

CHRD 2023: Abstract Submission Form

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Research Category

Community Health / Policy

Presenter Status

Masters Student

Role in the project

Write Abstract

Title

Understandings Experiences and Priorities in Youth and Family Mental Health: Protocol for an Arts-Based Priority Setting Focus Group Study

Background

The rapid adoption of eHealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to a lack of user-centeredness and oversight of best practices, making priority setting with end users critical to developing services best suited to their needs. This is especially important for families, including those who have historically faced oppression and systemic barriers to service access. Arts-based approaches are a promising method for eliciting a deeper understanding of priorities, given their capacity to elicit various types of knowledge and responsiveness reflective of lived experience.

Objective

This study will determine the priorities of youth, parents/caregivers, newcomers, immigrants, and Indigenous community members regarding the use of eHealth in supporting their mental health, using an innovative arts-based method.

Methods

Interested participants will participate in priority setting focus groups using the newly developed "The Circle of Importance." This is a real-time data collection method integrating arts-based, qualitative, and quantitative data. It involves placing objects on a visual board with concentric circles corresponding to a 5-point Likert scale. Participants determine the meaning and importance of the object. This is followed by discussion to expand on participant experiences. Afterwards, participants' and facilitators' experiences with this activity will be evaluated using surveys and interviews.

Results

The present research is a protocol for conducting arts-based, priority setting focus groups. Methodological evaluation of the approach will be used to inform future amendments and applications. Emerging results from the protocol could be used to develop and inform numerous initiatives, including a context-sensitive research theme within the Children's Hospital Research Institute and publications regarding subgroup level analysis of priorities.

Conclusion

Results of this protocol may inform and improve mental health services through engaging key knowledge partners. It can inform ways arts-based methods reflect aspects of experience beyond the capacities of qualitative or quantitative methods alone. Lastly, this research/approach evaluates its alignment with a positive participant experience.

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