

Substance Use Roundtable Review Process

Key Findings

Plan for Today

Overview of Review Process

Key Findings:

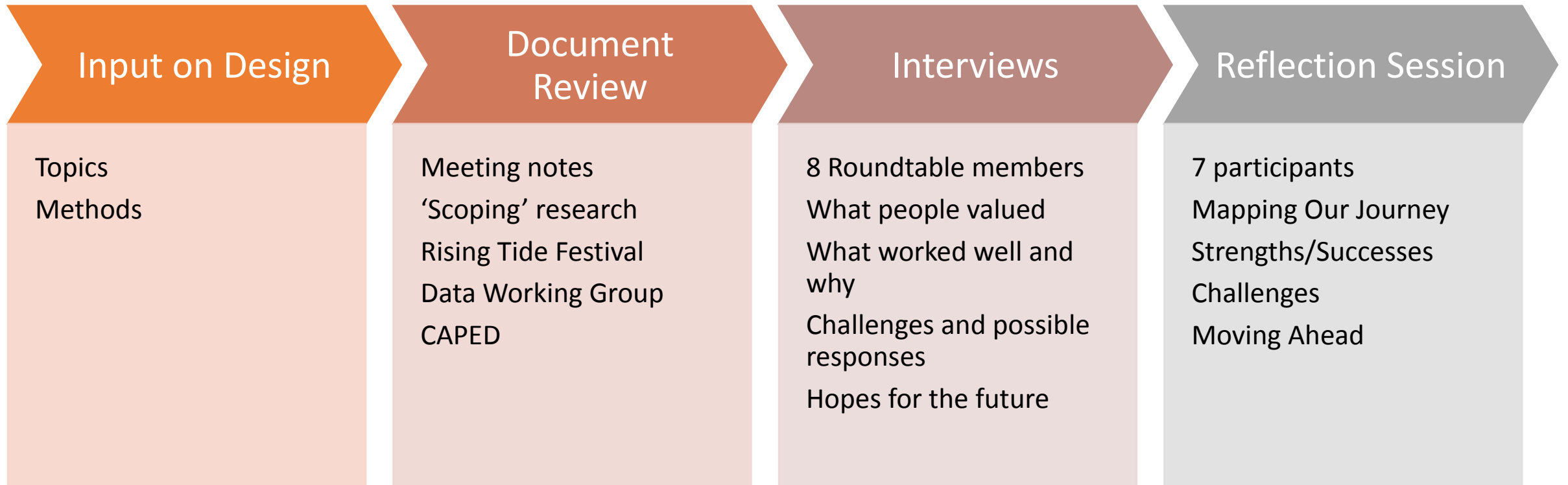
- Successes and Strengths
- Challenges and Things to Consider
- Moving Ahead

Purpose of the Review

Reflect together on our work in order to strengthen it for the future.



