Informing Housing Practices Through Photovoice with Older Adults who Experience Homelessness or Housing Insecurity

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Agenda:

Objectives

AIRP Background

Methods

Photovoice

Emerging Themes

Conclusion

What is AIRP?

- Aging in Place (AIP) with the lens of "equity"
- The place an older person lives impacts their ability to age optimally and must match their unique lifestyles and vulnerabilities [1,2]

The 'right' set of housing, health, and social supports can enable older people to age in a positive way, including those with limited income and/or chronic complex health conditions. [1,2]
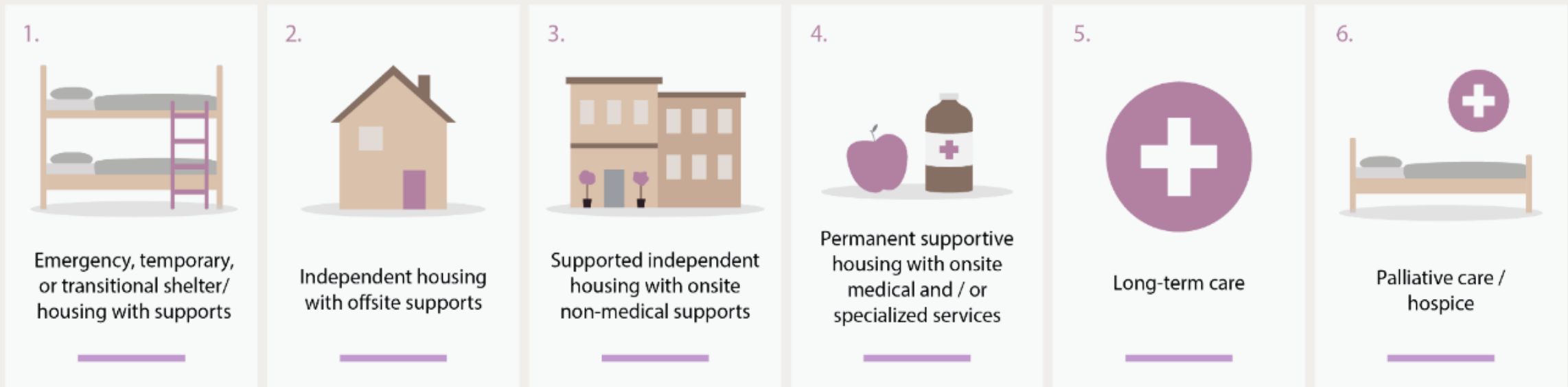
Objectives of the AIRP Project

To evaluate **promising practices** for the 'right' aspects of shelter/housing for older persons with lived experience of homelessness (OPEH) that promote AIRP

To improve the shelter/housing options to meet the unique and complex health and social needs of OPEH

