

# Bertha Rosenstadt Trust: FIFSW Showcase



## **Strengthening Social Work Pathways of Care through Education**

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# SOCIAL WORK IDENTITY IN HEALTH CARE

Social workers engage in a multitude of roles within the Canadian health care system. Social work pathways of care are seldom elucidated – nor the life-long education pathways needed to use knowledge, create knowledge and build the ability to practice to full scope in order to provide excellent care.

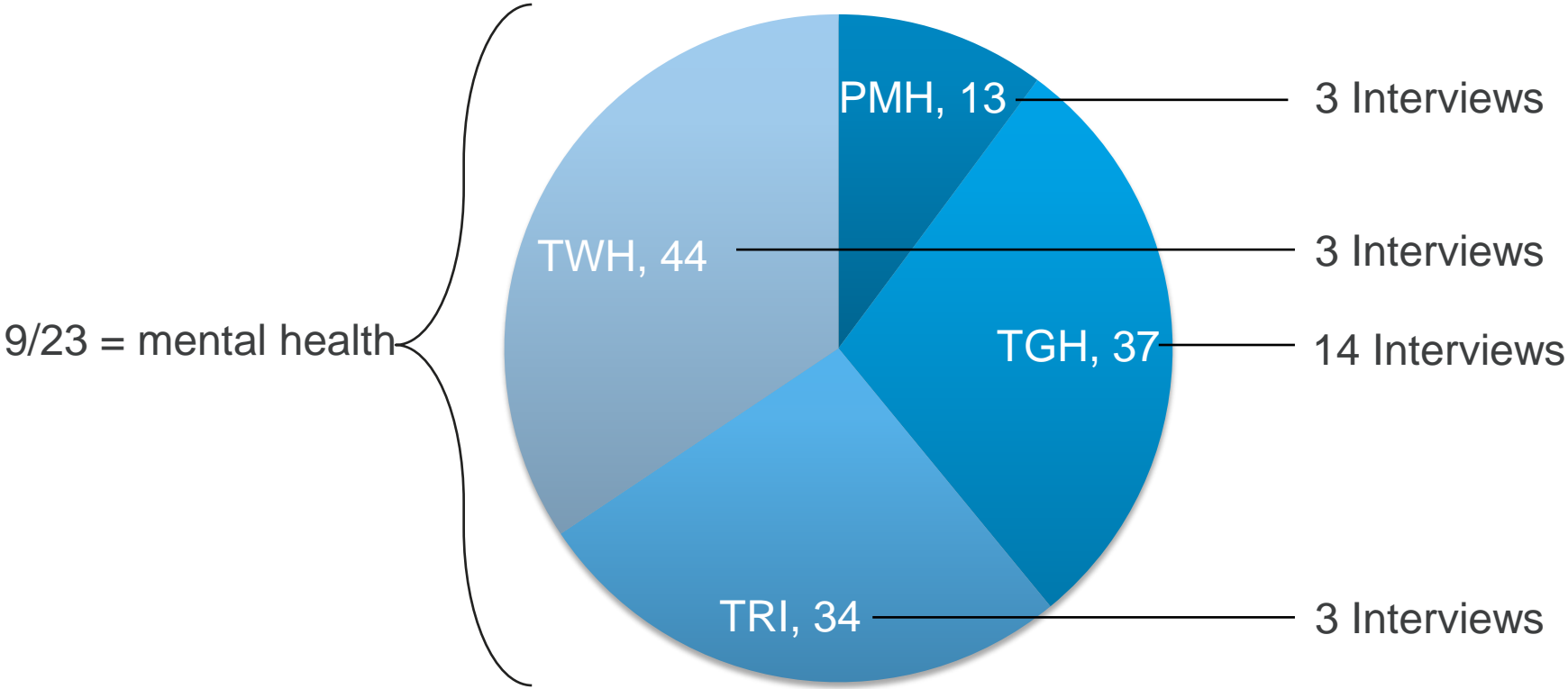
Using a mixed method design, we aimed to identify the theoretical frameworks and evidence based practice guidelines that guide the direct practice of social workers at the UHN.

# SOCIAL WORK IDENTITY IN HEALTH CARE

Our current sample consists of 21 questionnaire and 23 qualitative interview respondents.

Social workers working in administration as well as with patients with complex health and mental health issues are included. Several quotes for preliminary data are included based on the interviews to date as well data related to the administration of an Interdisciplinary Perceptions Scale.