Review Process: Key Elements



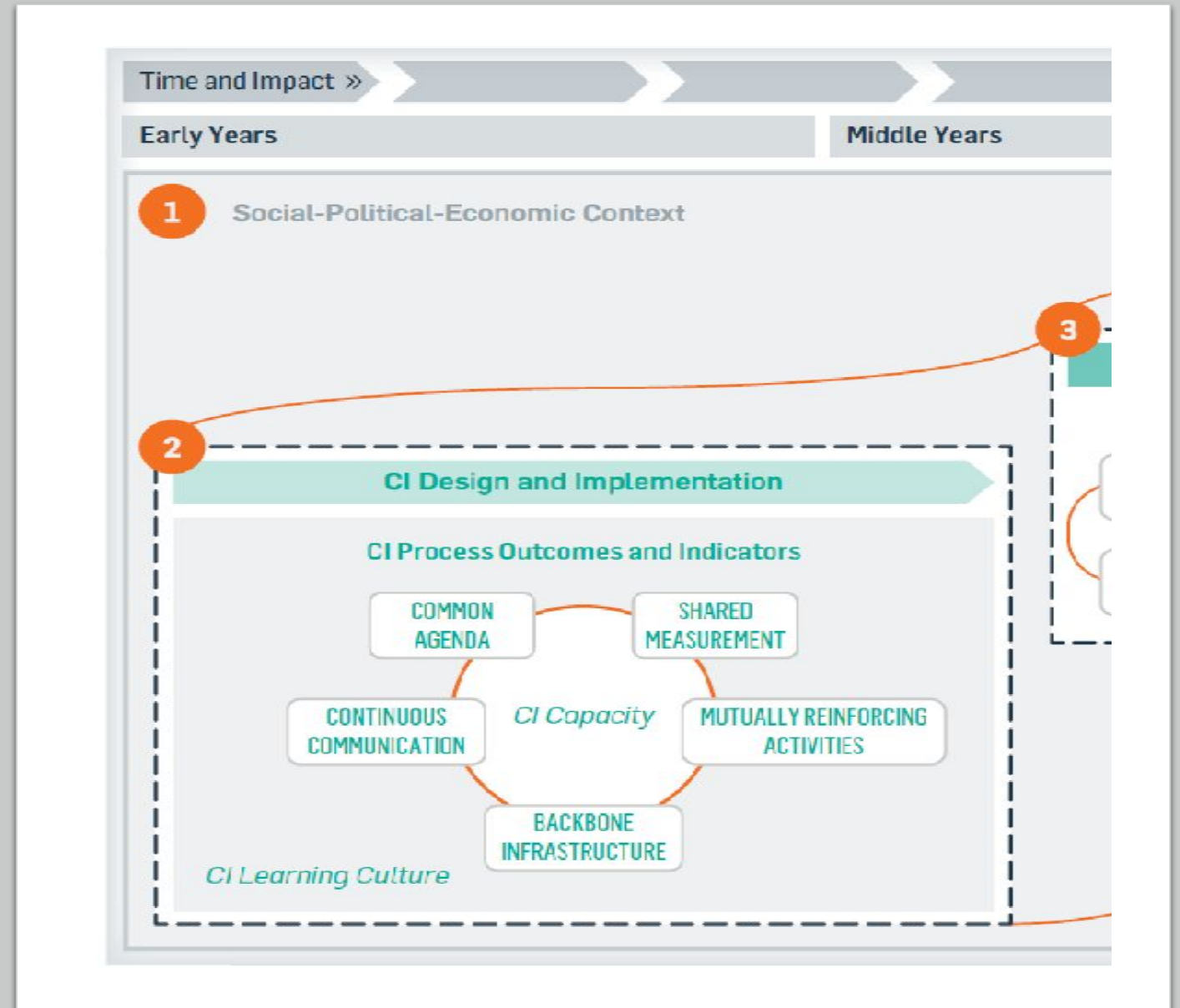


Successes and
Strengths

Ongoing process of learning and change...

- About the issue
- About who's who
- About addressing a difficult, complex problem
- About facilitating a collaborative process

“evolving how you see yourself in leading a process and how you see yourself supporting the work”



“Place to connect with others to explore issues related to substance use that may not be addressed elsewhere”

“...refreshing to be a part of the Roundtable to do some of the work and have some of the conversations that I'm not able to do or have”

“I think that the Roundtable has done a great job engaging community and building trust and an enabling community to have voice around their issues.”

Providing a
space for
sharing
diverse
perspectives

Raising
public
awareness
and
reducing
stigma

“I think the Rising Tide Festival with the discussions and the concert and everything that we had, that those were wonderful.”

“When the Community understands the issues and what people go through in their life, you know society becomes easier [for people using drugs].”

“I think we should do it [public awareness sessions] regularly.”

First voice participation

“it's the inclusiveness of Northside Rising of the community and people with lived experience that I find is most valuable.”

“What I find refreshing is the opportunity to work directly with first voice... And actually have people who have used and are using drugs right there in the conversation being given an equal voice.”

Development of CAPED

-OPS

-Safe supply

“Supporting development of CAPED as an independent user advocacy group”

“Essentially the first mobilized group to provide a voice to PWUD on the Island”

“Allowed substance users to raise important issues, e.g., safe supply, that other organizations might be reluctant for various reasons to raise”



-
- Questions
 - Comments
 - Anything missing



Challenges and Considerations

Membership and turnover - Do we have all the right voices consistently involved?

Some voices missing or not represented sufficiently; turnover

- Additional community perspectives, e.g., family members affected by substance use
- Additional ‘lived experience’ perspectives
- Additional decisionmakers within NSHA

- “Include others affected by substance use”
- “Having someone who's lost a child to drug use in some way might. Might bring in a different perspective that we're missing as well.”
- “Roundtable becoming professionalized - doesn't feel like regular community people at the table”
- “Tendency to consider one voice speaking for the voice of a whole group of people”
- “Engagement of those who can make stuff happen”

Views of first voice participants

- “Authentic attention to first voice perspectives; avoid tokenism”



Government/ community collaboration

- *“The work that's been done at the community level needs to be matched with work done with government partners so that we are all in the same conversation and figuring out the potential directions adequately together.”*
- *“My biggest fear is that the great job Northside Rising has done with community will build expectations with community about what's needed to happen, and then you'll have a huge divide about what can happen because government agencies don't understand or aren't prepared or whatever happens as part of the conversation.”*
- *“...what I'm hearing is that there's a large expectation built around what should happen, what's needed by community... And listen, that's not wrong. Its absolutely needed and then my fear is for how do the people that enable that to happen understand all that and how can they be part of that journey and building that relationship.”*
- *“Community and government need some wins together... and that might be incremental”*
- *“I don't see that there's going to be much movement or success in terms of actual initiatives or what have you unless we are finding together the art of the possible.”*

Pace, Scope and Scale

Go slow to go far; move at the speed of trust

“Taking too long to be able to work effectively. Yeah, make things actionable yet. Yeah. Look, even a letter writing campaign that could have been done ages ago. You know, compose a letter written from the Substance Use Roundtable, from Northside Rising to these people about what we found. You know, just educate more directly with the people in positions to make these decisions.”

Urgent concerns (overdose, safe supply) or root causes, systemic changes, reduction and prevention

“Sometimes it's hard to affect change in one little area, right? But it's a start, right? So I guess maybe expand to the Sydney area, some expansion, maybe the full 'CBRM Rising.’

Opioids? All illicit drugs? Alcohol
PWUD or others as well

Urgent concerns or root causes and systemic changes



Perspectives about harm reduction

“...people sometimes think, oh, you're just giving them what they want. It's not seen as a way to engage with people grounded in human rights and social justice. One of the biggest myths about harm reduction. Is it just enables continued drug use. 'You're just enabling them.'”

“It's not harm reduction, abstinence and everything in between. Harm reduction includes it.... Harm reduction is about a continuum of services that meet people exactly where they're at, based on what they need.”

Clarity about ultimate goal

“Yeah, 'cause I only know the mandate of Northside Rising is a healthy, vibrant Northside, but specific to drug use. I couldn't rhyme off what the ultimate goal is.”

“Clarity and priorities? Area/s of focus so a concerted effort can be applied and appropriate strategies put in place.”



- Questions
- Comments
- Anything missing

Moving Ahead

Time to Regroup

- Building on what we have done and learned to date, develop a 'framework for change' for the next phase of the Roundtable's work



- Questions of Clarification
- Comments and Corrections
- Anything missing?