

# The Use of SPDAT Assessments and SROI Analysis to Evaluate a Tertiary FASD Prevention Program

**Hélène Wirzba, Wirzba Consulting Inc.**

*First International Conference on  
Prevention of FASD*

*Edmonton, AB, September 23-25, 2013*



**McMan**

# The Use of SPDAT Assessments and SROI Analysis to Evaluate a Tertiary FASD Prevention Program



Thank You to:

- **McMan Youth, Family and Community Service Association**; the FASD Life Span Program; young adults and adults living with FASD and their caregivers, the Life Coaches & Outreach Workers in Lethbridge and Pincher Creek
- **Alberta FASD Cross-Ministry**
- **South Alberta FASD Service Network**
- **Alberta Justice, Safe Communities Innovation Fund**
- **OrgCode Consulting Inc. – Ian DeJong**

# Objectives



To reflect on

- How the **Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool** (SPDAT) is used to assess, monitor and evaluate client and program outcomes; and
- How a **Social Return On Investment Analysis** (SROI) broadened the scope of the evaluation.

# The LifeSpan Program



The FASD LifeSpan Program provides tertiary FASD Prevention Services aimed at lessening the cognitive, behavioral and social impact of FASD.

- **Primary Clients:** youth transitioning to adulthood and adults with or suspected of having FASD.
- **Intensive case management** approach, facilitated by professional mentors.
- **Continuum of services** guided by individualized service plans.
- Over 85 unique clients since 2011.

# SPDAT



***“Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool” .***

Used in more than 50 communities across North America.

An evidence-informed tool to assess the housing needs of homeless individuals and families (<http://orgcode.com>).

**SPDAT** uses 15 dimensions to inform professionals about the following:

- people who will benefit most from interventions;
- which areas of the person’s life should be the initial focus of attention; and
- how individuals and families are changing over time as a result of the case management process.

# SPDAT Elements



McMan

1. Self-care and Daily Living
2. Meaningful Daily Activity
3. Social Relationships and Networks
4. Mental Health and Wellness
5. Physical Health and Wellness
6. Substance Use
7. Medication
8. Personal Administration & Money Management
9. Personal Responsibility and Motivation
10. Risk of Personal Harm / Harm to Others
11. Interaction with Emergency Situations
12. Involvement in High Risk and Exploitive Situations
13. Legal
14. History of Homelessness and Housing
15. Managing Tenancy

# Qualitative Information



1. Demographic Information
2. FASD Status and Change in Status
3. Meaningful Daily Activity
4. Availability of a caregiver
5. Mental health issue
6. Medical, Dental and Vision Check-ups
7. Substance Use
8. Legal source of income
9. Occurrence of Sexual and other Exploitive Situation
10. Legal issues: occurrence, charges, and disposition
11. Housing

# Social Return On Investment



*“The purpose of an investment is to generate a return.*

*SROI illustrates the value of change to individuals, families and community circumstances by expressing the value of that change, in a dollar value wherever possible. SROI is a combination of social, financial and environmental value.*

*SROI is a story, not a number.”*

SROI Canada

[www.thesroinetwork.org](http://www.thesroinetwork.org)

[www.sroi-canada.ca](http://www.sroi-canada.ca)



