

Advancing Trans-Affirming Practice to Improve the Response to Transgender Sexual Assault Survivors

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ASSESSMENT OF NEED

- Trans persons sexually assaulted at lifetime rates as high as 47% and often encounter barriers to equitable services and supports. (James et al., 2016)

National College Health Assessment Survey (2014)

N ≈ 20,000

Past 12 months	Sexual touch*	Attempted penetration*	Completed penetration*	Relationship Sexual abuse*
Male+	3.7	1.3	0.8	1.1
Female	12.1	5.3	3.1	2.7
Trans	13.9	6.3	3.8	6.3

+ reference category, *statistically significant (Hoxmeier, 2016)

- Timely post-assault care critical to mitigate trauma and prevent revictimization
- Forensic nurses provide acute post-sexual assault healthcare but are not always appropriately trained to respond to trans survivors
- Due to experiences of other forms of interpersonal and structural violence, trans survivors may have psychosocial challenges that forensic nurses alone cannot address

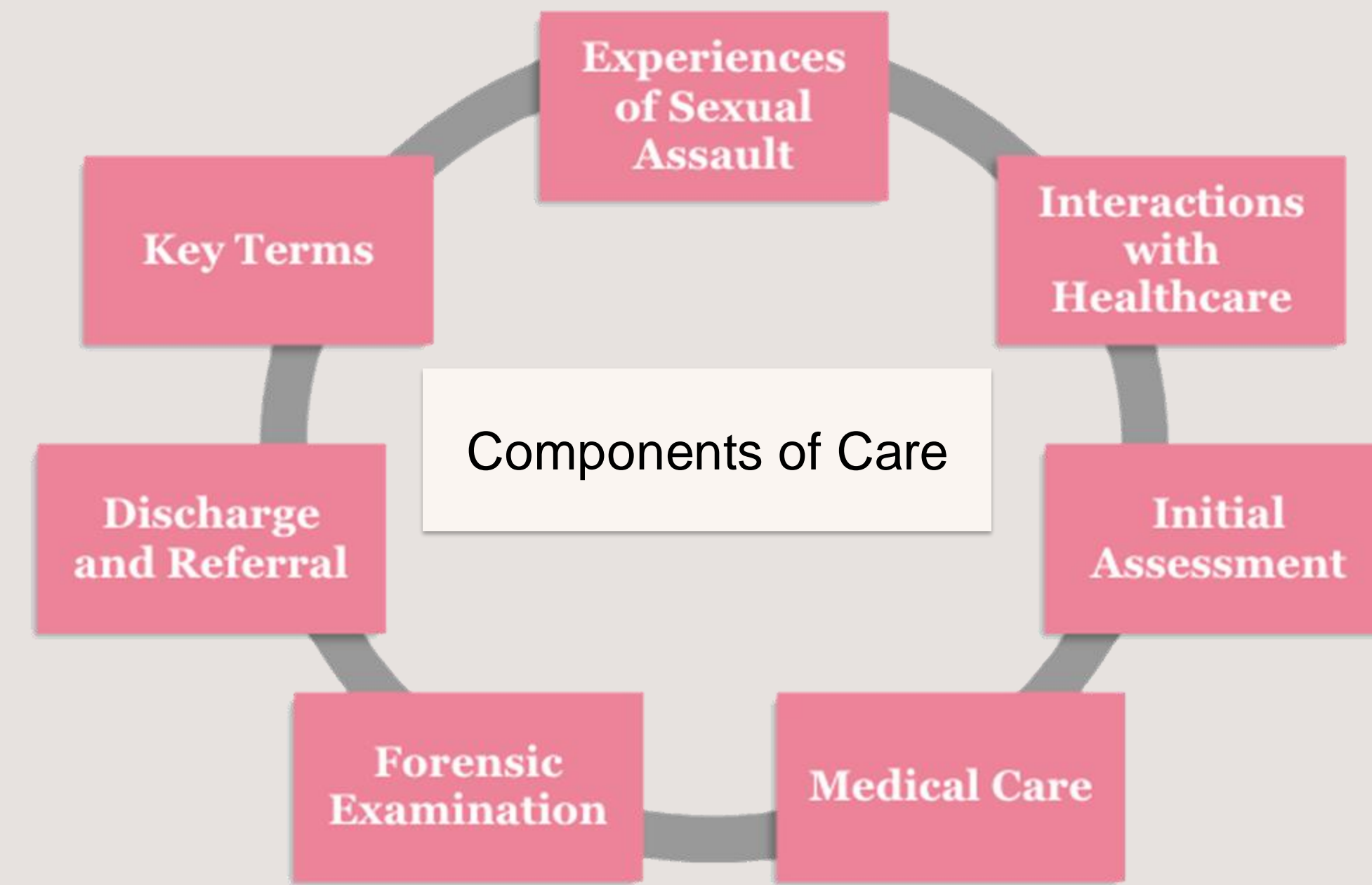
DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGY

We used **trans affirming practice**, which “recognize[s], account[s] for, and address[es] the unique experiences and needs of trans survivors” (Saad et al., 2020, p. 65), as a guiding framework to:

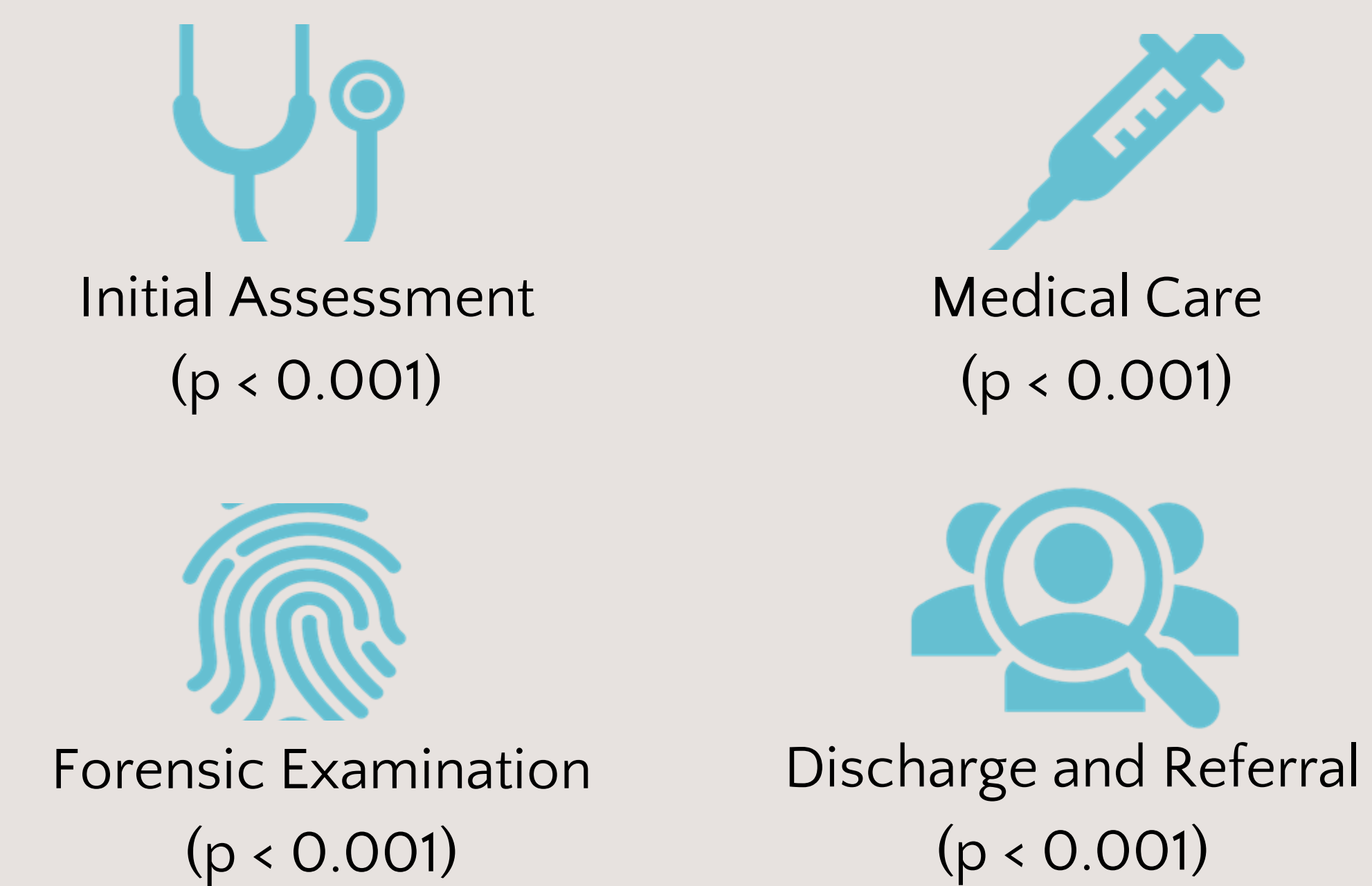
- Enhance the knowledge and capacity of forensic nurses working across Ontario, Canada’s 36 hospital-based sexual assault/domestic violence treatment centres (SA/DVTCs) to provide trans-affirming sexual assault care (see Step 1)
- Promote intersectoral collaboration among healthcare and social service providers in Ontario to better address the full range of trans survivors’ care and support needs (see Step 2)

STEP 1) DEVELOPED AND EVALUATED A TRANS-AFFIRMING CARE CURRICULUM

- Freely available, competency-based and evidence-informed
- Consists of 1) Training Module, 2) Facilitator’s Guide, and 3) Training Manual

