

Summer 2023

OPERATIONS & OUTREACH UPDATES



Our February drop-in was dedicated to messages of self-love, where attendees crafted Valentine's cards.



In addition to Valentine's Day, we celebrated #LovePositiveWomen.

LOVE POSITIVE WOMEN is an ongoing project established by Visual AIDS artist member Jessica Whitbread in 2013 where activists and HIV-positive women collaborate through paper making workshops to show their love and support for women living with HIV.

JOIN SHAWNA'S MONTHLY DROP-IN

When: first Thursday of every month, 10:30 am – 2 pm

Where: 647 E Hastings office

Our team provides a drop-in space for women and gender-diverse people living with HIV to come together, do arts and crafts, have coffee and snacks, and contribute to a space of support and connection with one another.

You're always welcome to pop by, say hi, and grab a coffee!



Visual by Freepik

OPERATION UPDATES

647 E Hastings is an exciting place to be! We are happy to offer many in-office supports to our participants including: clothing donations, a resource library, food donation shelf, coffee and snacks, and our part-time nurse. Lately, we have been working on making our interview rooms more comfortable, functional, and welcoming. For your next appointment with us, come in person so you can see for yourself!

OUTREACH UPDATES

We are thrilled to report that we have been able to expand our outreach efforts these past few months!

We love being out in community! We are often stopping by our fellow community organizations to drop off recruitment posters and newsletters, and to maintain connections. We do outreach interviewing appointments, where we can meet participants at their homes or at another private location. And our nurse can also provide outreach nursing appointments for any participants who have difficulty coming into the office to see a nurse. If you see us out and about, feel free to say hi!

SHAWNA TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT

SHAWNA Trainees at the CGSHE Trainee Research Symposium

Key Barriers to Mental Health Services Access Among Women Living with HIV

Parisa Kabir (she/her); UBC BSc Student

Gender-Based Violence & Health Care Services Access Among Women Living with HIV

Mika Ohtsuka (she/they); UBC PhD Student



SHAWNA Trainees at the Oak Tree Clinic Student Research Day

He, Carol, Ohtsuka, Mika, Kabir, Parisa. “Power and ART use, mental health services access, and disclosure of HIV status without consent”. (December 16, 2022).

RESEARCH UPDATES

SHAWNA AT RESEARCH CONFERENCES

32nd Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research (CAHR, April 2023)

Contributions at this conference included:

- A quantitative study that examined social-structural factors including gender-based violence and HIV care access during the COVID-19 pandemic among women living with HIV in Metro Vancouver¹
- A mixed methods study to understand key barriers to mental health services access among women living with HIV in Metro Vancouver and facing discrimination, HIV stigma and interpersonal violence²
- A quantitative study focused on how marginalized social identities intersect with food insecurity and mental health outcomes and shaping access to health care during the COVID-19 pandemic among women living with HIV³

13th International Workshop on HIV & Women (Feb 17-18, 2023)

Contributions at this conference included:

- A quantitative study on the positive role of using a trauma-informed practice approach in HIV care and how it is associated with agency and respect in HIV care continuum outcomes⁴

TAKE A LOOK AT SHAWNA'S NEW INFOGRAPHICS

- <https://cgshe.ca/research/community-based-cohorts-social-policy-research/shawna>

DID YOU KNOW?

Key factors in the relationship between being recently incarcerated & taking HIV medications consistently:

- 1 Being unhoused
- 1 Criminalized substance use
- 1 Gender-based violence

76%

of women in SHAWNA have been incarcerated in their lifetime

19%

of women in SHAWNA have experienced recent incarceration

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Ohtsuka MS, Shannon K, Ogilvie G, Pick N, Braschel M, Zhou C, Kuntz E, Deering KN. Social-structural factors including gender-based violence and HIV care access during the COVID-19 pandemic among women living with HIV in Metro Vancouver.
2. Kabir P, Shannon K, Braschel M, Zhou C, Deering KN. Discrimination, HIV stigma and interpersonal violence: Key barriers to mental health services access among women living with HIV in Metro Vancouver, Canada.
3. Kabir P, Shannon K, Braschel M, Zhou C, Deering KN. Marginalized social identities intersect with food insecurity and poor mental health outcomes in shaping access to health care during the COVID-19 pandemic among women living with HIV.
4. Deering K, Braschel M, King D, Pick, Shannon K. Using a trauma-informed practice approach in HIV care demonstrates the critical role of agency and respect in positive HIV care continuum outcomes.

