

# Persons with Lived Experience and Family Member Advisory Panel: Key Messages

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# Background

- The Persons with Lived Experience and Family Member Advisory Panel is comprised of people with direct, personal lived experience of addictions/problematic substance use and family members
- The main function of the Panel is to ensure the diverse perspectives of persons with lived experience and families are adequately represented in the individual Ontario Systems Projects and in the DTFP initiative as a whole
- The Panel was convened and is supported by Evidence Exchange Network at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- DTFP Ontario Systems Projects teams consulted with the Panel on aspects of their projects at various points during their project cycles



**We are  
REAL!**

**Fighting for a  
chance....Advocating  
for change**

**Humanizing  
addiction-overdose  
plus the collateral damage**

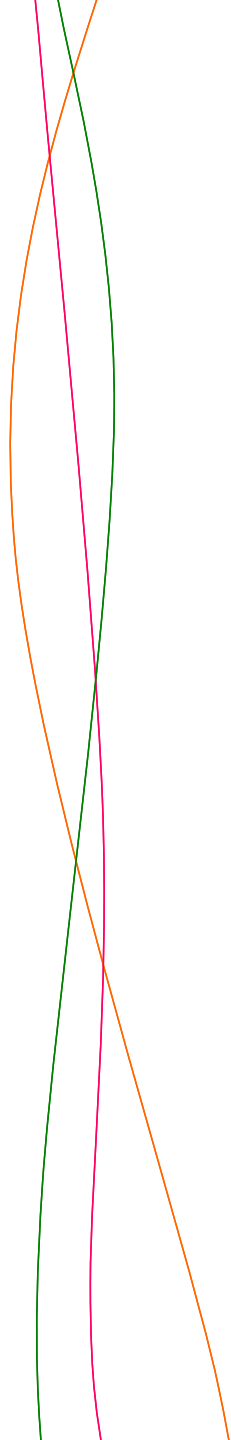


Pete died Dec 23, 2001 at age 25



# Lived experience as evidence

- There are three primary forms of evidence that should inform system and program planning:
  - o Research evidence
  - o Expertise and tacit knowledge based on professional experience
  - o Lived experience of people and families
- Lived experience is a valid and important form of evidence
- The meaningful integration of lived experience in decision-making at all levels results in policies, programs and services that are more relevant and effective for clients and families



# Direct channels

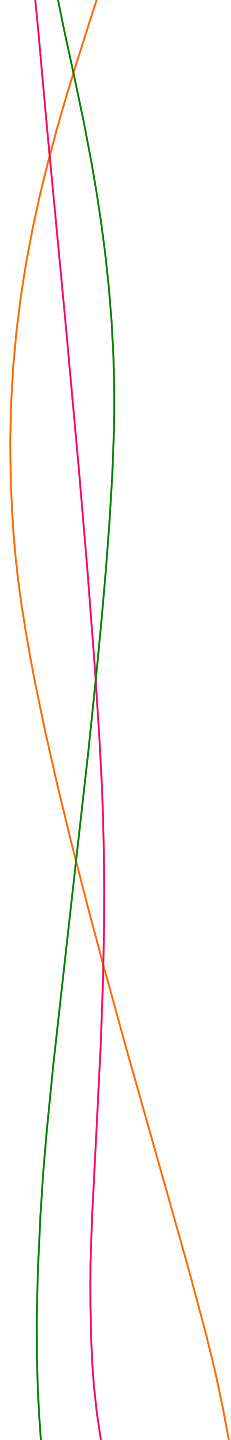
- Persons with lived experience and families are often invited to share what we have learned but it is not always clear if and how this information is used
- The DTFP project teams did an exemplary job of ‘closing the loop’ and letting us know how they had integrated our feedback (e.g., by providing consultation summaries, coming back to do further consultation, etc.)
- Direct channels to system planners and decision-makers helps persons with lived experience and families to operationalize our knowledge; formal feedback loops allow us to understand how our lived experience evidence is being used