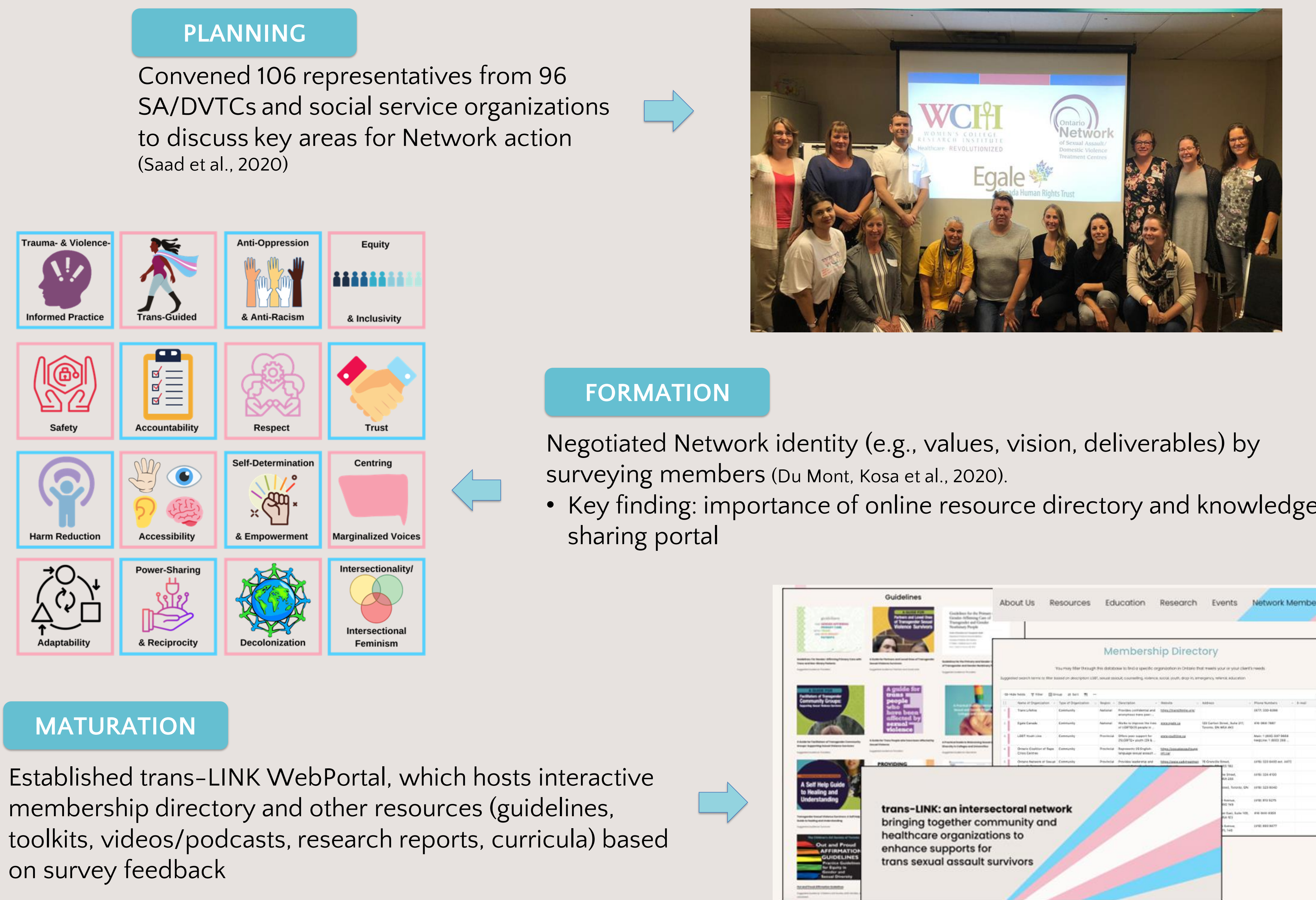


- Pre- to post-training evaluation of 47 SA/DVTC nurses documented improved competence across all content domains (Du Mont, Saad, et al., 2020):



STEP 2) ESTABLISHED TRANS-LINK NETWORK ON TRANS-AFFIRMING PRACTICE

Guided by the Lifecycle Model of Network Development, comprised of several stages (Robeson, 2009):



IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

Publicly available curriculum could be used to continue building capacity among forensic nurses worldwide and adapted to enhance relevance for other sectors



Growing intersectoral Network and WebPortal provide an opportunity for collective advocacy against systemic discrimination and barriers experienced by trans survivors



Interactive trans-LINK membership directory can be used by service providers and trans survivors to locate trans-positive services in their community



Advancing trans-affirming practice holds potential to promote health equity for trans communities and transform response to sexual assault worldwide



TRANS-LINK WEBPORTAL



trans-LINK WebPortal can be accessed by scanning QR code or at <http://www.translinknetwork.com>