initiatives internationally has been the response and collaborative work across multiple sectors (Gaetz & Dej, 2017)

1. EARLY DETECTION THROUGH IDENTIFICATION OF LOCALIZED "RED FLAGS" 🚩

Localized Red Flags (CDM – FGD – Research)

Non-housing related
❑ Family relationship issues e.g. family conflict
❑ Divorce & marital conflict
❑ Family Violence
❑ Financial Difficulties & Unemployment

Housing related
❑ High Frequency of Move
❑ Overcrowding
❑ Alternative housing arrangements due to absence of home ownership e.g. renting from open market, temporary accommodation with informal network

Giano et al., 2019; 2020; Shinn et al., 2003; Shinn et al., 1998

- For example, a study detailing the evolution of predictors of homelessness over forty years done by Giano et al. (2019; 2020) highlighted the <u>prevalence of family instability as a top predictor of homelessness</u> , encompassing disruptions to family structures such as divorce, and also family conflict – both of which were reflected in FGD and CDM findings

- Knowledge can **develop practice tools for upstream interventions**

Early detection of "red flags" at the community level
1. Support homelessness prevention
2. Positively impact service-usage patterns – e.g. self-referral for accommodation

2. STRENGTHEN ENABLERS AND TACKLE BARRIERS

ENABLERS

1. Shift to a "Prevention is Priority" Mindset

2. Whole-of-society approach to prevention

1. Limited Bandwidth to intervene beyond presenting issues due to work

2. Lack of Client Readiness

3. Unclear expectations in preventive work

BARRIERS
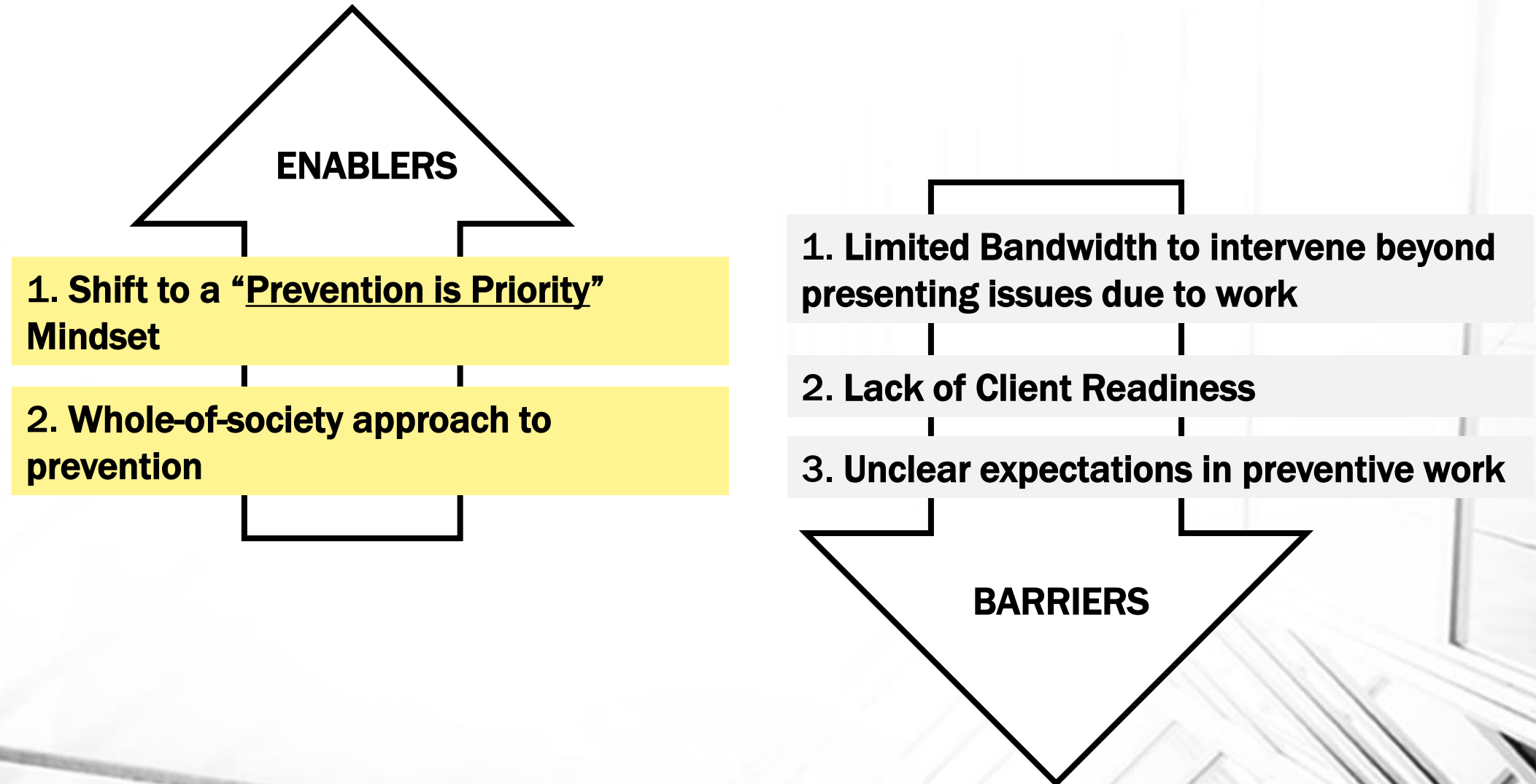
3. BUILD UP DIRECT PRACTICE COMPETENCIES

Incorporate these 4 knowledge domains into **sharing platforms/resources** (Knowledge & Awareness) & **trainings** (Skills) for frontline social workers

