

Advancing a Population Health Needs Framework for Service Planning: A Summary of Evidence



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Background

- Although Alberta's healthcare system was designed to primarily address medical needs, a more holistic approach addressing the upstream determinants of population health is recognized by leadership as a significant predictor of health outcomes.
- Identifying and addressing population health needs requires an understanding of what matters most to the individuals who live, work, and play in communities across Alberta.
- Currently, there is no universal definition of population health needs used to plan for and deliver health and community based services nor a specific framework on how to plan for services to address population health needs in Canada

Research Question: How might we develop a framework to guide health, community, and social service partners plan for services that address population health needs?

Goal: To co-develop a framework for service planning that defines population health needs and provides high-level guidance to begin understanding the current needs of the population and the resources available to address those needs.

Approach

Part 1: Evidence Synthesis Development

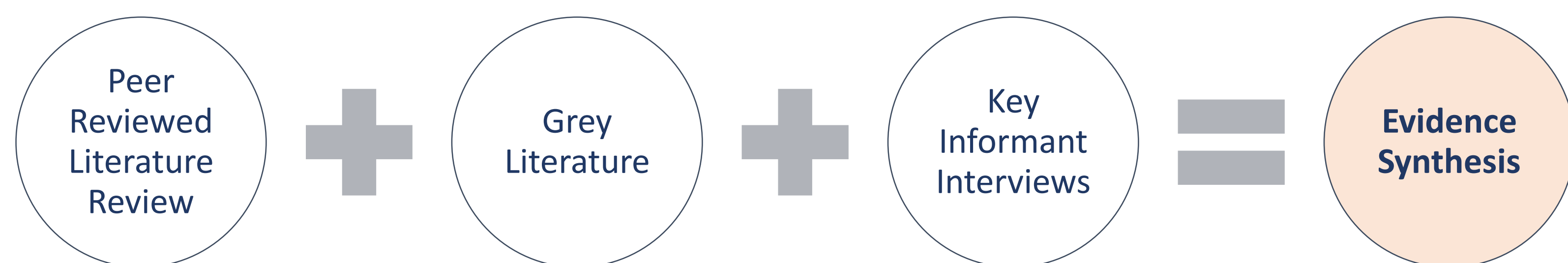


Figure 1: Evidence Synthesis Development: An evidence synthesis document was created as a foundation for framework development and consisted of: (1) an environmental scan of peer reviewed literature (n=256), (2) a review of relevant grey literature (non-peer reviewed: reports, fact sheets, and webinar presentations) (n=31), and (3) findings from key informant interviews (n=49) from Alberta Health Services (AHS), Primary Care Networks, as well as community agency staff.

Part 2: Feedback from Thought Leaders, and Broader Stakeholders



Figure 2: Consultation and Feedback to Inform Framework Prototype: Consultations with thought leaders throughout Alberta, Canada, U.S.A, and Australia (n=13) were held via telephone and email. Additional feedback was requested from a broader group of interested stakeholders (n=140) through an online survey and two webinars.

Part 3: Consensus Building and Framework Testing

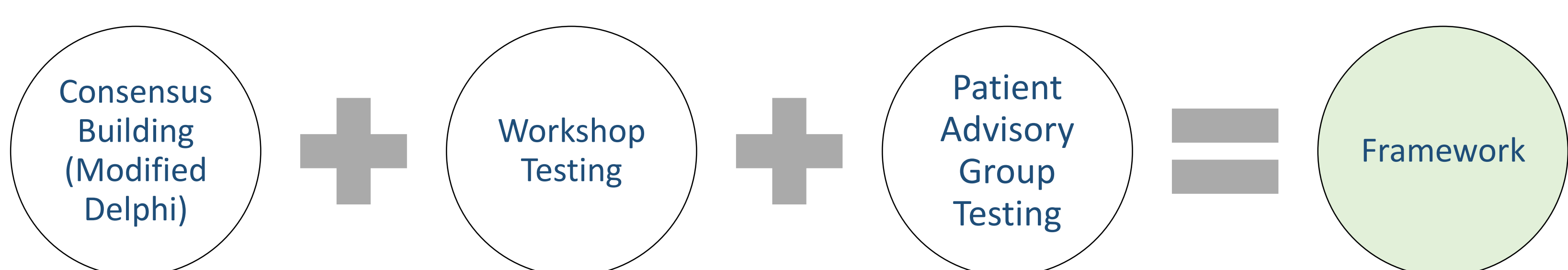


Figure 3: Consensus Building and Testing to Determine Framework Appropriateness. Consensus on key framework components was determined using a modified Delphi approach that consisted of 3 rounds of feedback. Additionally, two in-person workshops were held to test the framework with local service planners. The framework was also tested online with two independent Alberta patient advisory groups to understand the appropriateness of the framework to the lived experience.

