**Mobilizing Community Inclusiveness to Promote the Dignity of People & Communities Affected by FASD** 

## **LOOKING BEYOND THE DISABILITY: EXPLORING SOCIETAL AND STRUCTURAL FACTORS IN FASD**

Jeannine Cull & Marleny Bonnycastle, Ph.D.

## So, you know...?

... Often, the general public only sees FASD as an individual issue. Situating FASD within a broader context of social disparities and marginalization urges us to explore societal and structural factors that stigmatize mothers, individuals, and families affected by FASD.

1. What societal and structural factors might contribute to stigma in FASD?

2. How can we amplify the voices of people with lived experience to promote dignity in FASD?

> "There's negative language There's a stigma."

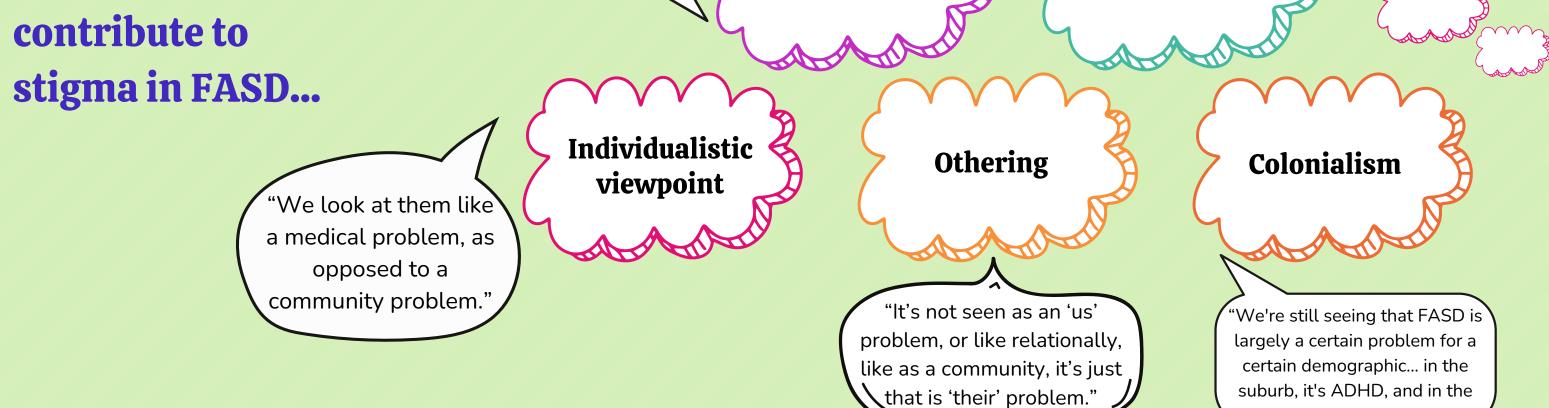
### **Societal structural** factors that might

we're not able to do that; we're not able to do this; jump when we tell you to. We suddenly just start hating ourselves is because we have [FASD]."

...our service providers tells us

**Deficit focus** 

Label



# \*Let's talk more about... dignity

..individuals have so much to offer and when we empower them and help them recognize their gifts, what happens is the individual feels so safe and free."

.. in order to make real changes we have to change the policy, right?... can we make this education higher level and have it trickle down from the Ministers of Health or the Ministers of Family?" Systemic

#### **Gender equity**

"...there needs to be education in terms of an wrap-around allencompassing education and really driving home the fact that dads make decisions, too, and they need to be accountable decisions in families."

Dignity to me, when it comes to a family, is being transparent and being able to speak to them in transparent ways.... validating everything about who they are in spite of their disability."

### **Transparency and** validation in services

T'm not saying that we should push people to go beyond their capacity but there are people who are willing and able to go beyond. And there needs to be some acknowledgement of people who want to take those opportunities,"

inner city, it's FASD."

### Respecting agency



**Embracing gifts** 

& strengths

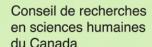


changes

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada



du Canada



\*Quotes are taken from our community cafes, public cafes, PhotoVoice, and Elders' Circles.

www.fasdcoalition.ca/fasd-research