

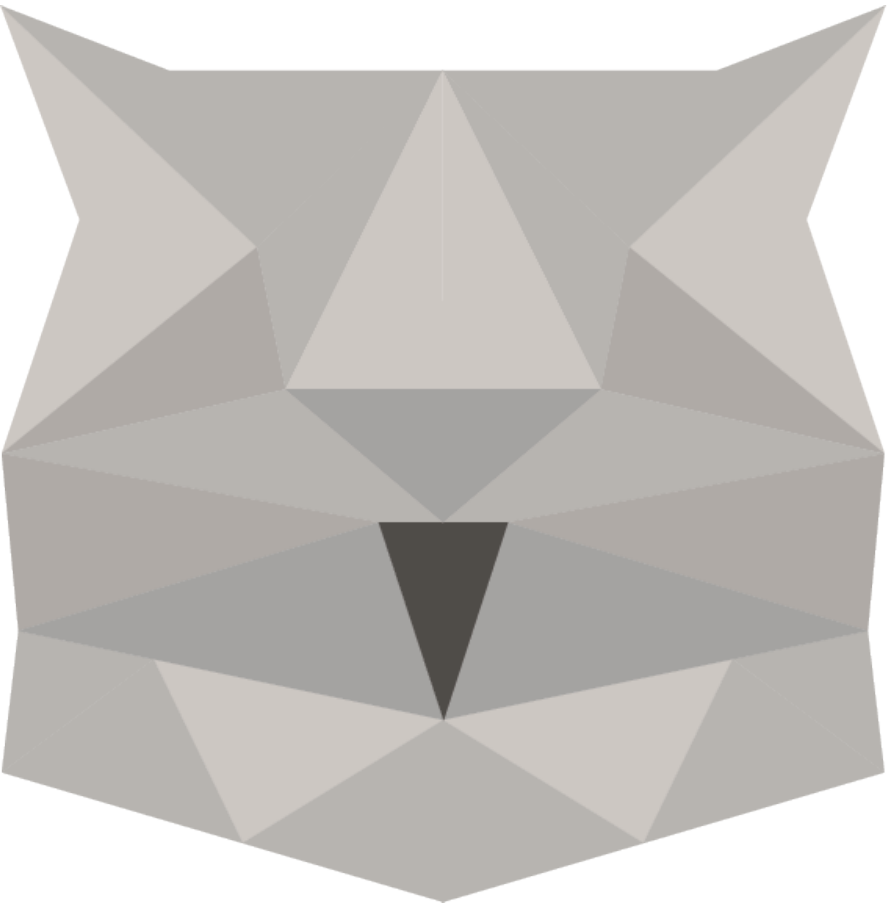


Opportunities for youth in government care

Innovations in Research, Policy, and Practice

McCreary Centre Society





McCreary Centre Society's

Youth Research Academy



Youth Research Academy (YRA)

- Cohort of 6-8 (aged 16-24)
- History of government care
- Design, deliver and disseminate community research projects
- Additional 20-30 in shorter term projects

Evaluation





K-12 Educational Outcomes

- Success looks different for youth in care
- Repeating classes and grades is common
- Can't learn when basic needs unmet
- Need supportive adults
- Want to be included in communications
- Teachers need to learn about care system
- Celebrate success