1.Understanding Homelessness Prevention	2. Severity of Impact of (Imminent) Homelessness	3. Key Population characteristics*	4. Localized Red Flags (potential risk indicators)
• Understand the **value of primary prevention** – intervention before housing instability/homelessness/housing issues	• E.g., **Toll of crisis help-seeking on families & workers ; developmental impact on children, intergenerational effects** • Fundamental to shifting mindsets about prioritizing prevention & intervening early	• E.g., Multi-stressed, High likelihood of trauma and/or mental health • **Potential in eradicating stigma** – i.e. strengths • Fundamental to developing **appropriate supports**	• E.g., **Family violence, Family conflicts, Staying at open market rental, Overcrowding** • Important especially for referral agencies (e.g. FSC) • "**Red flags**" fundamental to **assessment and early intervention**

*knowledge on profile characteristics can also help attunement of worker to possible risk indicators

4. EMPOWER & COLLABORATE WITH COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS ON HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

1. Model for Homelessness Prevention	2. Severity of Impact of (Imminent) Homelessness	3. Key Population characteristics*	4. Localized Red Flags (potential risk indicators)
• Understand the value of primary prevention – intervention before housing instability/homelessness/housing issues	• E.g., Toll of crisis help-seeking on families & workers ; developmental impact on children, intergenerational effects • Fundamental to shifting mindsets about prioritizing prevention & intervening early	• E.g., Multi-stressed, High likelihood of trauma and/or mental health • Potential in eradicating stigma – i.e. strengths • Fundamental to developing appropriate supports	• E.g., Family violence, Family conflicts, Staying at open market rental, Overcrowding • Important especially for referral agencies (e.g. FSC) • "Red flags" fundamental to assessment and early intervention

Educate beyond social services

Some key stakeholders can include
- **All stakeholders involved in current housing landscape – SSAs, S3Ps, NGOs etc**
- **Schools**
- **Hospitals**
- **Legal Aid Bureau, Family Justice Court**
- **HDB, Other government bodies**
- **NGOs and Community**

Whole-of-society approach to homelessness prevention requires
- Multiple touchpoints in the community to facilitate help-seeking given limited self-referral
- Involvement and empowerment of less-resourced families in preventing and tackling homeless

5. RE-EXAMINE SOCIAL POLICY GAPS THAT PERPETUATE LIKELIHOOD OF HOMELESSNESS DOWNSTREAM

INCREASE ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION WITH HDB TO CONTRIBUTE TO POLICY-LEVEL SHIFTS

Feedback on Housing Policies

- Re-examining housing policies and barriers such as those involving family nucleus, non-SCs and income cap for rental flat etc

    - E.g. Penalizing housing policies involving divorce contributes to downward spiral of housing instability

    - Explore possible gaps and offer feedback in plugging them – e.g., young adults

06

LIMITATIONS & FUTURE RESEARCH

Limitations
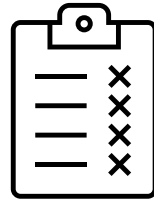
- Self-report & Missing Data

- Small Sample Size Limit Representativeness

Areas for Future Research

Quantitative Secondary Analysis

1. Comparison study of trends pre-and post COVID-19

2. In-depth content analysis on reasons for homelessness

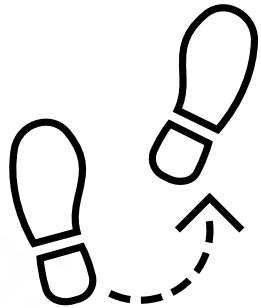3. Explore factors associated with recurrence of homelessness

Others

1. Homelessness Prevention Studies involving families themselves
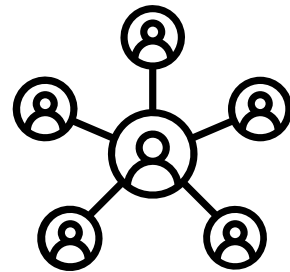
07

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

Study is a first step towards an <u>efficient and effective</u> strategy in appropriate upstream interventions (Burt et al., 2007),

Need to situate housing challenges for families <u>within a relational context,</u> apart from resource constraints
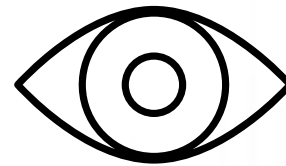
<u>Mindset shift in seeing value of homelessness prevention</u> is key in upstream interventions
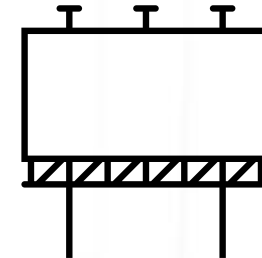
Need for <u>dissemination of knowledge to and beyond social services</u>

Training

Infographic

Presentation

Publication

Thank You!

For more questions/collaborations, please email me at lyonkoh0809@gmail.com

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