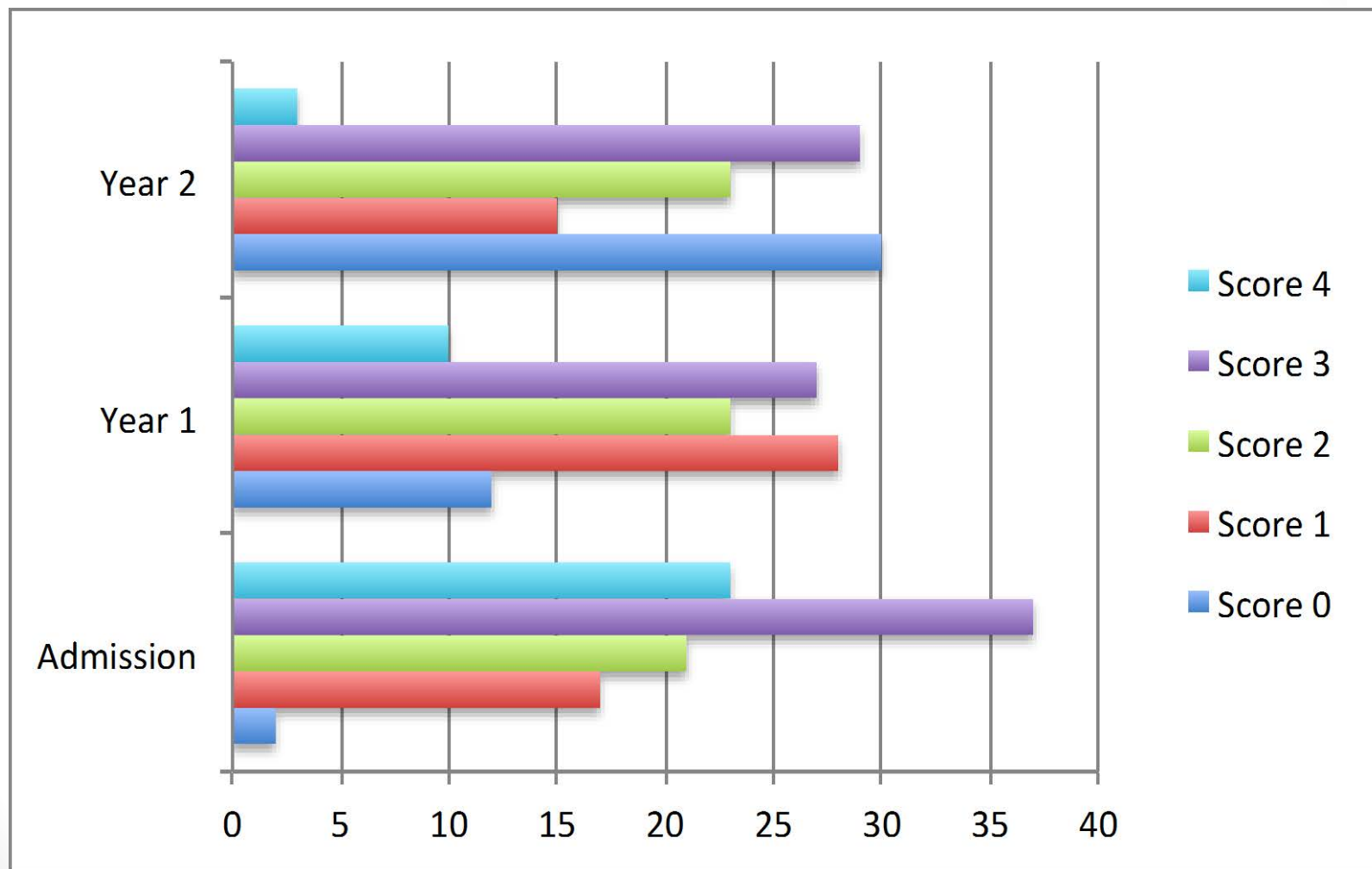
# Results – Demographic Information



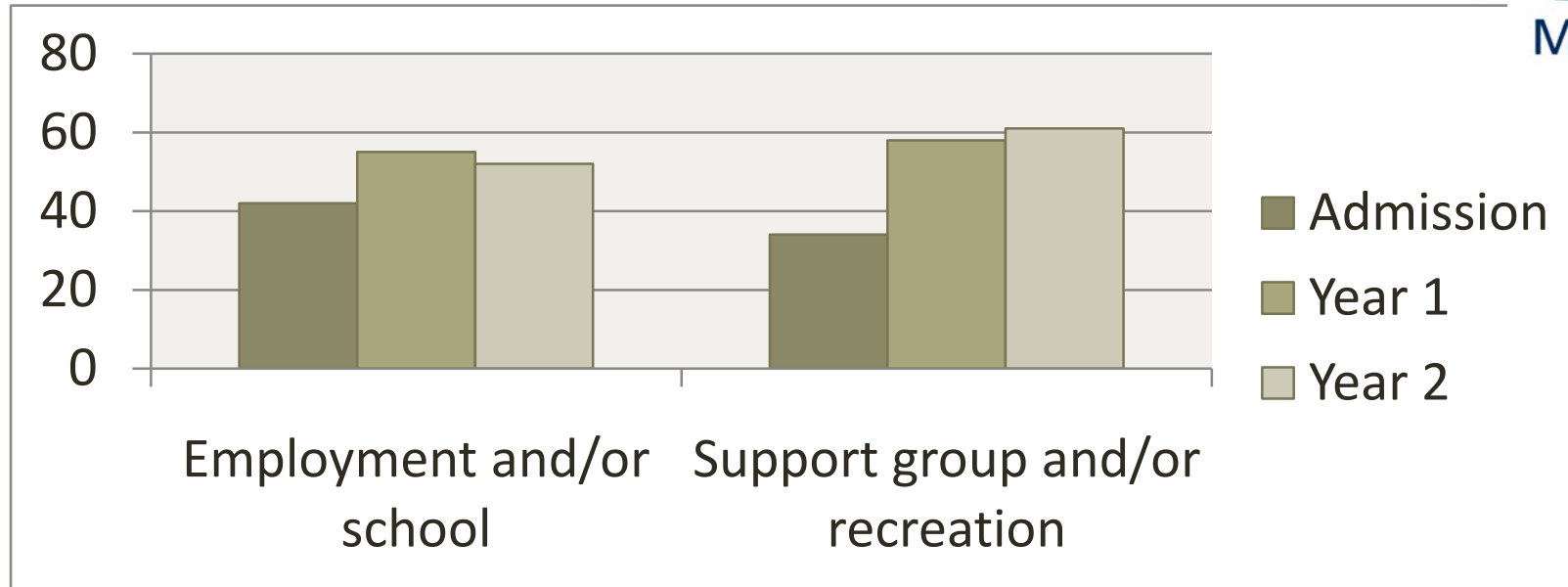
- **Number of clients:** 85 unique clients
  - Initial Assessments: 50 clients (20 female & 30 male)
  - Remainder of Year 1: 38 unique clients (18 female & 20 male)
  - Year two: 31 unique clients (12 female & 19 male)
- **Location of services:** Urban (72%) versus Rural (28%)
- **Gender:**
  - In urban areas: 30% female, 70% male
  - In rural area: 50% female, 50% male
- **Whether clients identify as Aboriginal:**
  - Urban: 44% of women and 49% of men identify as Aboriginal
  - Rural: 92% of women and 83% of men identify as Aboriginal
- **Age at admission:** 18-54 years old