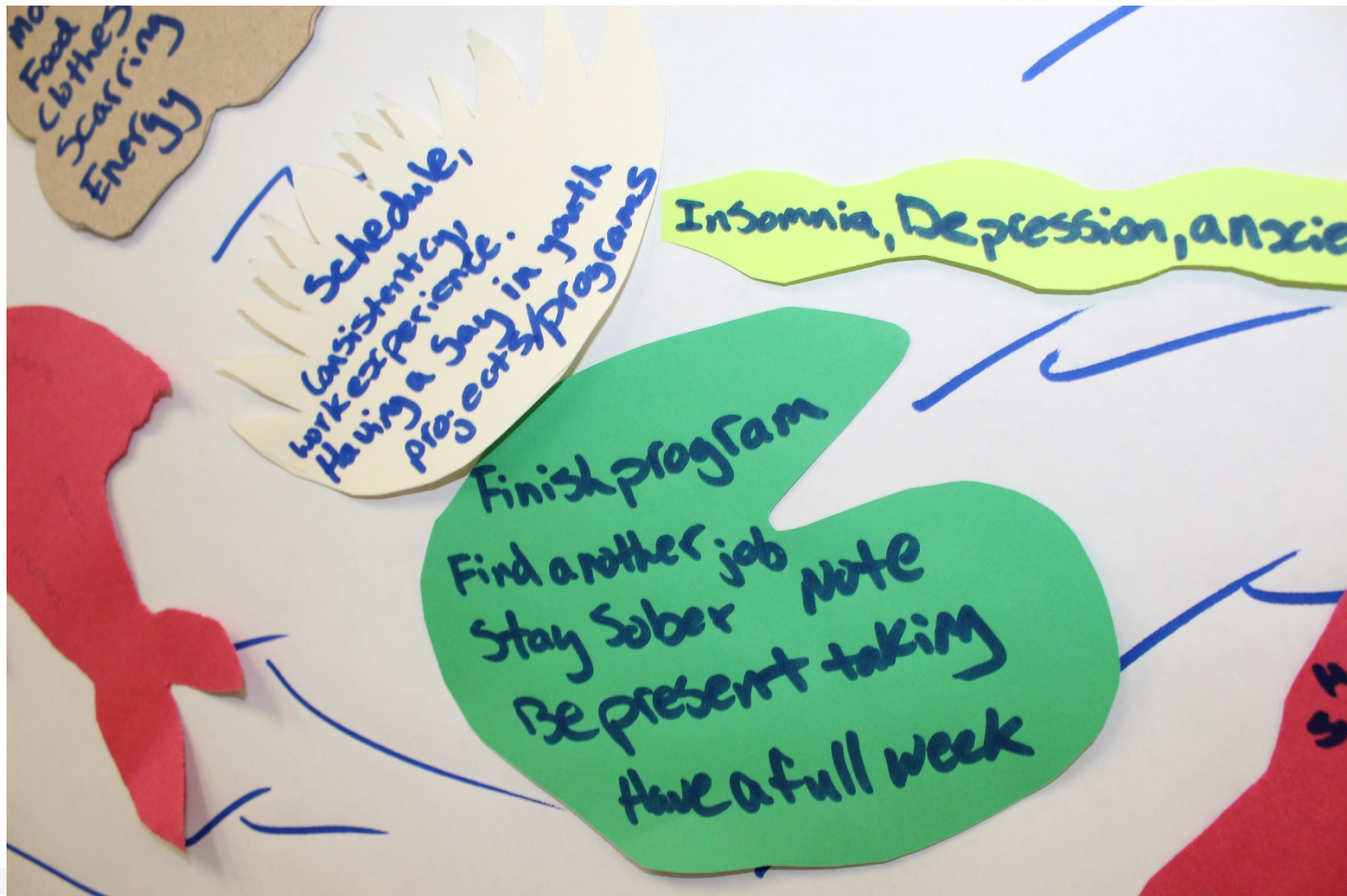
Data being used

- Informing TRRUST Collective Impact work
- Appointing supportive adult at school
- Shared with teachers, school counselors, social workers, foster parents

Beyond a dreamcatcher



Beyond a dreamcatcher





Beyond a dreamcatcher

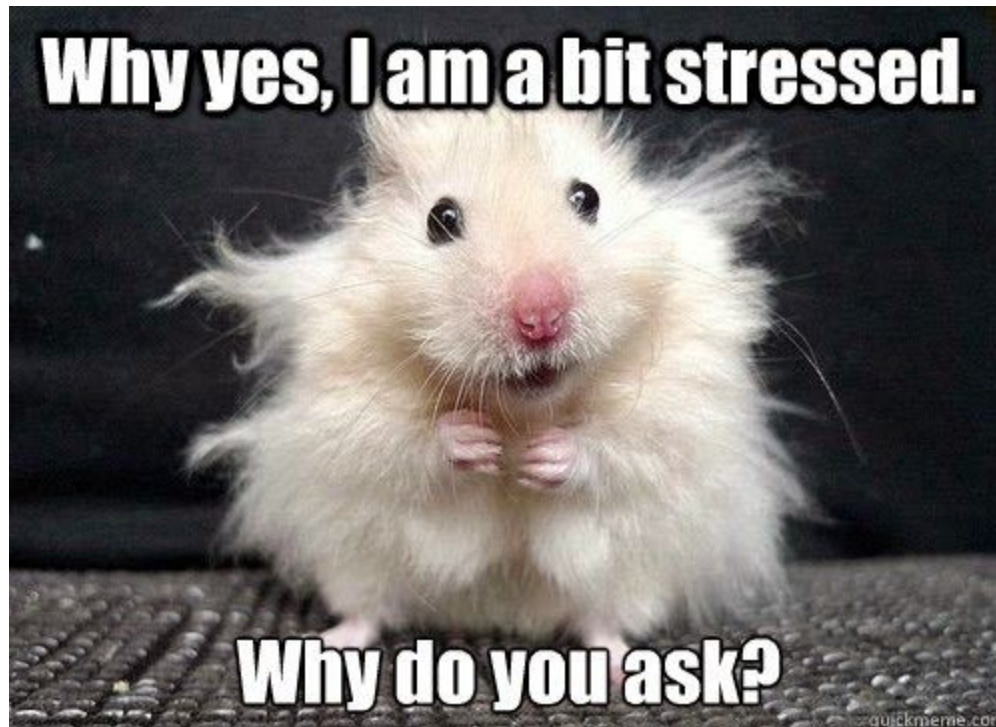
- Involve healthy Elders
- Engage families of choice
- Value diversity
- Have Aboriginal staff and management
- Welcoming space reflecting Indigenous culture
- Trauma informed
- Connect youth to their culture if interested



