

Development of Forensic Mental Health Nursing Competencies within a Canadian Context

Angie Loumankis, RN, MN, CPMHN(C)

Kathy Ryan, RN, MScN, CPMHN(C)

Irene Boldt, RN, MN, CPMHN(C)

Margaret Gehrs, RN, MScN, CPMHN(C)



Learning Objectives

Participants will:

1. Gain an understanding of the unique issues related to mental health nursing competencies in forensic settings.
2. Explore the application of the Canadian Standards for Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing to specialized clinical populations.
3. Have an opportunity to share experiences and provide input into the next steps of the project.

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

- Academic teaching hospital; fully affiliated with University of Toronto
- Largest mental health & addiction facility in Canada
 - Over 34,000 unique clients served per year
 - Emergency Department, inpatient and outpatient services for clients across the lifespan
- Significant redevelopment & strategic vision (Vision 2020)



Forensic Services Mental Health Services at CAMH

- **Unique Services:**
 - Assessment and triage
 - Locked-secure inpatient care
 - Unlocked-general inpatient care
 - Forensic outpatient services (FOPS)
 - Forensic early intervention services (FEIS)
- **Unique Clients Served (2016/17)**
 - Forensic Acute Crisis = 186
 - Inpatient Forensic Rehabilitation = 230
 - Forensic Outpatients = 2,182
 - FEIS = 303



Forensic Mental Health Nursing Competencies Project: Background

- CAMH is invested in advancing practice for specialized mental health populations
 - E.g., Addictions, geriatrics, children & youth, **forensics**, etc.
- “Call for action” in CAMH’s forensic services:
 - Enhance quality and safety: balancing client-centred care with security
 - Revitalize & advance forensic mental health (FMH) nursing practice (identify unique competencies; standardize orientation & quality practice)
- Initial actions (Dec. 2016):
 - Proposal developed
 - Working group identified