# Results – Meaningful Daily Activity

## SPDAT Scoring



# Results - Meaningful Daily Activity



| Legal source of income   | Admission | Year 1 | Year 2 |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| None                     | 39%       | 18%    | 4%     |
| Employment only          | 2%        | 8%     | 20%    |
| Government supports only | 34%       | 57%    | 59%    |
| Other                    | 25%       | 25%    | 17%    |

# Results – Meaningful daily activity

## Social Return on Investment

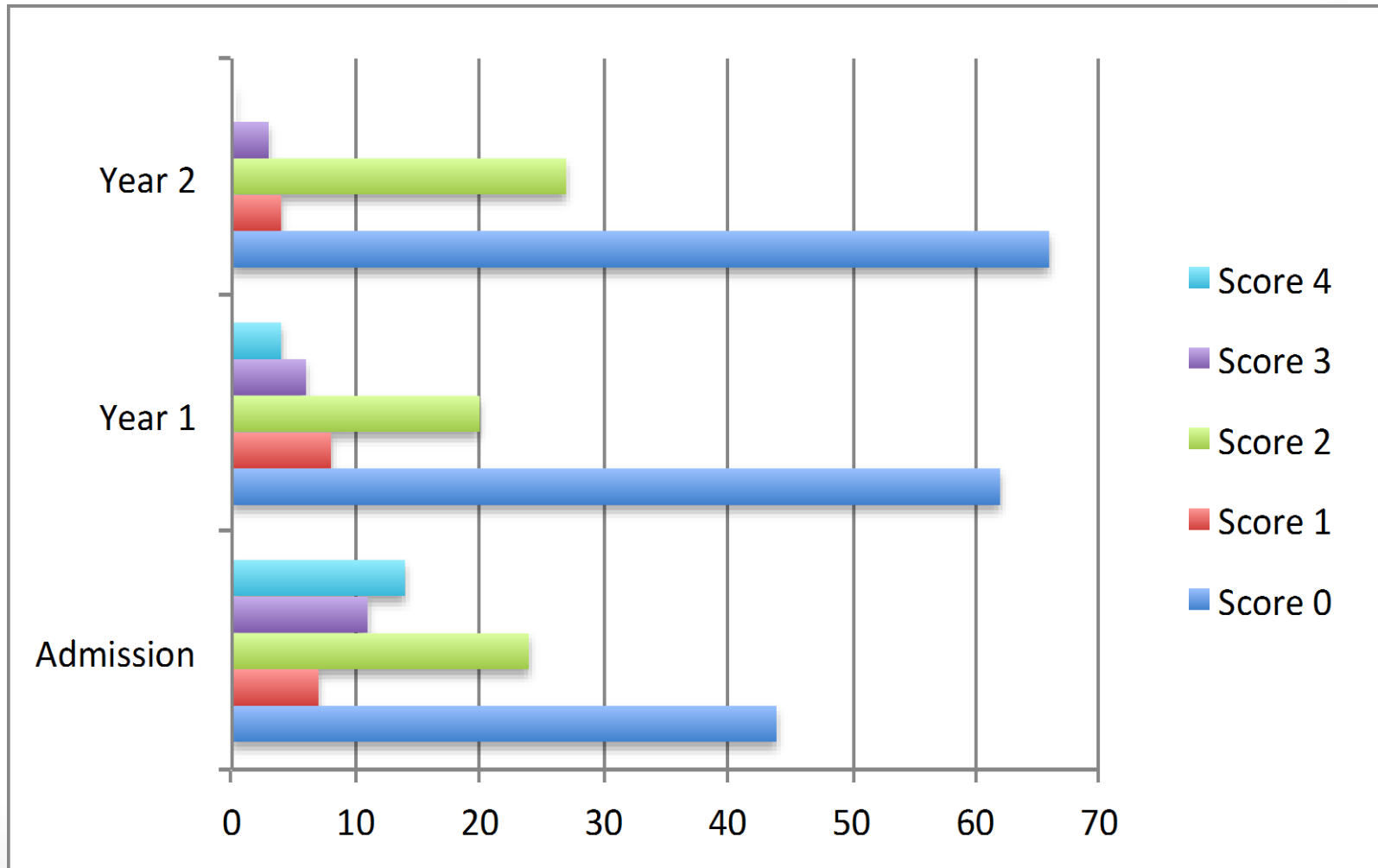


McMan

- **Client:**
  - **Change in Well-Being:**
    - **Expanded Social Networks (Story)**
  - **Change in Income:**
    - **More education (Financial Proxy)**
    - **Access to employment and/or legal sources of income (Financial Proxy)**
    - **Increased access to safe and stable housing (Story)**
- **Families / Caregivers:**
  - **Change in income:**
    - **Financial savings by not needing to support person with FASD (Financial Proxy)**

# Results (5) - Legal issues

## *SPDAT Scoring*



# Results (6) – Legal issues



- 55% of all newly admitted clients had at least one current legal issue at admission; this decreased to 37% for clients in second year of program.
- 14% of clients in year 1 and 18% of clients in year 2 had new legal issues.

| % Clients with Legal Issues | Admission | Year 1 | Year 2 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Assault                     | 16%       | 21%    | 23%    |
| Domestic dispute            | 10%       | 8%     | 16%    |
| Theft                       | 16%       | 8%     | 3%     |
| Breach                      | 8%        | 18%    | 3%     |
| Drug & Alcohol              | 8%        | 8%     | 10%    |
| Traffic-related             | 4%        | 8%     | 3%     |