# How our lived experience informed the DTFP

- Some DTFP Ontario Systems project teams found so much value in this resource that they invited members of the Panel to sit on their project-level advisory committees
- Project teams received relevant feedback on their projects that they did not hear from other stakeholder groups
- The meaningful integration of lived experience in the DTFP Ontario Systems Projects helps to ensure that outputs (i.e., standards, guidelines, instruments) are more relevant and effective for clients and families

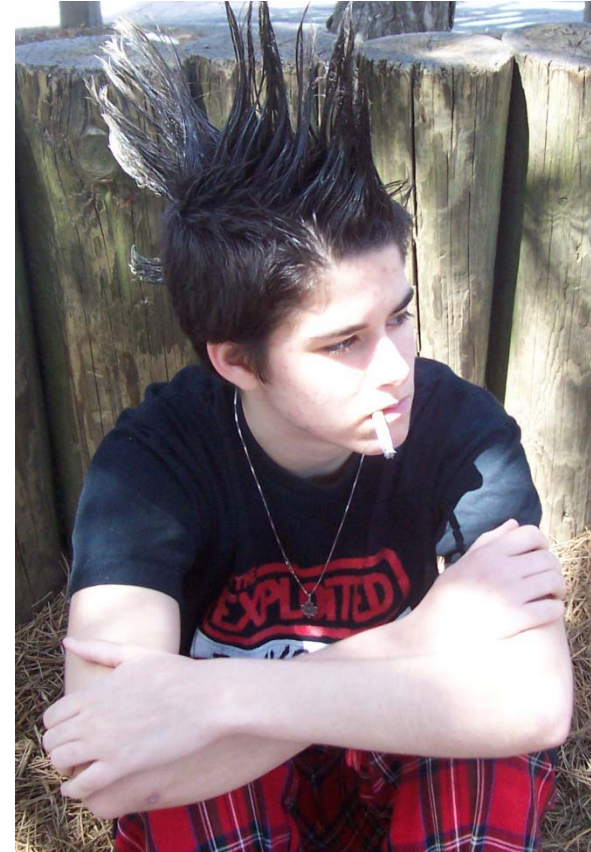
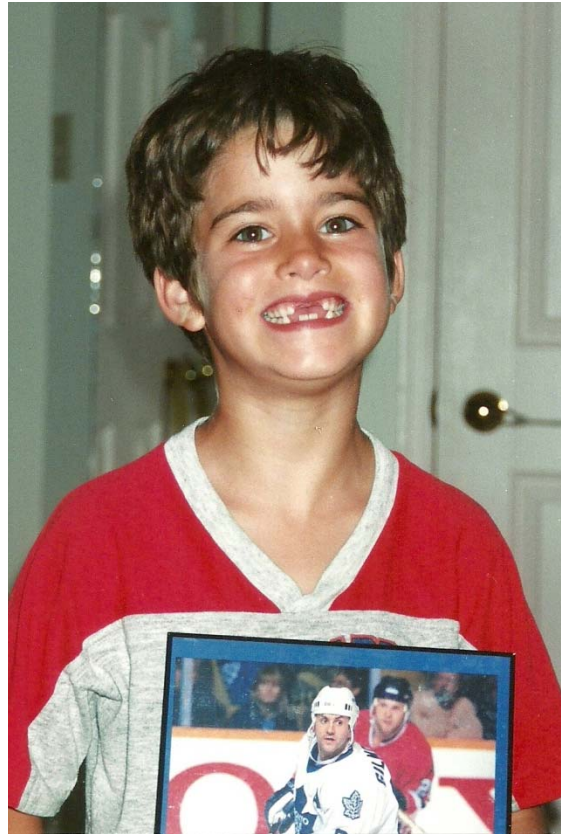
# Capacity Building

- Creating knowledge exchange opportunities for persons with lived experience, families, decision-makers, and other substance use system stakeholders:
  - o Enhances the capacity of decision-makers and other stakeholders to effectively engage persons with lived experience and families in change efforts
  - o Builds skills and confidence of persons with lived experience (including youth) and families to use their personal stories to galvanize change





“This person was Rachel...”

