

Arina L. Bogdan, Knowledge Translation and Implementation Coordinator at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, Penetanguishene, Ontario

## About STREAM

**Overview:** established in 2023, *Supporting Transformation through Research, Evidence, and Action in Mental health (STREAM) Lab* is a rapid evidence synthesis team based at *Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care*.

**Objective:** grounded in knowledge translation (KT) and research approaches, STREAM aims to meet the evidence needs of mental health and substance use system decision-makers in Ontario and beyond.

**Outputs:** timely, structured, transparent, relevant, and action-oriented summaries of available knowledge.

- E.g., 10-to-30-page reports
- E.g., data tables
- E.g., infographics



**Approaches:** we use streamlined review methods to develop products within 3 days to 8 weeks. Evidence sources include:

- academic literature
- grey literature (e.g., environmental scans)
- key informant/expert insights

We apply KT methods and collaborate with knowledge user partners to create tailored, usable products.

## KT, nursing, & STREAM

A range of nursing competencies are highly relevant to KT work.

Below, I provide examples illustrating how some of these competencies are operationalized in my practice as a nurse working in a KT role:

Nursing competency	Example(s) of application of the competency in my KT role at STREAM
Evidence-informed practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocating for the use of evidence to inform policy decision-making.</li> </ul>
Research skills/critical thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulating appropriate, ethical, and policy-relevant research questions and methods.</li> </ul>
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embedding equity considerations across all STREAM products.</li> <li>• Identifying and engaging diverse, representative experts for key informant interviews.</li> </ul>
Knowledge sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synthesizing and translating complex evidence into clear, action-oriented products.</li> <li>• Preparing user-friendly slide decks to support decision-making meetings.</li> </ul>
Quality improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing standard operating procedures and an evaluation framework to support STREAM's efficiency.</li> </ul>
Teamwork/team culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to a positive, collaborative, and inquisitive team environment that supports effective, coordinated, and efficient work.</li> </ul>
Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fostering and maintaining collaborative relationships with interest-holders (e.g., policymakers, researchers, clinical leads, people with lived expertise) to clarify needs, refine methods, and contextualize findings.</li> </ul>

## Conclusions

With our health system expertise, clinical experience, and relevant competencies, nurses are well-positioned to support KT for health system decision-making.

Positioning nurses within KT roles can...

- enhance the relevance and usability of evidence for decision-makers
- strengthen alignment between policy decisions and frontline care realities
- expand the profession's influence beyond direct patient care, and into system-level decision-making

## Learn more!

Interested in learning more about STREAM or working in KT as a nurse? Email me at [abogdan@waypointcentre.ca](mailto:abogdan@waypointcentre.ca) or visit STREAM's website by scanning the QR code!