Results

Evidence Synthesis



Figure 4: Key Terms that Define Population Health Needs

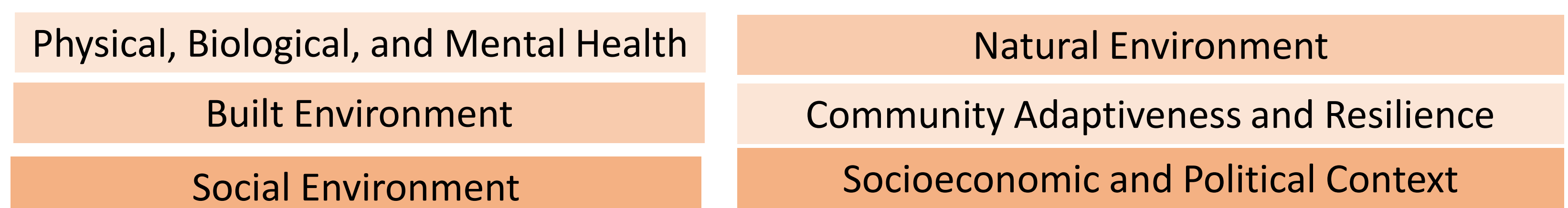


Figure 5: Common Determinants/Domains of Population Health Needs

Consultation & Feedback

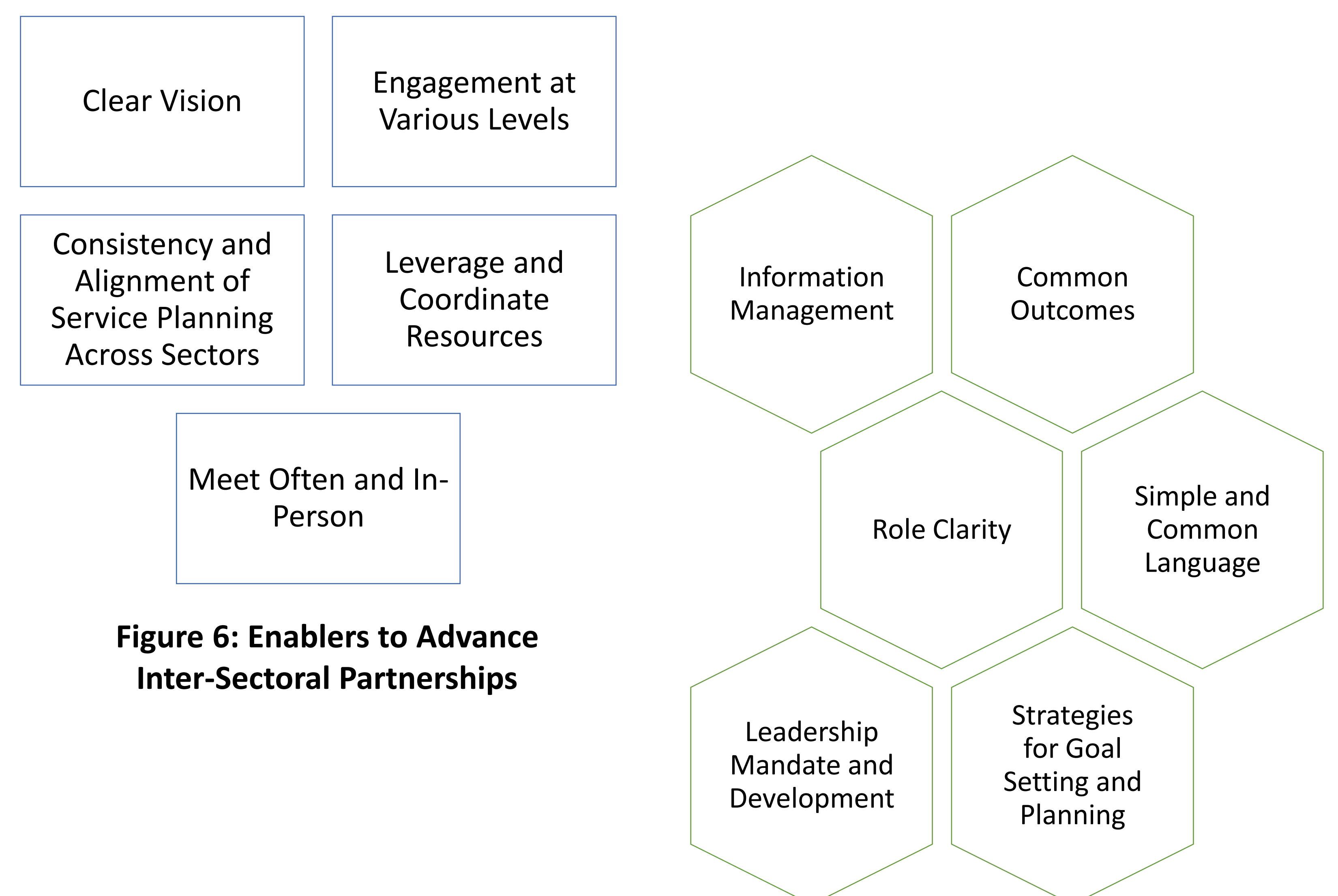


Figure 6: Enablers to Advance Inter-Sectoral Partnerships

Figure 7: Strategies Learned to Make the Framework Operational

Research Outputs: Framework & Accompanying User's Guide

1. **Population Health Needs Framework for Service Planning**
 - Definition and domains of population health needs that have been confirmed by consensus
2. **User's Guide accompanying population health needs**
 - Enablers of population health needs
 - Activities to advance inter-sectoral partnerships
 - Exercises to enable planners to begin addressing and planning for population health needs

Conclusion

This co-designed framework proposes strategies that can be incorporated into Alberta's provincial, zone and local planning delivery systems. It is a first step in addressing health inequities and forms a foundation for how the health care system can begin addressing population health needs.