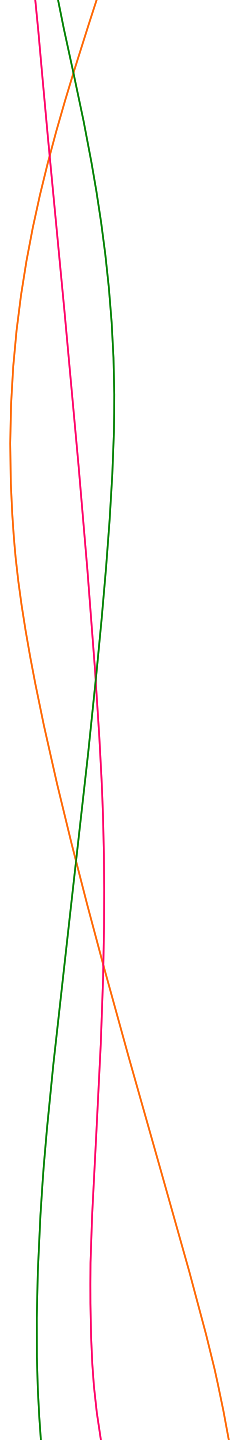


“...and is now Tim.”



# Validation

- Persons with lived experience and families are often marginalized and stigmatized
- Having opportunities like the DTFP to meaningfully participate at the system level validates and gives credibility to the lived experience voice
- Persons with lived experience and families have unique *expertise* and an important perspective of the system that must inform change efforts



# Supporting the DTFP...

PWLE and  
Family  
Member  
Advisory  
Panel

...and so much more!

PWLE and  
Family  
Member  
Advisory  
Panel





Peer Support  
Project  
Advisory  
Committee



PWLE and  
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Addictions  
Ontario  
Accreditation  
Standards