To facilitate knowledge mobilization whilst increasing public awareness of OPEH and perceptions of AIRP
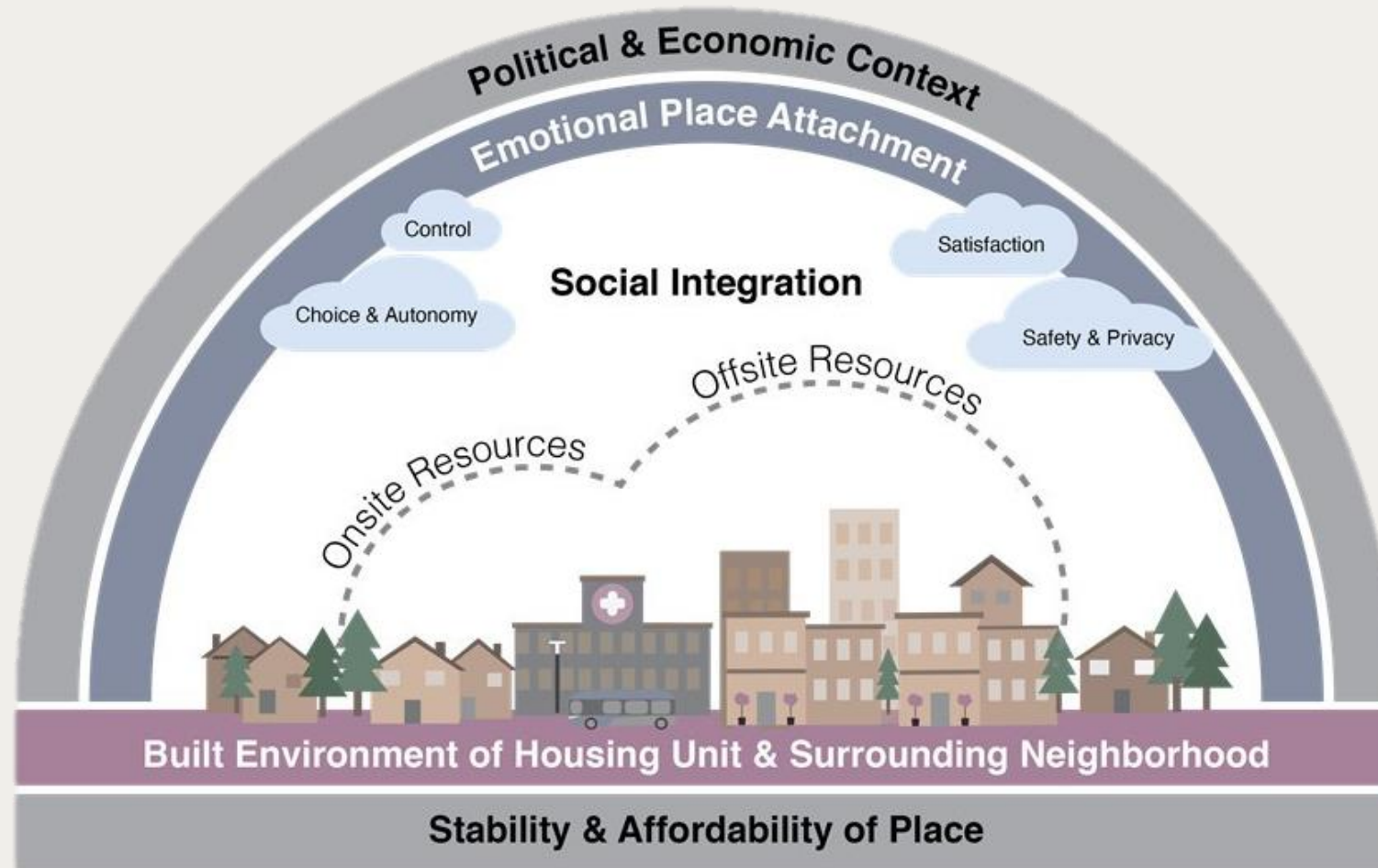
To identify concepts of AIRP that relate to one's social and physical environment through photovoice of individuals with lived experience in a temporary housing provider (THP).

Promising Practices Across the Housing Continuum

1. Emergency, temporary, or transitional shelter/ housing with supports

2. Independent housing with offsite supports

3. Supported independent housing with onsite non-medical supports

4. Permanent supportive housing with onsite medical and / or specialized services

5. Long-term care

6. Palliative care / hospice

(Canham, Walsh, Humphries, Nixon, & Burns, 2022) [3]

AIRP Conceptual Framework

(Canham et al., 2022)[4]

AIRP-VABE Partnership & Partners

- McGill University (Montreal), University of Calgary (Calgary), and SFU (Vancouver)
  - Social Work, Gerontology, Architecture, Health Sciences, Medicine, Psychology, and Community & Public Affairs
- Partnerships with organizations are city-specific
- 5-year project
- Central Team: Communications, Newsletters, Social Media Feeds, KM/KT efforts

Vancouver Main Partnerships

Methods: Data Collection Tools

AIRP | VABE
Aging in the Right Place | Veillir au Bon Endroit
PARTNERSHIP | PARTENARIAT
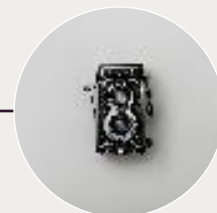
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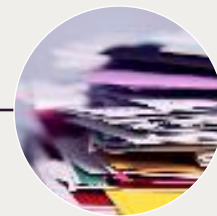
Document review
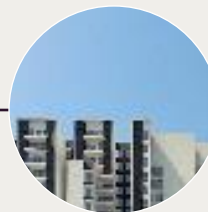
Environmental audit

Provider interviews

Client photovoice interviews

What is Photovoice? 📷

Photovoice is a qualitative method used in **community-based participatory action research strategy** to document and reflect reality in a hands-on manner. [6,7]

Empower people	Record and reflect their community's strengths and concerns	Promote critical dialogue and knowledge about personal and community aspects

❖ Clients took photos that represent *aging in the right place* to them, to visualize, and illustrate, perceptions and perspectives.