Project Objectives

Short Term

Medium Term

Long Term

To articulate a
FMH nursing
framework:
standards &
competencies

To apply the FMH
framework at
CAMH: training &
practice guide

To have national
influence on FMH
nursing standards
& competencies

Project Work Plan

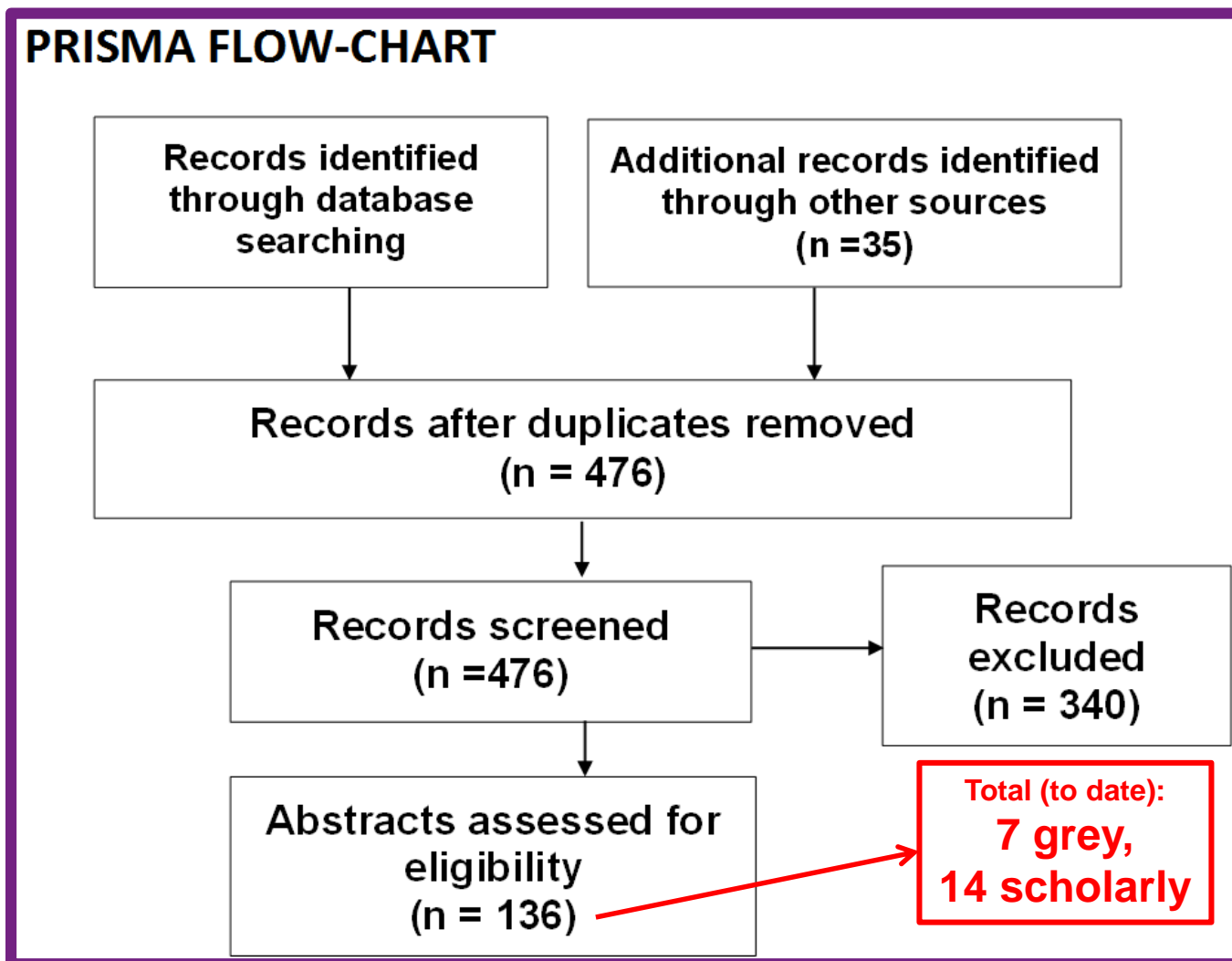
1. Gather best practice evidence ✓

- **Literature Search:** National/international, grey/scholarly literature
- **External Scan (Canada):** Content experts from across Canada

2. Create FMH competency framework: relevant for CAMH & Canadian context

3. Test framework in CAMH & external clinical settings: training & practice

Best Practice Evidence: Literature Search



Best Practice Evidence: Literature Search



Findings:

- FMH nursing practice is a unique area within psychiatric/mental health nursing
- FMH nursing practice requires integrating knowledge and skills relevant to:
 - Unique challenges in therapeutic relationships in this context
 - Forensic mental health legal frameworks
 - Environments where containment & security are pertinent
 - Assessments/clinical interventions pertaining to offenses & risk
 - Trauma-informed care
- An Australian FMH framework (Forensicare 2012) was identified that includes best practice literature & approximates our project objectives
 - Competencies are an addendum to general mental health nursing competencies

Best Practice Evidence: Canadian External Scan to Date

- ✓ Gather Canadian best practice evidence from content experts (CNS's, Nursing Faculty, etc.)
- ✓ Gain consensus on project direction

Organizations Contacted To Date:

- Eastern Health, NF
- The Royal Mental Health Centre Ottawa, ON
- St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton*, ON
- North Bay Regional Health Centre, ON
- Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health, ON
- Providence Care Hospital, Kingston, ON
- St. Joseph's Healthcare London, ON
- Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, ON
- Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, ON
- University of Saskatchewan*, SK



*Two Canadian content experts were identified who had contributed to the Australian FMH nursing competency framework (Forensicare 2012).