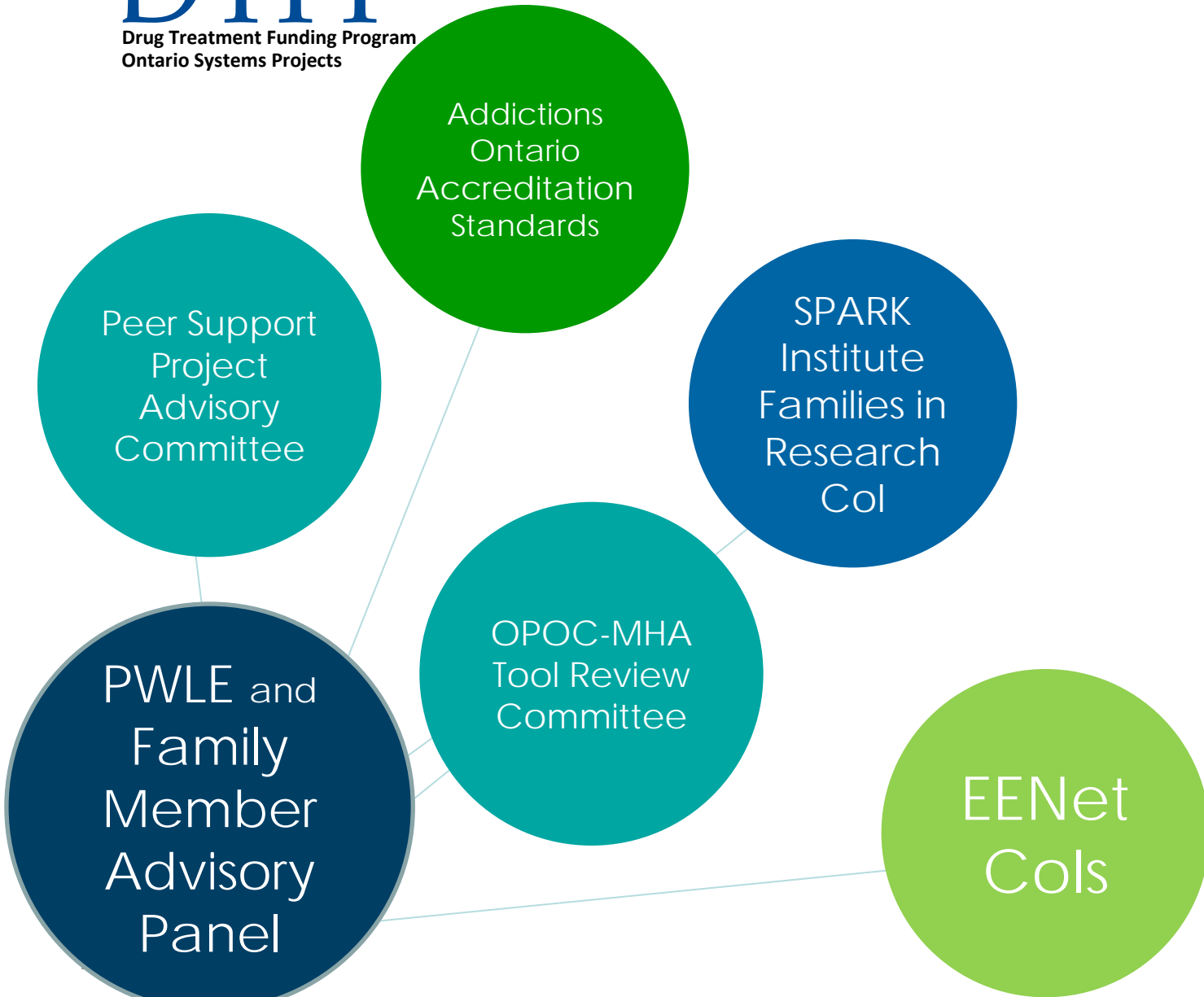
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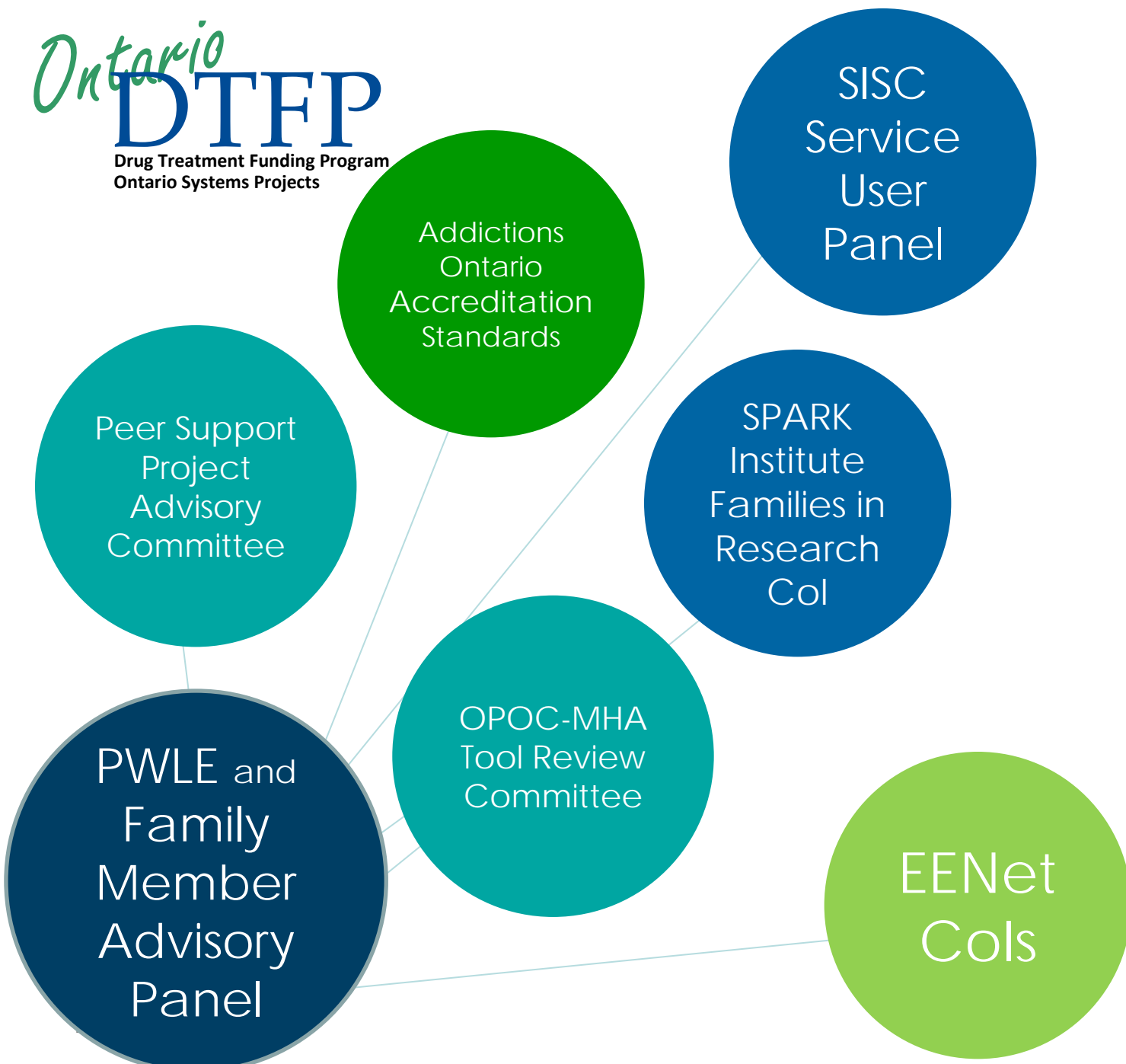
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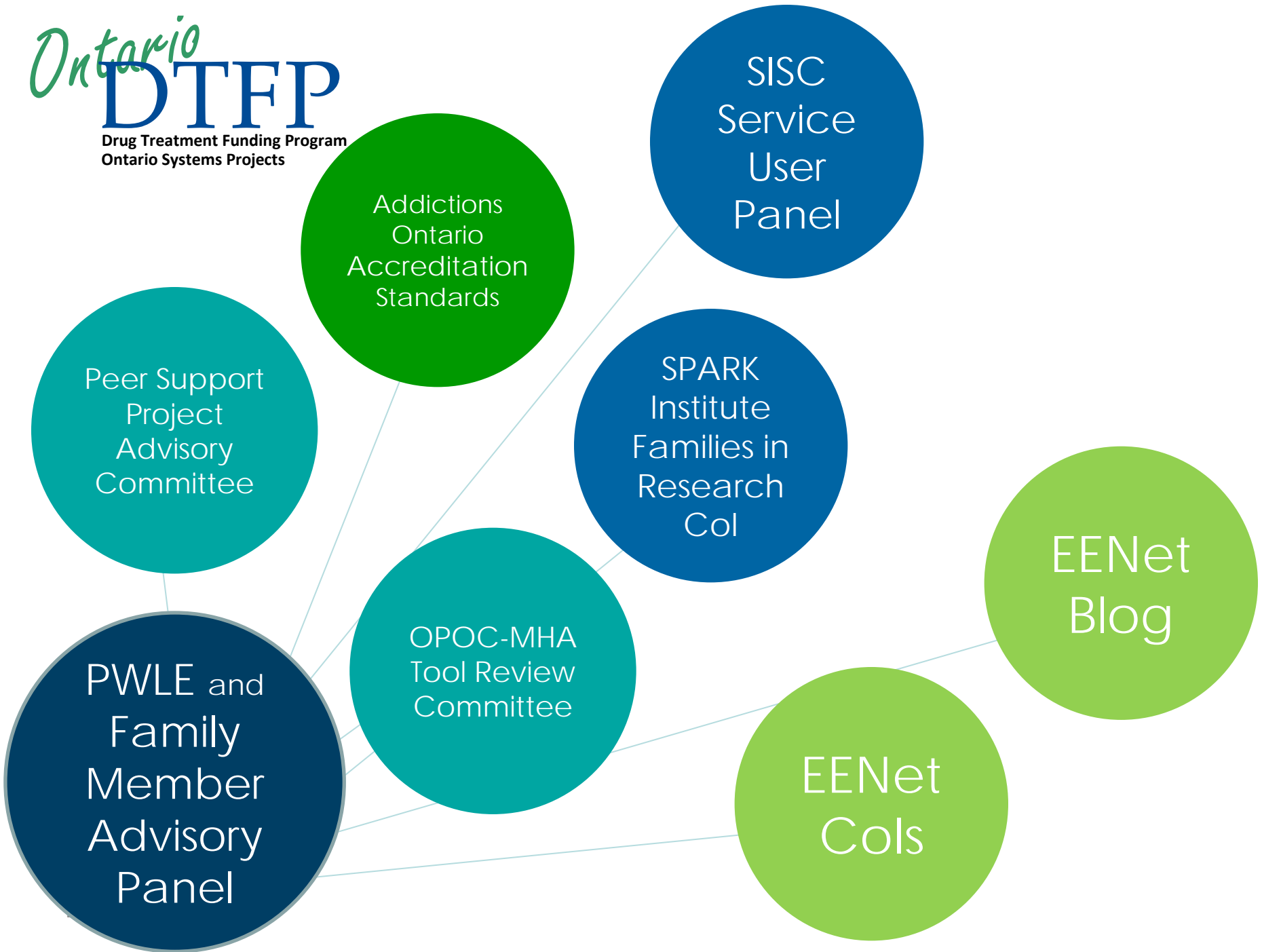
