

**Abstract Women in2 Healing: an overview**

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**ABSTRACT: Background:** The vision of *Women in2 Healing* (WITH) is for women to be empowered in their emotional, spiritual, physical and mental healing in and out of prison through participatory research (PR) processes.

Objectives for WITH members are to engage in one, two and/or three of participatory research circles of activity: collaborative research; reciprocal capacity building; action. WITH goals are to improve: access to safe and stable housing; peer and community support; one's ability to contribute to society; relationships with children, family and partners; job skills, training, relevant education, and employment; awareness of wellness, and integrating wellness into life; dentition and oral health; access to consistent (primary) health care; education of health and disease.

**Methods:** Women developed an orientation package, terms of reference and guidelines for their formalized engagement. They gain mutual support through a closed Facebook group, a Webpage/Blog, WebEx and face-to-face meetings. They have received a certificate of Research Ethics Board approval from University of British Columbia to conduct on-going multi-method evaluation. They acknowledge in-kind and funding support from Vancouver Foundation, Fraser Health Authority, BC Women's Hospital, Womens Health Research Institute, WHRN and W2M2. **Results:** Promising practices include reconnecting with children and families, engaging in courses for credit, job skill development, writing, media advocacy, group processing interpersonal skills, computer skills, health promotion and publication/distribution of a newsletter. Limitations include communication difficulties, due to scattered locations, and the 'iterative' nature of participatory (dis)organization.

Evaluation measures include WHO-BREF survey, narrative enquiry and an economic evaluation. **Conclusions and Ways forward:** Members of Women in2 Healing repeatedly communicate with conference academics, community and policy makers about the ways in which participatory research processes facilitate their (re)integration into society.