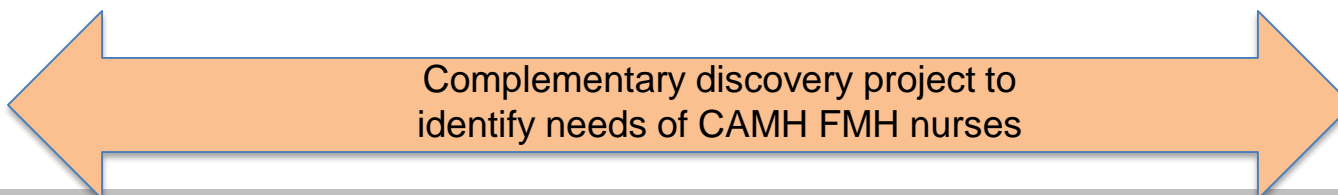
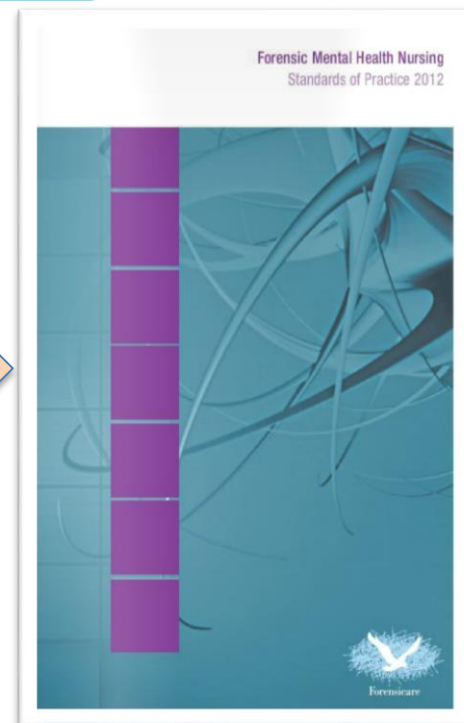
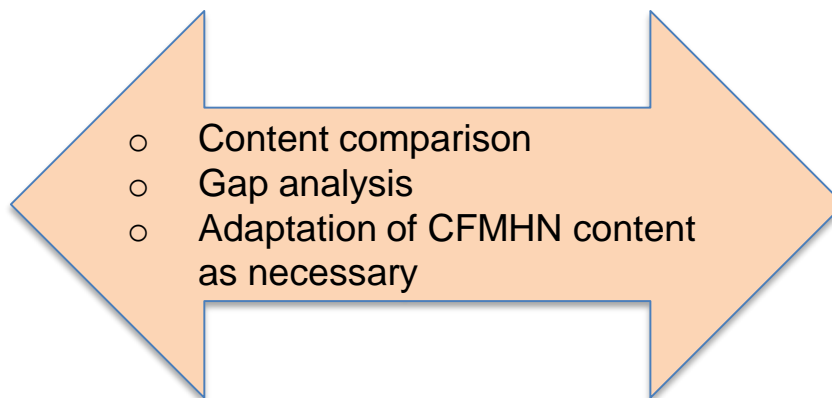
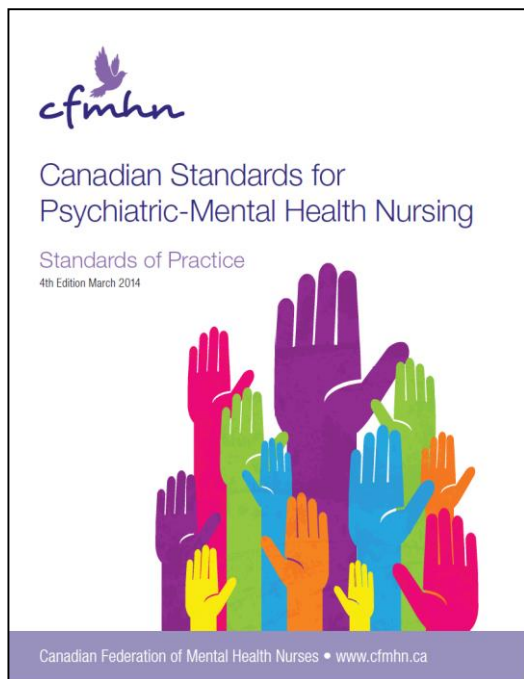
Best Practice Evidence: Canadian External Scan to Date

✓ Findings & Expert Consensus:

