



Janine Fraser, Executive Director

Lurana Shelter Society

Theme: Wrap around supportive responses for women (including housing supports)

Lurana Shelter Society is an emergency shelter serving victims of domestic violence in Edmonton, Alberta and surrounding area. Currently, Lurana Shelter Society administers three distinct programs: Operation of a first-stage, emergency shelter, child-specific programming to assist vulnerable children and youth as they deal with the abuse they have witnessed and endured and Adult and Youth Outreach services designed to ensure victims' safety, assist them in breaking the cycle of violence and provide support and guidance as they begin rebuilding their lives free from violence outside of the shelter environment.

Critical Elements

- Provide trauma informed services for women and children that are provided in a variety of ways to meet their individual specific needs. A Youth Outreach worker is able to meet with families in the community. The Outreach worker- serves women who do not want to live in a communal setting, or are on the wait list for shelter and works collaboratively with other organizations in the community. The Intensive Case Manager (ICM) works with women in shelter - attends courts with them and does safety planning. Childcare is provided for moms when attending court; assists them with connecting with the community; goes to their potential new homes with them if necessary - home inspections; assists with court work – EPOs, parenting orders, etc. Helps to navigate the system. Lurana has a team environment and holds weekly case conferences involving staff from the different areas of work in order to provide coordinated services for women and children.
- The Housing Coordinator: assists women with finding new accommodations and has developed working relationships with the housing support agencies in Edmonton. The Housing Coordinator is able to accompany women into the community to look at potential rental housing opportunities. While doing the housing search the Housing Coordinator is also teaching the women about using public transportation and becoming more familiar with resources in the various parts of the city. The Housing Coordinator stated that it is essential to have an in-depth knowledge of housing services and be aware of changes in the systems. It is also important to inform clients of their rights and responsibilities during tenancy in order to support clients to become empowered to make informed choice.

- Lurana shelter provides free daycare for any woman (even those not residents or clients of Lurana Shelter) attending court or dealing with any legal issues. Stressed that this is an underutilized service.