# SOCIAL WORK (FTE) INTERVIEWS BY SITE



# DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: QUESTIONNAIRES

Age: 28-59 (mean = 42; standard deviation = 10.33)

Gender: 3 Male

Degree: 100% held a Masters in Social Work

Years at UHN:

1	<6 months
2	6 months-1year
5	1-5 years
13	5+ years

Role at UHN:

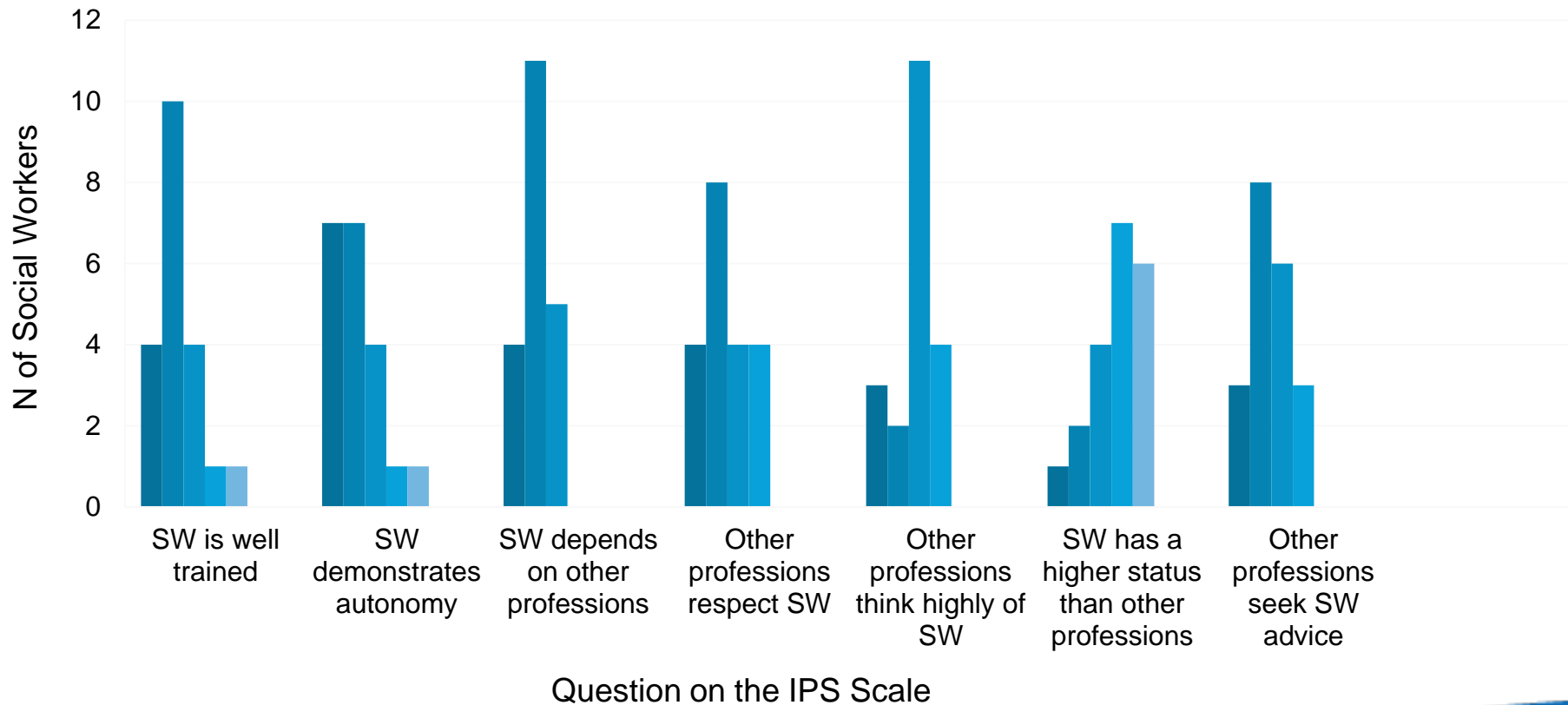
75%	direct clinical practice
15%	casual/temporary
10%	management team or practice leader



# INTERDISCIPLINARY PERCEPTIONS SCALE

18 QUESTIONS; 5-POINT LIKERT SCALE

Strongly Agree – Agree – Neutral – Disagree – Strongly Disagree





# SOCIAL WORK IDENTITY IN HEALTH CARE

“In broad terms ...the social work role in healthcare is helping patients, families and their supports cope with an illness – the impact of that on their lives in every way psychosocially.

So emotionally, psychologically, physically, financially, and the impact on all those around them, and helping them transition through the healthcare system. It also involves navigating that complex system, and helping people access resources that they need.”

# SOCIAL WORK IDENTITY IN HEALTH CARE

“Social work ... has the ability to contribute that multi-systemic, ecological prospective in health care. Where often times the medical model tends to be criticized for concentrating on the medical aspect or the physical functioning of the patient or even the mental health of a patient, I think social workers have the benefit of contributing the bigger, macro-, meso-, and micro-level perspectives; so understanding the patient in their context.”



# SOCIAL WORK IDENTITY IN HEALTH CARE

“What I really like about social work, and I hear from other social workers, we all sort of have this sense that is not just the body and it’s not just the physical aspects of a person’s life.

It is their individual experience that is creating the world that they live in. And social workers have a keen interest in the world surrounding the person and that is a really unique thing that we do and a unique priority that we have.

Looking at someone’s environment and their interactions rather than what is going in their individual self. We spend a lot of time thinking about the power structure and the impact our work have both on people and the community and ourselves. And I think that plays into a lot of our social work identity.”

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