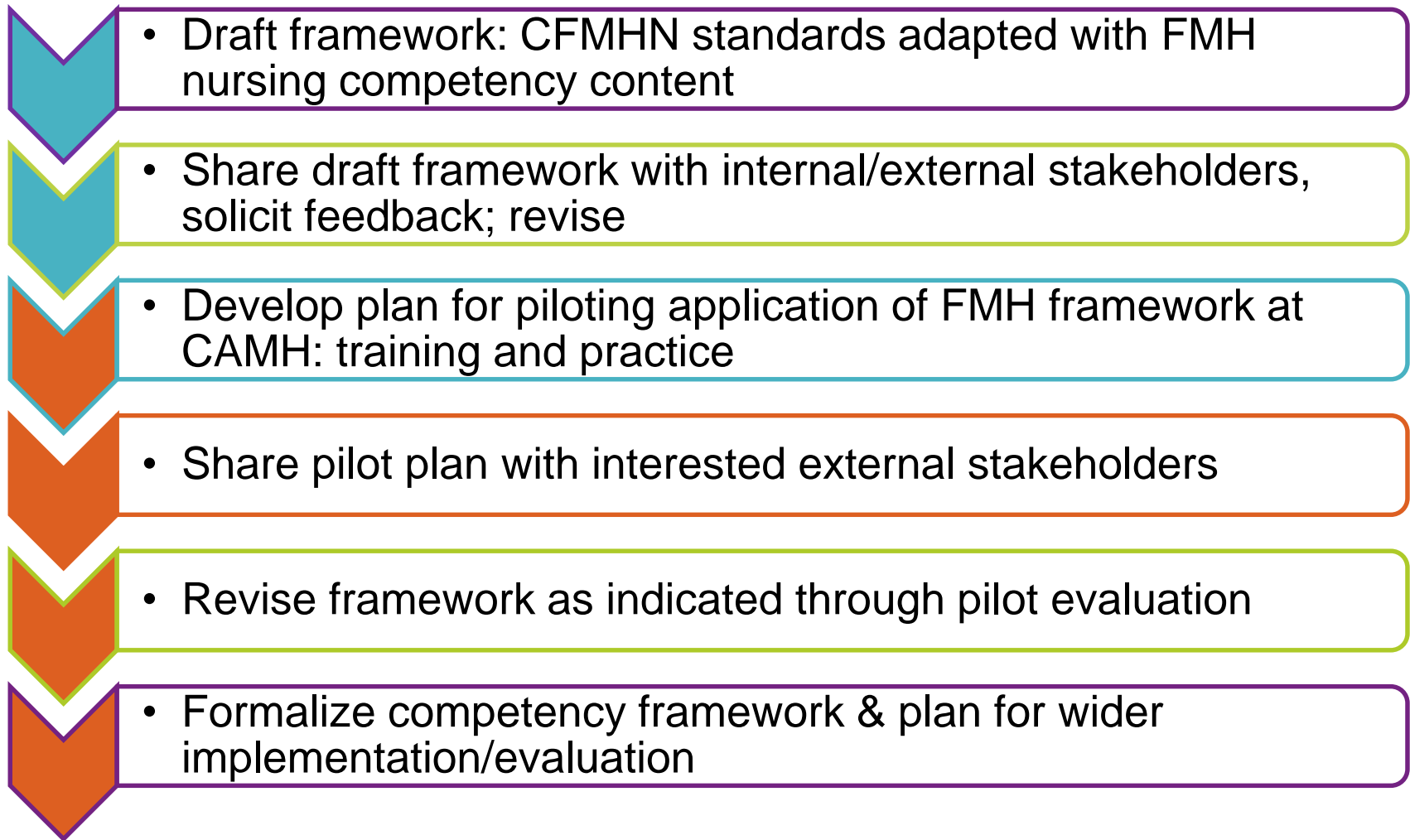
- To date no identified Canadian FMH competency framework developed or in use
- Canadian content experts agree:
 - CFMHN standards should form the core of a FMH nursing competency framework
 - Content can be adapted/added to address FMH-specific gaps & unique knowledge/skills (similar to Australian process)
- FMH practice standards are needed & would support educational development for:
 - Practicing nurses
 - Undergraduate students