Indigenous justice-involved girls

- Literature review and experiential learning
- Systemic racism and intergenerational trauma
- Services need to be
 - Gender and culturally responsive
 - Individualised
 - Trauma informed
 - Strengths base
- Engaging female indigenous youth is effective

Youth Research Slam: Stress





Current projects: Cohort 2

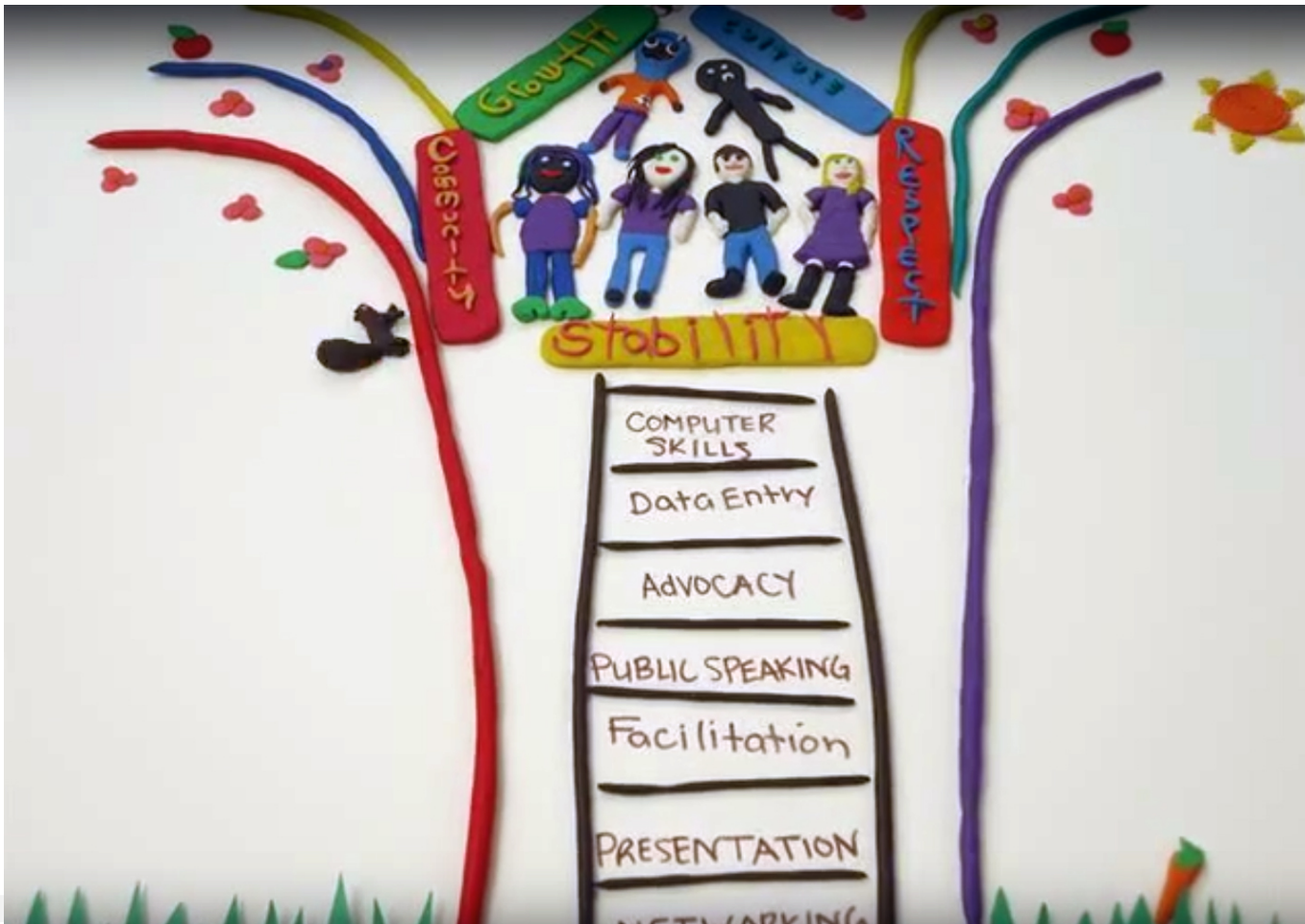
- Mismatch between youth in care and service providers –accessing employment supports
- Is a Family Finder Youth Boot Camp a good fit for BC?
- Effectiveness of drivers education
- Evaluation of youth in care week



YRA Evaluation

- *“When we came to McCreary, we had no experience in research. The YRA has taught us not only about research and its importance, but also skills such as workplace etiquette, computer skills, presentation skills, facilitation and workshop development.”*
- *“The YRA is not like any other job that you can get as a youth, and it’s a good learning experience which can expand into a career and give you a voice in things you feel passionate about.”*

Evaluation results





Summary

Engaging young people in research that concerns them can produce high quality information to guide policy and practice

Thank you



Annie Smith annie@mcs.bc.ca

Dr Maya Peled – maya@mcs.bc.ca

Stephanie Martin – stephanie@mcs.bc.ca

604 -291 -1996