

THE REVOLVING DOOR OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM: PERSONAL STORIES AND EXPERIENCES IN THE YUKON

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Abstract

This proposal is a presentation on a project titled, “*The Revolving Door of the Justice System: Personal Stories and Experiences in the Yukon*”. In 2016, Blood Ties recognized common themes amongst their mandated-client population and designed an infographic highlighting those presenting themes and issues: *Release into Homelessness, Justice Navigation, Release into Poverty, Unrealistic Conditions, Stigma and Discrimination, and Limited Treatment Options*. Afterwards, individuals were interviewed, individually and in focus groups, in Whitehorse, Yukon, to further highlight the complexity of the Justice System through personal narratives. The outcome was organized in a booklet to distribute in the community. This resulting booklet has been a useful tool to highlight common lived experiences, while honoring the unique voices and the resilience of these individuals. All participants in this project were Indigenous, with lived experiences within the Yukon Territory, as well as British Columbia, Alberta, and the Northwest Territories.

We would like to bring forward a discussion with a goal to giving the audience and the public a greater understanding of the complexities of these individuals’ lives and to create opportunities for a more compassionate response to their experiences. We will include academia and written narratives of the project in the presentation.

Biography



Alyssa Carpenter is representing Blood Ties Four Directions Centre Society based in Whitehorse, Yukon. The organization offers programs and services in: Harm Reduction, education and information workshops on HIV, AIDS and Hepatitis C, counselling, and housing support. She has had the roles of Justice Navigator and Housing Navigator within the organization.

Alyssa is an Indigenous woman originally from Inuvik, Northwest Territories. She graduated from the Aurora College Social Work Diploma Program in May 2016 as the Valedictorian of her class. Currently, she is attending Yukon College in Whitehorse to complete her Bachelors in Social Work.