You are members of a community health board responsible for developing a plan for a women’s health centre in your community. Your task is to prepare a brief that you might develop for potential funders on behalf of the board.
Discuss the perspective on women’s health that will inform your services.

What services does the board see as relevant to women’s health?

What factors will need to be considered in developing health services and how will these factors shape service delivery?

*(Reference all significant points you raise in the brief.)*

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Who should be at the table to participate in developing the brief?

* Question to work through

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
The mandate of (WHIWH) Community Health Centre is to provide primary healthcare to Black Women and Women of Color from the Caribbean, African, Latin American and South Asian communities in Metropolitan Toronto and surrounding municipalities.

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Discuss the perspective on women’s health that will inform your services.

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Interrogate the category of ‘woman’
Intersectionality

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Intersectionality

- acknowledges that every person exists in the framework of multiple identities…
- highlights the ways in which there is simultaneous interaction of discrimination that arise from these multiple identities…. *(Verma, 2003)*
* Intersectionality
* Why does intersectionality matter for women’s health?

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Interrogating the category of ‘woman’
* Woman/Gender

Gender as Strict Binary

Male
Female

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Beyond the binary

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Trans youth are left out of sexual health services that don’t recognize their identities and needs.

Trans youth access sexual health care clinics for reasons including pregnancy, but worry about transphobia and being judged.

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
* Alternative/Non-Medicalized Forms of Health Care
Philosophical Principles

- Bodily integrity (control over one’s body)
- Personhood (the ability to make one’s own decisions regarding health and well-being)
- Equality in access to health services
- Diversity (intersectionality into practice)

(Corra & Petchesky, 2003)
* WHIWH is committed to working from an inclusive feminist, pro-choice, anti-racist, anti-oppression, and multilingual participatory framework in addressing the issue of access to healthcare for our mandated priority populations encompassing gender, gender identity, race, class, violence, sexual orientation, religion, culture, language, disability, immigration status and socio-economic circumstances.

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
What services does the board see as relevant to women’s health?
* Models of Women’s Health Care

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
* Health Services

- Reproductive Health Services
- Treatment of Medical/Physical Illnesses
- HIV/AIDS Services
- Mental Health Support
- Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Midwifery
- Pre/post Natal Care
- Physical Fitness/Yoga
What factors will need to be considered in developing health services and how will these factors shape service delivery?

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Services grounded in the everyday lives of diverse women

- Occupation
- Education
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Language
- Heritage/History
- Immigration Status
- Geographic Location
- Ability
- Income
- Gender
- Family Status
- Aboriginality
- Sexuality

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
* What is needed to implement services?
* Affordable Housing

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Co-operative Housing

MIXED-INCOME HOUSING NEAR TRANSIT
Increasing Affordability With Location Efficiency

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
* Food Security

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
How are transportation, access to housing and food security related to women’s health?

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Because of poverty you have housing issues, then you have lack of access to adequate nutrition. You have lack of transport, you know, increased costs going back and forth between doctors and pharmacists. You know, people making decisions about whether they have enough money for milk or to take the bus to see the doctor. *(HIV+ woman, WHIWH)*
Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is a partnership approach to research that involves community members, organizational representatives, and researchers in all aspects of the research process and in which all partners contribute expertise and share decision making and ownership.

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
* Migration

- Experiences of migration including trauma and loss
- Difficult settlement process (unemployment, lack of housing, language barriers)
Generally, there is a three-month waiting period for Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) coverage. It applies to most new residents and former residents returning to Ontario.

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
DID YOU KNOW

…the Ontario government currently imposes a 3-month wait on landed immigrants before they can access health care coverage through OHIP?
Generally, there is a three-month waiting period for Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) coverage. It applies to most new residents and former residents returning to Ontario.

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
In April 2012, the federal government announced a series of sweeping changes to... the health insurance program for refugees in Canada.

..The federal government announced after significant public pressure that government assisted refugees would not be impacted by these cuts.

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
* Advocacy

Migration, Health and HIV: The Linkages
Address to the General Assembly

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Resources

- Government funding
- Referrals (Immigration Services, Employment Agencies)
- Partnerships (Hospitals)
- Public campaigns
- Donors
- Volunteers

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Who should be at the table to participate in developing the brief?
Board Members

- Medical Staff (Doctors, Nurses, Therapists)
- Mental Health Counselors
- Naturopaths
- Social Workers
- Nutritionists
- Potential Clients
- Community Housing Representatives
- Community Food Representatives
- Researchers
- Immigration Lawyers
- Representatives from the communities served
- Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
Questions?

Thank you
Federal government grudgingly returns access by all refugees to health services in response to a federal court order, hours before the deadline.
Determinants of Health

- Physical Environments
- Biology and Genetics
- Personal Health Practices and Coping Skills
- Healthy Child Development
- Health Services and Social Services
- Social Environments
- Gender
- Culture
- Social Support Networks
- Education
- Employment and Working Conditions
- Income and Social Status

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto
- Reproductive health
- Nutrition
Community Center Team

• Health educators
• Community health workers
• Physicians
• Dieticians
• Counsellors
• Therapists
• Social Workers
• Nurses
• Researchers

Dr June Larkin, University of Toronto