

# Building NGO Evidence-based Practice Capacity

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# + Evidence-based Practice

- There are at least two major understandings about “evidence-based practice” in the field of social service/work in Hong Kong
  - How social service NGOs engage in research to collect data and evidence for the advancement of practice and enhancement of service outcome?
  - Whether practices, old or new, are based on scientifically proven evidences?
- Two major paradigms
  - Evidence-based Practice
  - Practice-based Research
- Two modes
  - Consumption of evidence
  - Production of evidence
- One common goal: Service advancement and outcome enhancement the benefit the people and the society



# + Initial Observations on Capacity

- Service researches are not very prevalent. Most are found in the field of health and allied health related services
- Government-subsidized services are relatively less researched than those newly project-based funded service projects, where funders usually require service evaluation research
- Although requested by funders to conduct evaluation research, money provided is not sufficient for NGOs to conduct research.
- Many NGOs claim that EBP is important, but rarely do they have any organizational measures to support practice research.
- Only a few NGOs have their own research staff. Many researches are thus conducted by practitioners
- Even those with research staff, the number is negligibly small. Support and professional enhancement may not be adequate for them

# + Capacity

- Individual
  - Skills and knowledge
  - Confidence and sense of efficacy
  - Peer support
- Organizational
  - Staff structure
  - Incentive structure
  - Organizational culture
- Sectoral
  - Resource structure
  - Network and platform

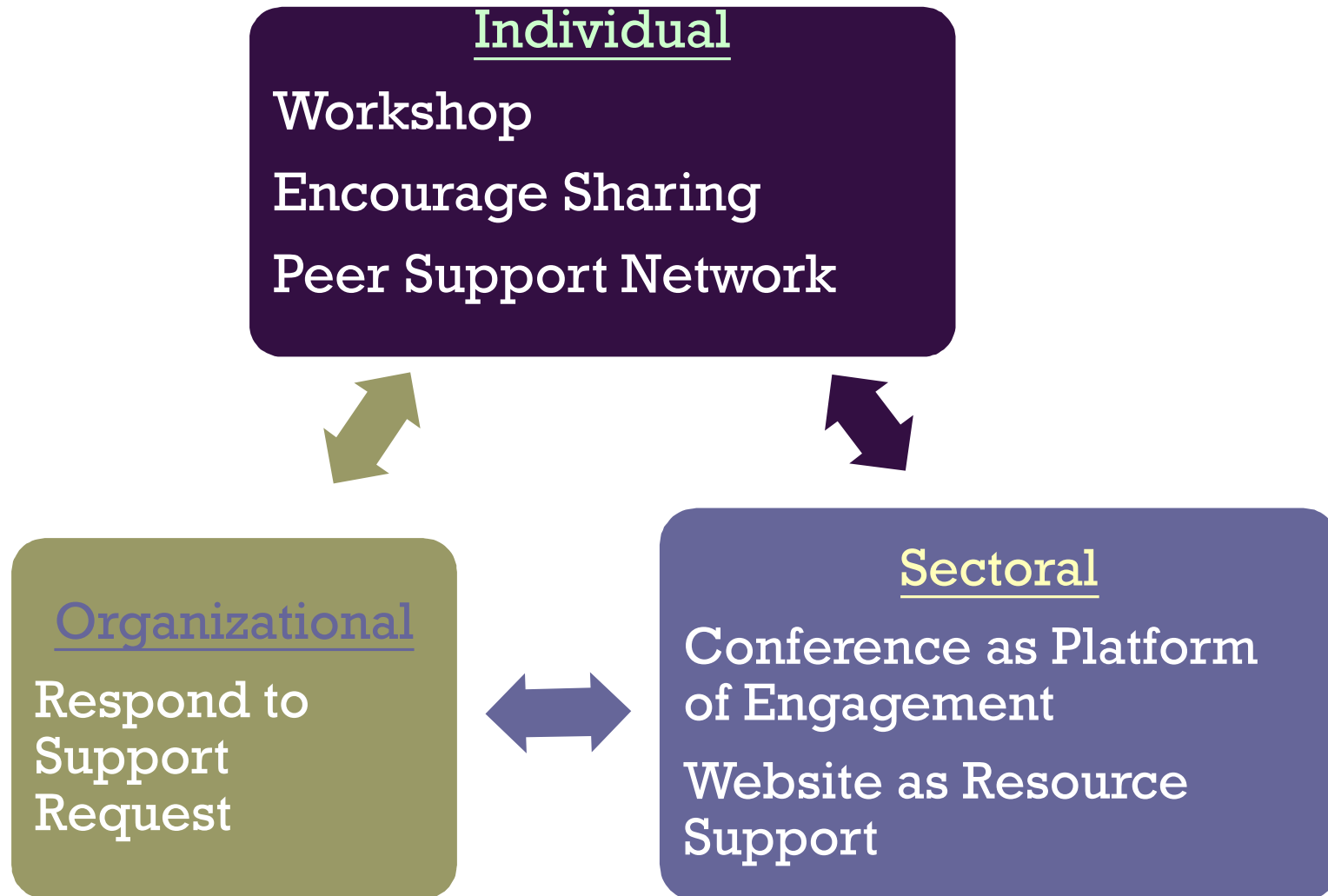


# + Intervention Principles/strategies

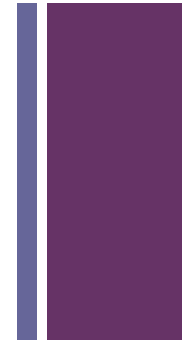
- Individual
  - Start where the client is
  - Encourage wider participation
  - Open and inclusive (Different approaches, different methods)
- Organizational
  - Respect NGO autonomy
  - Trust their judgment
  - Provide tailor-made support once requested
- Sectoral
  - Bring people/NGOs together
  - Consolidating needs and strengths
  - Building visibility



# + Direct Intervention Points and Activities



# + Progress of Activities



- ExCEL Deliverables
  - Workshop in April
  - Integrating with Best Practice Award 2013
    - Conference in 2013
    - Evidence-based Practice Award
  - Conference and Workshop in October (11 and 12 October)
  - Website
- Others
  - Practice research training courses