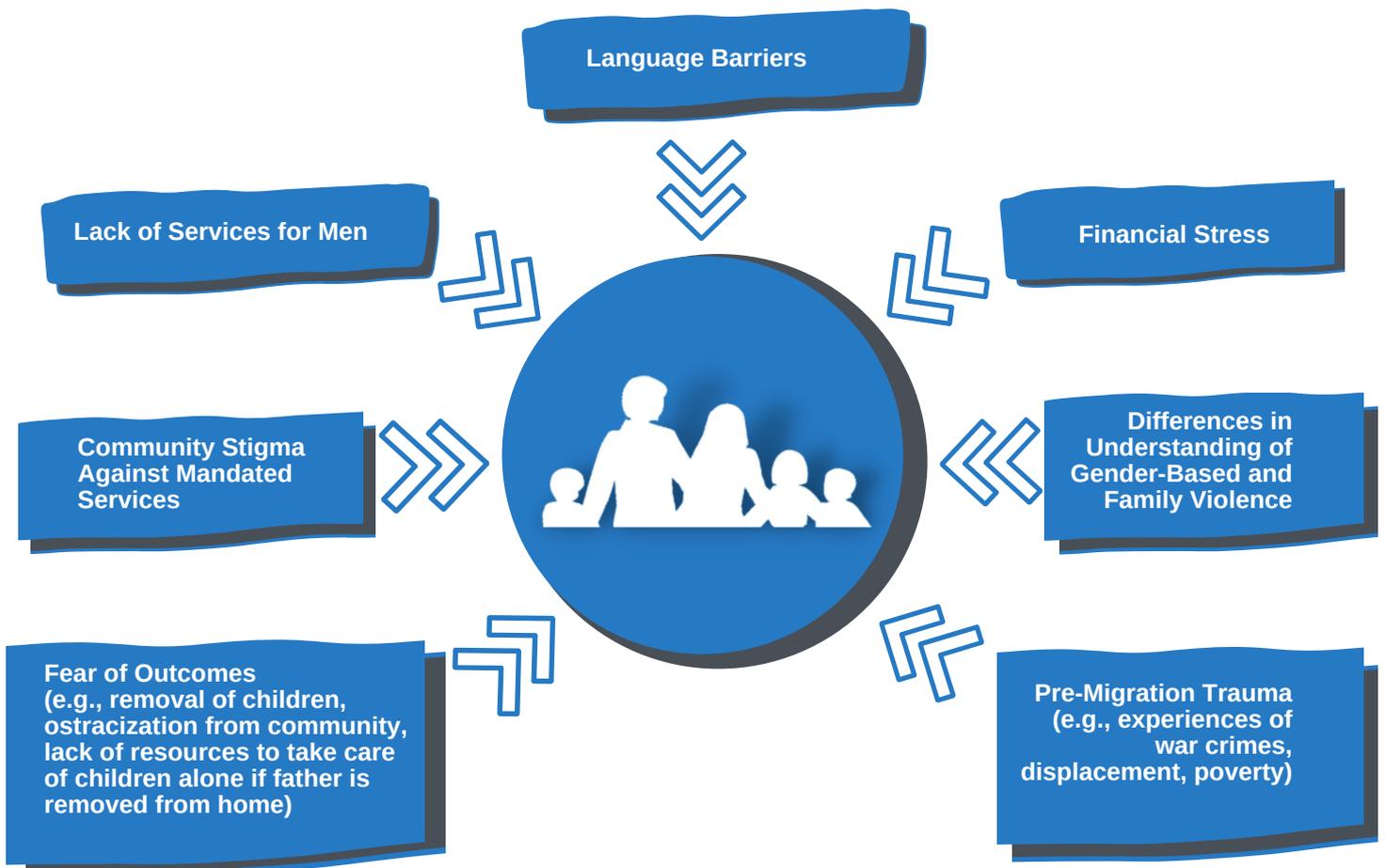


CRITICAL INSIGHTS ON THE CULTURALLY INTEGRATIVE FAMILY SAFETY RESPONSE MODEL (CIFSR) FROM COMMUNITY PRACTITIONERS IN LONDON, ONTARIO

Barriers Newcomer Families Might Experience When Accessing Mainstream Violence Prevention Services



The CIFSR model (Baobaid & Ashbourne, 2016) is a coordinated, culturally integrated approach to address barriers that newcomer families may experience when accessing mainstream violence prevention services. CIFSR draws on collectivist values and local knowledge to support mainstream agencies working with newcomer families. The model situates the cultural agency (MRCSSI) as the cultural broker and advocate for the family while working closely with community services to identify and reduce risk for family violence.

INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF THE EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE IN DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Can be Applied to Non-Muslim Newcomer Families as Well

“ There was no hesitency because of the cultural sensitivity... especially being a minority in a Muslim context, the best fit would be the MRCSSI solely because of the cultural understanding and then navigating that with the family ”

CCLC Representative

Encourages a Holistic Way of Working with Families

“ They come from war countries and when these families come to Canada, I think that's one of the biggest barriers, we don't know these families, we don't try to know the history ”

Anova Representative

Presence of a Coordinating Agency Lessens the Burden on the Family and the Workers

“ ... that development of who's coordinating can lessen the burden, especially when [the family doesn't] know sometimes what's available and, to me, when too many players are calling, it can be confusing for the family ”

LPS Victim Services Representative

Involves Fathers in the Process in a Meaningful Manner

“ It was easier because dad was angry at the start. It was MRCSSI saying that too, that 'you need to do some work', hearing that not just from us, from the community ”

Family and Children's Services of St. Thomas & Elgin County

Increases Family's Trust and Engagement in the Process

“ I think when MRCSSI is involved, it gives a sense of comfort and a sense of understanding... they already have that trust and it gives leeway ”

Anova Representative

Understands the Family's Unique Journey and Includes Family in the Decision-Making Process

“ ... sometimes it does take slowing down and trying to make sure that there is a voice heard by the parties involved so [the family] can be a part of their care plan ”

LPS Victim Services Representative

Power Sharing and Trust Between Agencies Enables Flexibility to Meet the Needs of the Families

“ The best parts of this was that our agency took a backseat and we asked MRCSSI for a lot of support and we walked alongside them. It wasn't just as making the decision, it was a lot of 'what would be the best thing? ’ ”

Family and Children's Services of St. Thomas & Elgin County

“ The family, they have a lot of complex trauma, both mother and father, before coming... and then moving to a different country... so the involvement of many organizations, such as the MRCSSI, sponsert family, and Children's Aid Society, all together is very helpful because they surround the family with many support ”

CCLC Representative

Collaboration Between Agencies Increases Family Access to Support

CALL FOR ACTION

EXPAND EDUCATION

Within health and social sectors to promote cultural humility and culturally integrative service provision. Spread linguistically and culturally accessible information on family violence within diverse communities.

EXPAND SERVICES WITHIN SETTLEMENT AGENCIES TO ADDRESS FAMILY VIOLENCE

Ensure that settlement agencies have the funding and support required to provide preventative information and to respond to family violence within newcomer communities in culturally integrative ways.

INVEST IN CULTURALLY INTEGRATIVE SERVICES

Develop and fund specialized services that have the capacity to work alongside mainstream services (e.g., shelters, men's risk management and intervention programs, child protection) and community leaders to provide culturally integrative services to newcomer families.

SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE WORK ACROSS MANDATED AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

Establish and maintain strong collaborative relationships between mandated and community-based agencies with clearly outlined pathways of responsibility for responding to family violence.

A special thanks to our partners on this project :