Project Work Plan: Current Status

2. Create FMH competency framework: relevant for CAMH & Canadian context



Next Steps in Project Work Plan



References

- Auckland Regional Forensic Psychiatric Service (2011). *The Mason Approach*. Mason Clinic: NZ
- Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses (2014). *Canadian Standards for Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing* (4th ed.). CFMHN: Toronto ON
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (2013). *Mental Health and Criminal Justice Policy Framework*. CAMH: Toronto ON
- Correctional Service Canada (n.d.). *Mental Health Strategy for Corrections in Canada*.
- Davoren, M., Byrne, O., O'Connell, P., O'Neill, H., O'Reilly, K., Kennedy, H. G. (2015). Factors affecting length of stay in forensic hospital setting: need for therapeutic security and course of admission. *BMC Psychiatry*, 15(1), 301.
- Epperson, M. W., Wolff, N., Morgan, R. D., Fisher, W. H., Frueh, B. C., & Huening, J. (2014). Envisioning the next generation of behavioral health and criminal justice interventions. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 37(5), 427-438.
- Forensicare/Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health (2012). *Forensic Mental Health Nursing Standards of Practice*. Forensicare: Australia
- Gill, P., McKenna, P., O'Neill, H., Thompson, J., & Timmons, D. (2010). Pillars and pathways: Foundations of recovery in Irish forensic mental health care. *The British Journal of Forensic Practice*, 12(3), 29-36.
- International Association of Forensic Nurses (2015). *Forensic Nursing, Scope and Standards of Practice*. American Nurses Association: Springfield MA
- Kent-Wilkinson, A. (2009). Forensic nursing education in North America Social factors Influencing Educational Development. *Journal of Forensic Nursing*, 5(2), 76-88.
- Martin, T. (2001). Something special: Forensic psychiatric nursing. *Journal of Psychiatric & Mental Health Nursing*, 8(1), 25-32.
- Martin, T., & Street, A. F. (2003). Exploring evidence of the therapeutic relationship in forensic psychiatric nursing. *Journal of Psychiatric & Mental Health Nursing*, 10(5), 543-551.

References

- Martin, T., & Daffern, M. (2006). Clinician perceptions of personal safety and confidence to manage inpatient aggression in a forensic psychiatric setting. *Journal of Psychiatric & Mental Health Nursing*, 13(1), 90-99.
- Martin, T., Maguire, T., Quinn, C., Ryan, J., Bawden, L., Summers, M. (2013). Standards of Practice for Forensic Mental Health Nurses- Identifying Contemporary Practice. *Journal of Forensic Nursing*. 9(3),171-178.
- Mason, T. (2002). Forensic psychiatric nursing: A literature review and thematic analysis of role tensions. *Journal of Psychiatric & Mental Health Nursing*, 9(5), 511-520.
- Mason, T., Lovell, A., & Coyle, D. (2008). Forensic psychiatric nursing: Skills and competencies: I role dimensions. *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*, 15(2), 118-130.
- Mason, T., Coyle, D., & Lovell, A. (2008). Forensic psychiatric nursing: Skills and competencies: II clinical aspects. *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*, 15(2), 131-139.
- Munson, C. (2011). Forensic social work practice standards: Definition and specification. *Journal of Forensic Social Work*, 1(1), 37-60.
- National Mental Health Workforce Development Coordinating Committee (1999). *A competency framework for the mental health workforce*. Wellington NZ
- Niskala, H. (1986). Competencies and skills required by nurses working in forensic areas. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 8(4), 400-413.
- Rask, M., & Levander, S. (2001). Interventions in the nurse–patient relationship in forensic psychiatric nursing care: A Swedish survey. *Journal of Psychiatric & Mental Health Nursing*, 8(4), 323-333
- Royal College of Nursing (2017). *Supporting Nursing Staff Caring for Patients from Places of Detention*. RCN: London UK

camh
TRANSFORMING LIVES
TRANSFORMER DES VIES