

# Building Thriving Supportive Communities

Note: For more details of the content in this deck of slides, please refer to the pdf.  
*Building Thriving Supportive Communities: A Collective Perspective* document

# Why are Supportive Communities and or Groups Important?

- Provides guidance and practical support to help navigate daily struggles
- Opens new prosocial networks and resources for participants
- Promote acceptance and trust, which reinforce prosocial identities
- Instill and sustain hope in Persons with In-prison Experiences (PIEs)

Reference: Chapter 1.  
Strengthening the eco-system

# For Reflection and Discussion

1. Which of the above points (slide 2) are of greater importance to you? What is your reason(s)?
2. Beyond the above points, what are the other purposes and benefits of supportive communities/groups?

**For consideration: The needs of PIEs differ from person to person and may likely change overtime. This means that the characteristics of supportive communities/groups will differ depending on which segment of the PIEs' population they are targeting.**

Reference : Chapter 2  
Developing a clear logic model helps align activities with desired outcomes. Regular feedback and periodic reviews ensure the program stays on track. Use these insights to continuously refine and improve the support group.

# Key Features of Effective Supportive Communities/Groups

## Focus on meeting primary needs

Good Lives Model (GLM): meeting the 11 human basic needs in a prosocial and positive way

## Build support and accountability

Meet regularly to relate, share views and experiences

## Led by community members

Peer leadership is crucial for authenticity and relatability

## Have a dual focus

Supporting the aspirations of PIEs to live prosocial and meaningful lives, and at the same time resolving the problems they face

## Create a positive and supportive group culture

Promote informal interactions and balance structure with flexibility to help PIEs feel involved and welcomed

# Engaging Desistors (Agencies' POV)

- 1. Organise diverse activities**
- 2. Provide volunteering**
- 3. Create space for sharing personal stories Opportunities**
- 4. Respect confidentiality and voluntary participation**
- 5. Select a topic and questions for each session**

Reference : Chapter 2 & 3  
Diverse activities cater to different interests and needs. Personal story-sharing builds connection and hope. And participation should always be voluntary.

# Engaging Desistors (Desistors' POV)

- 1. The process of engagement should be collaborative and empowering, as desistors' willingness and readiness are crucial in participation**
- 2. The degree of family involvement in the desistor's change/recovery is dependent on family circumstances, including everyone's readiness**
- 3. A thriving supportive community/group requires external support & collaboration with other community groups/partners**

[Reference: Chapter 3](#)

# For Reflection and Discussion

- 1. Which of the above points (slides 4 to 6) are crucial in building a thriving supportive communities/groups? What are your reason(s)?**
- 2. Which of the points may be easy to apply/implement?**
- 3. Which one may be challenging and difficult? What are the ideas that can address the challenge/difficulty?**
- 4. What type of support is needed, including external resources and collaboration with other groups/partners?**

**For consideration: There is no one-size-fit-all approach. The process of how the community/group is run and the sessions are conducted are crucial.**



# Recruitment & Volunteering

## Recruitment Strategies

- Targeted Outreach
- Leverage Current Volunteers
- Engage with Local Communities
- Connecting through Social Media

## Training Programs

- Comprehensive Orientation
- Skill Development Workshops
- Ongoing Education and Support
- Mentorship Programs

## Retention and Recognition

- Recognize and Appreciate Volunteers
- Provide Growth Opportunities
- Foster a Supportive Environment



# For Reflection and Discussion

- 1. Which of the above points (slides 8) are crucial in recruitment, training, and retention? What are your reason(s)?**
- 2. Which of the points may be easy to apply/implement?**
- 3. Which one may be challenging and difficult? What are the ideas that can address the challenge/difficulty?**
- 4. What type of support is needed, including external resources and collaboration with other groups/partners?**

**For consideration: Slide 8 is a good reminder that a thriving community/group is not just about how well a session is conducted, but all the supporting systems need to be well implemented too**

# Monitoring & Evaluation

- 1. Plan and design review process:**
  - Identify stakeholders
  - Develop a logic model and identify areas for monitoring
- 2. Collect data**
  - Gather regular feedback from participants and facilitators
  - Live observations
- 3. Analyse data and form recommendations**
- 4. Use findings and insights to improve current processes**

Reference: Chapter 2  
Clear Logic Model, regular  
feedback & periodic reviews

For consideration: To help a community/group improves and grows, it is necessary to monitor and review its implementation. This is a more objective way than just depending on one's anecdotal experiences

# Collaborating with Other Agencies

Reference: Chapter 4  
Collaboration and coordination

## Share best practices

Participate actively in sector-related events to gain from others' experiences and avoid duplicating services that are done well

## Joint events and activities

Leverage on and attend other agencies' activities or invite members from other agencies to attend your events

## Collaborate services for beneficiaries

Focus on collaborations that leverage each partner's strengths and improve service for beneficiaries

## Develop shared approaches

Develop compatible operating and communication processes across participating agencies

# For Reflection and Discussion

- 1. Which of the above points (slides 11) are crucial in building a thriving supportive communities/groups? What are your reason(s)?**
- 2. Which of the points may be easy to apply/implement?**
- 3. Which one may be challenging and difficult? What are the ideas that can address the challenge/difficulty?**
- 4. What are the ways to strengthen the support network for a community/group? What are the ways to increase opportunities for cross-learning and collaboration?**

**For consideration: The manpower and resources will be scarce, hence it is crucial for any supportive community/group to be plugged into a network of community partners and collaborators**

# Key Takeaways

**Foster belonging and accountability**

**Meet needs & aspirations**

**Led by peers: Strengthen peer leadership**

**Create a positive and supportive group culture**

**Provide diverse engagement opportunities**

**Manage volunteers effectively**

**Monitor, evaluate, and improve continuously**

**Collaborate with other agencies**

# Acknowledgements

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<b>Participating Agencies</b>	<b>Representative</b>
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