SHAWNA POSITIVE WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD APRIL MEETING

In April 2023, our Community Engagement Associate (CRA) Team hosted another successful meeting of our Positive Women's Advisory Board (PWAB)!

We had a great turnout with continued dedicated interest in our research goals. In this meeting we were able to provide updates to members on SHAWNA's research progress, aims for this year, and to have a fruitful discussion regarding trauma-informed care. We look forward to meeting again in July!



¹ BCC3 is a CIHR-funded collaboration between two existing studies: the Children and women: AntiRetroviral therapy and Markers of Aging (CARMA) study and the Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study (CHIWOS).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Visuals by Freepik

SHAWNA DIGITAL STORYTELLING

This summer, SHAWNA is excited to embark on a new qualitative arts-based project entitled "My Story, My Way" using Digital Storytelling methods. Digital Storytelling is a way of telling personal stories that combines voice, images, video and music in short three – five minute videos that can be shared online.

These stories are rich sources of meaning for researchers trying to better understand and express the impact of these experiences on the people who live them and we are delighted and grateful that people are interested in participating.

We have had several working groups with community members to inform and shape our research process. Our final working group was on May 25th, and we are so fortunate to have had all the wisdom, camaraderie and laughter of the working group form the research process and design our upcoming workshops.

SHARING RESEARCH OUT IN COMMUNITY

In March, Dr. Kathleen Deering (SHAWNA PI) gave a presentation titled *Criminalization of HIV non-disclosure, HIV stigma and gender-based violence: context and calls to action* (March 4, 2023) at the Afro-Canadian Positive Network of BC Annual Retreat.

SHAWNA staff also participated at a recent AIDS Vancouver event run by BCC3¹ themed "Celebrating Our Strengths". Our team shared information about the structure of SHAWNA, the upcoming digital storytelling project, and showcased the ways we engage with the community, centered around the question, "How do we engage and support our community to foster strength and connection?" We discussed the Positive Women's Advisory Board, our monthly drop-in group, outreach efforts, referrals, and then facilitated a fruitful discussion. We are grateful for the invitation to share and learn!

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

- We have had some exciting changes at SHAWNA in the past few months. We are thrilled to announce our new Community Research Associate, **Amanda Tallio!** Amanda brings a wealth of experience including working with YouthCo, Lookout Society, AIDS Vancouver, and more. Welcome Amanda!
- We also have a new Interviewer/Outreach Worker, **Yas Botelho Canabrava!** Previously, Yas has worked with WISH, BWSS, and the SASC at UBC. So happy to have you with us, Yas!
- Additionally, we have a fantastic new Site Coordinator at 647 East Hastings, **Ollie Norris!** Ollie was an Interviewer with the AESHA Project before taking on the full-time Site Coordinator role. Come by the office sometime and say hi!
- We are also happy to welcome our new SHAWNA Research Coordinator, **Tanya Ghai!**
- Julia Askew**, a UBC-MD FLEX student, joined SHAWNA for her first six-week FLEX session and will be back in the fall.
- Our esteemed Assistant Coordinator **Elle Aikema** has secured an exciting position as a Junior Data Analyst with SHAWNA. We wish her all the best in this new role!
- We are excited to have **Colleen Thompson** as our new Project Coordinator for the “My Story, My Way” project, an exciting digital story-telling project with SHAWNA.
- Congratulations **Parisa Kabir!** Parisa, a SHAWNA research assistant and former Co-op student received acceptance to London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for Nutrition for Global Health and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors!
- Lastly, congratulations to **Carol He & Gbolahan Olarewaju**, UBC-MD and FLEX students with SHAWNA, who matched to Family Medicine (Western) and Public Health/Family Medicine (UBC), respectively.

WE ARE RECRUITING

If you're interested in participating in the SHAWNA project as a cis or trans woman living with HIV who accesses HIV care in Metro Vancouver, or would like more information, please contact us:

604-822-0048 (front desk)

604-761-9387 (outreach)

604-655-8531 (outreach)

shawna@cgshe.ubc.ca

Visit our website: cgshe.ca