# Results – Legal Issues

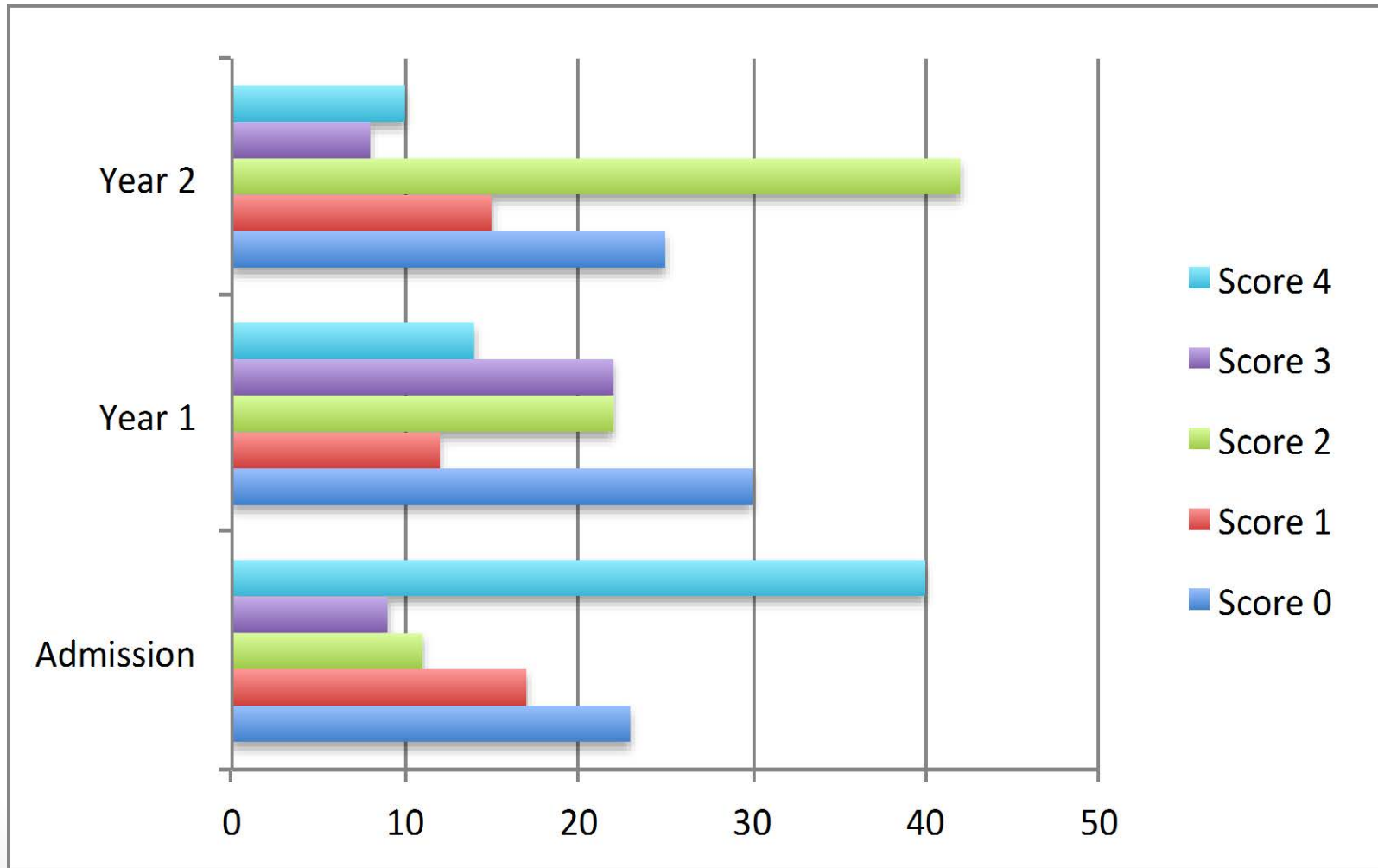
## Social Return on Investment



- **Clients:**
  - Well-being –increased ability to retain employment and housing (Story and Financial Proxy)
- **Community:**
  - Legal System: Cost reallocation
    - Cost of avoided police investigations, court appearance and incarceration (Financial Proxy)

# Housing – Results

## SPDAT Scoring





# Housing – Results



- **Homelessness:**
  - 17% homeless, living in shelter or experiencing hidden homelessness at admission
  - 13% in remainder of year 1, 11% in year 2.
- **Eviction Notices and Rehousing:**
  - In Year 1, 19% received eviction notices, and 40% were rehoused
  - In year 2, 30% received eviction notices, and 41% were rehoused

# Housing – Results

## Social Return On Investment



- **Client:**
  - increased social inclusion (story)
  - Income – increased ability to find employment (Financial proxy)
- **Community:**
  - Landlords:
    - Improved well-being – decreased stress of evicting tenants, and finding new tenants (story)
    - Income – decreased costs of repair (financial proxy)
  - Housing First agencies:
    - Cost reallocation: cost of homelessness (financial proxy)

# Results – Other SROI benefits



- **Caregivers:**
  - Increased well-being (Story and Financial Proxy)
- **Community agencies:**
  - Cost Reallocation
  - New Costs

**When we completed our Year 1 SROI analysis, taking into account all the benefits and costs, we concluded that there was at least \$1.00 financial return for every \$1.00 invested in the program.**

# Use of Evaluation Results



- **Client outcomes:** SPDAT scores and outcome monitoring over time are used to track changes, adjust levels and types of services needed by clients.
- **Program outcomes:** the compilation of scores and outcomes over time helped with documenting that FASD is a permanent disability, and the need for life-long supports (new crisis occur, scores don't go to 0...).
- It has led to healthy discussions, documentation and adjustments on the LifeSpan practice.

# Conclusion



- There are positive outcomes and social returns in tertiary prevention programs for adults with an FASD.
- It is possible to successfully integrate the tracking of outcomes in client case management practices.
- SPDAT is a tool that is relevant as an assessment and monitoring tool for FASD support programs.
- A sound methodology, documentation, and transparency are necessary when analyzing outcomes and doing a social return on investment analysis. Programs need specialized evaluation resources and expertise to do that type of work.

# Questions?



Hélène Wirzba

Wirzba Consulting Inc.

403 330 4524 or [wirzbah@telus.net](mailto:wirzbah@telus.net)

Marge Fisher

Director of McMan Southwest Region

403 328-2488 ext. 229 or [Marge.Fisher@mcman.ca](mailto:Marge.Fisher@mcman.ca)