

Discovering, Dreaming, Designing, and Delivering the 'Right' Place for Older People Experiencing Homelessness: Needs, Challenges, and Solutions

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Study Purpose

To explore the design and delivery of existing shelter/housing options for OPEH, we investigated the specific needs, challenges, and solutions for promoting aging in the right place for OPEH in three Canadian cities.

Methods

- Three World Café dialogue workshops – Montreal, Calgary, and Vancouver – June and November 2019.
- 89 health, shelter/housing, and homelessness service providers (n=51) and OPEH (n=38) participated in one of the workshops
- Each World Café included four to five concurrent round table discussions asking participants to identify key shelter/housing needs and gaps and identify priorities for further evaluation

Findings

1. Challenges to sheltering/housing OPEH
2. A continuum of shelter/housing options is needed to support OPEH
3. Design considerations for sheltering/housing OPEH
4. Social supports promote place attachment

Conclusions & Implications

- A series of service gaps that, if addressed, hold promise in supporting ‘aging in the right place” for older homeless adults who have a diversity of needs
- Our team has selected housing models in each city that consider these factors in service provision and are working towards developing an evaluation structure using outcomes deemed important by World Café participants.

To learn more or connect with us:

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