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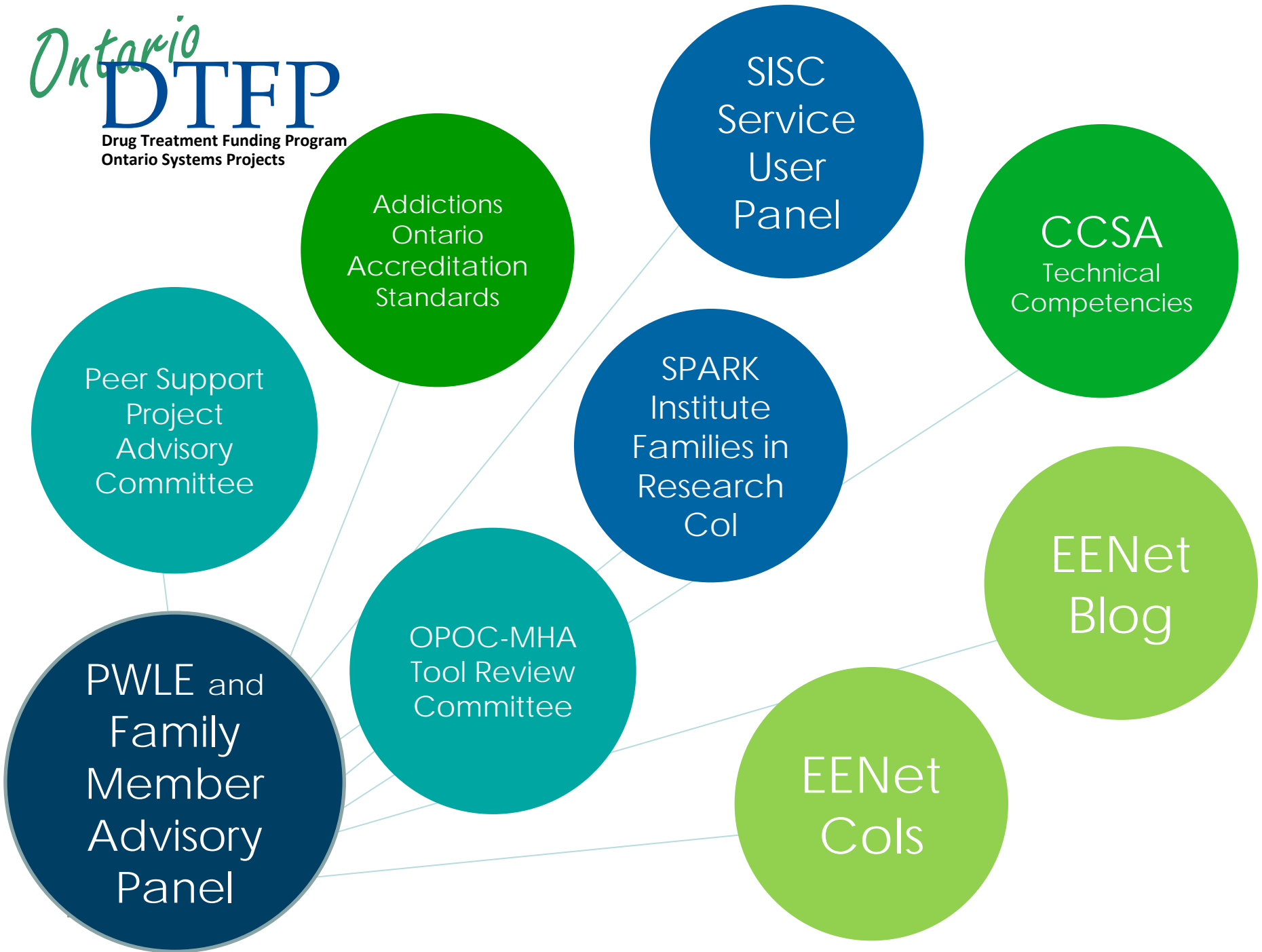
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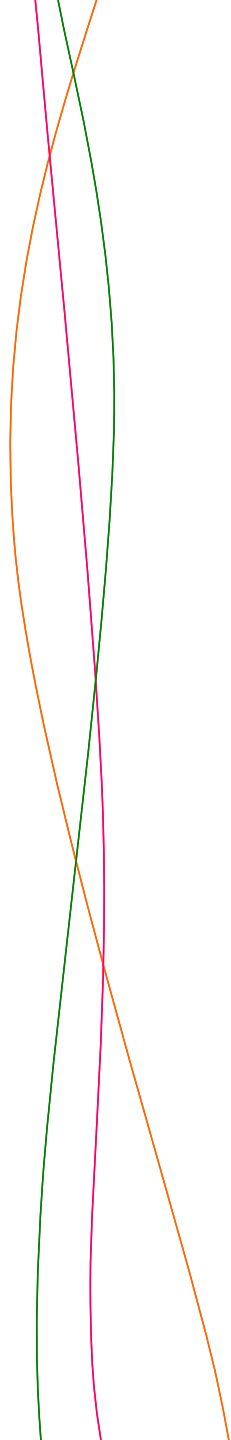




# Thank you

This Advisory Panel, and thus, the richness of the lived experience perspective in the DTFP Ontario Systems Projects, would not have been possible without the cooperation of:

- Health Canada
- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Evidence Exchange Network
- The Ontario Systems Projects Leads
- The members of the Persons with Lived Experience and Family Member Advisory Panel



# Working together for change



# To learn more...

## Visit:

- [www.ontariodtftp.ca](http://www.ontariodtftp.ca)
- [www.eenet.ca](http://www.eenet.ca)

## Contact:

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