Methods: Client Photovoice Interviews

Photovoice: A participatory action research

Semi-structured interview

Photovoice interview

11 Clients

3 Sessions

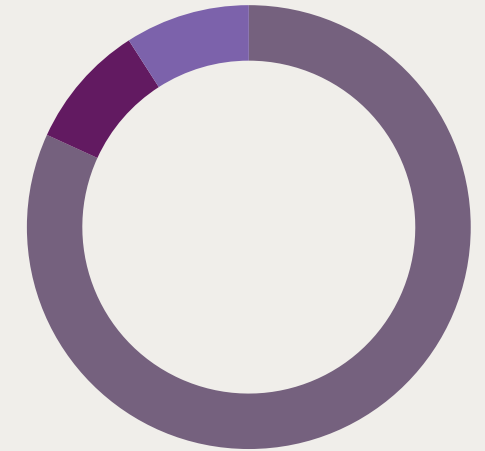45-to-60-minute sessions

In-person

Sample of Participants

Demographics

# of participants (n=11)

Female (n=6)
Male (n=5)

Age range: 58-75 years old

Ethnicity: 9 Caucasian, 1 Iranian, 1 Filipino

■ Caucasian   ■ Iranian   ■ Filipino
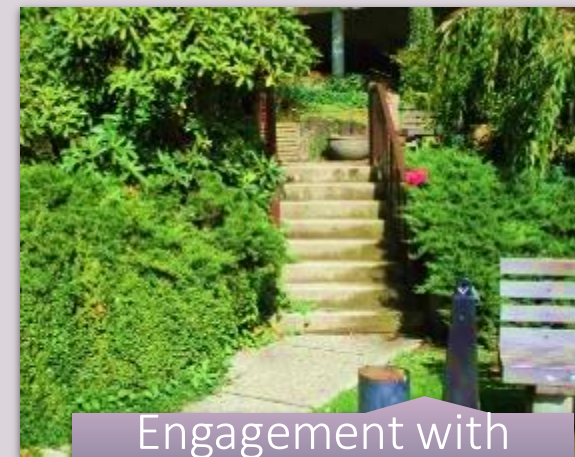
55% Female and 45% Male

Emerging Themes

Mobility and Access in the Community

Social Interaction

Supportive Nature of THP

Engagement with Built and Natural Environment

Mobility and Access in the Community

"Two blocks from my apartment was a lovely walking trail, like I could take my dog down there; I can go for myself on my own if I wanted to. And I did, after my dog was gone, just take my scooter and go." V1-C4.3

"I just took the bus. It is essential to have a bus to get on. So, people can leave if they don't have a car, and they can actually get on with a walker, because I do. And the buses kneel so, you don't really need the ramp." V1-C3.3

Social Interaction

3

"I liked to talk to people there, they knew me. So that was good... Mostly with people that worked there and nobody I would see on a regular basis just sometimes somebody sat in there and we would talk. Not somebody I knew or would see again." V1-C4.3

"I just think it is nice to have a gazebo. And it is nice to have a place for people to meet and chat. You know, there are seats all over — or all the way around. So, people can chat. Especially that people can't come together in the community room [because of] the pandemic. It kind of became a place for people to hang out if they want to, or to come out of their apartments." V1-C3.3

Supportive Nature of Program

"Okay, this is in the temporary apartment, it's allowed me to have access to my own computer and then I was also given the tablet...They allow me to connect with the world and when you're going through trauma and you're homeless and things like that you lose connection, with a lot of people, you know, you can lose friends." V1-P5.3

"Because I'm temporary, I'm not staying. So, it would be silly to start something up and I'd never, you know, reap the rewards from it."
(in reference to the garden) V1-P3.3

Engagement with Built and Natural Environment

"It is really, such a well laid out place, whoever did it initially. There are trees, there are flowers. It is nice to see, you know, the flowers just kept coming up in different colours, in different places; and if they died out others would come up. There are roses and rhododendrons and stuff." V1-P3.3

"I guess when you get older, you don't have a lot of activity and stuff. So, this is like a cheap entertainment sort of thing." (referring to the café) V1-P6.3

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