

Transforming Aging in the Right Place Through Community-Engaged Research: Photovoice with Older Adults who are Experiencing Homelessness or Housing Insecurity

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AIRP
Aging in the Right Place
PARTNERSHIP

VABE
Vieillir au Bon Endroit
PARTENARIAT


SSHRC CRSH

SFU
SIMON FRASER
UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD



AIRP Overview
Community Engaged
Research
OPEH Advisors



Methods



Photovoice
Participatory Research



Findings



Conclusion

AGENDA

Overview of AIRP Project

What is AIRP?

The place an older person lives impacts their ability to age optimally and must match their unique lifestyles and vulnerabilities.



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.

Objectives of AIRP Project

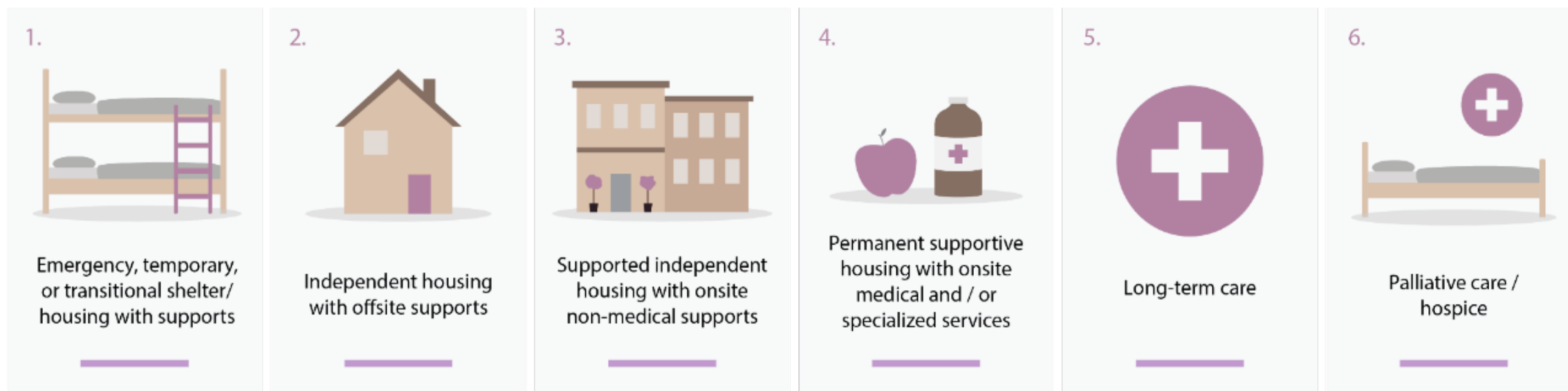


To improve the shelter/housing options to meet the unique and complex health and social needs of OPEH

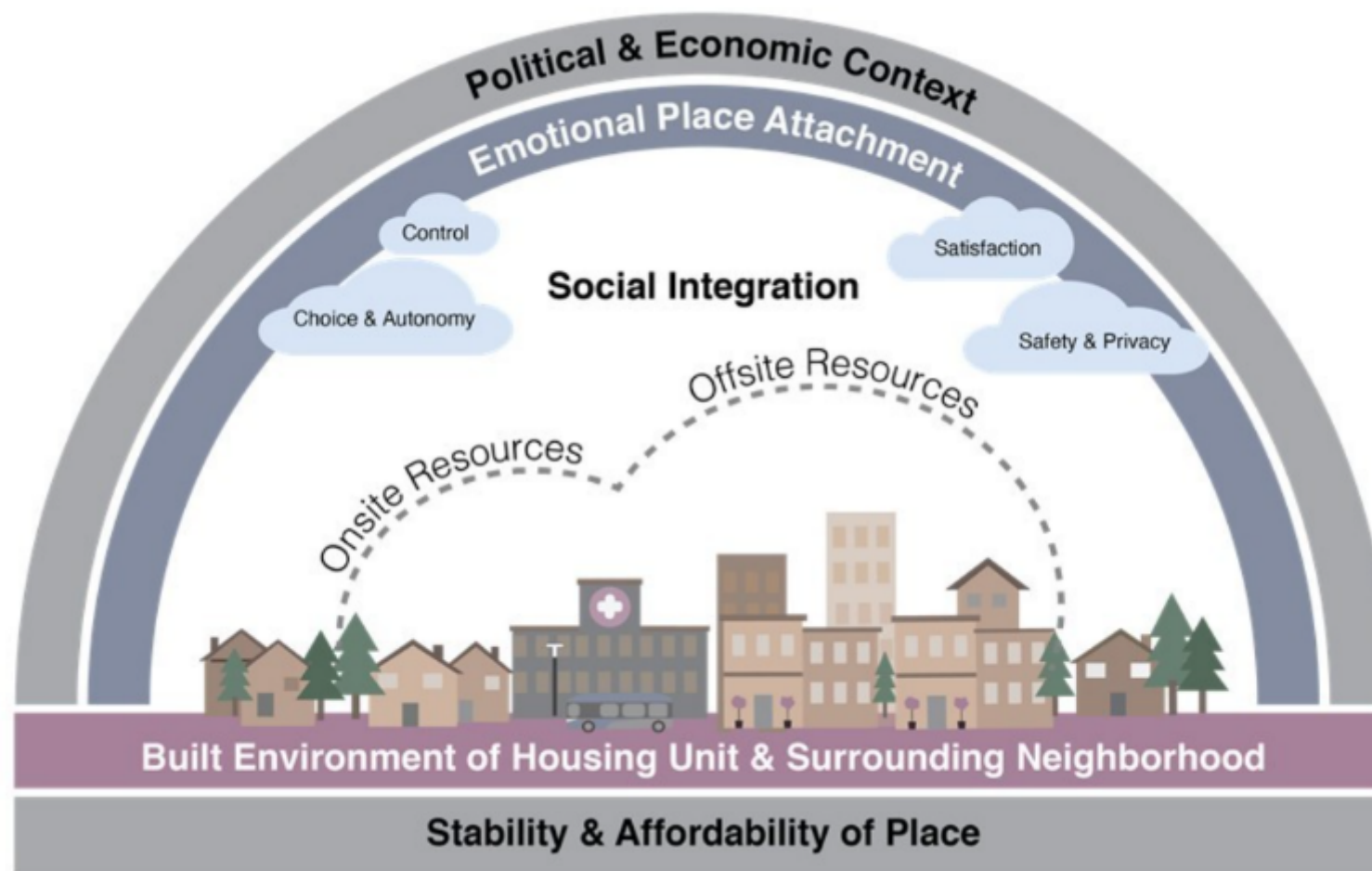


To evaluate promising practices of shelter/housing for OPEH that promote aging in the right place

Promising Practices – Housing Continuum



AIRP Conceptual Framework



AIRP and Community-Engaged Research?

AIRP prioritizes collaboration with community partners, such as service providers, partner organizations, and particularly with older persons with lived experiences of homelessness (OPEH).

The project holds Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meetings that provides community partners and OPEH Advisors with updates on the project progress and next steps.

OPEH Advisors provide feedback and guidance on tool development, data collection protocols, and more, at different stages of the project.



AIRP OPEH Advisors

What do our OPEH Advisors do?

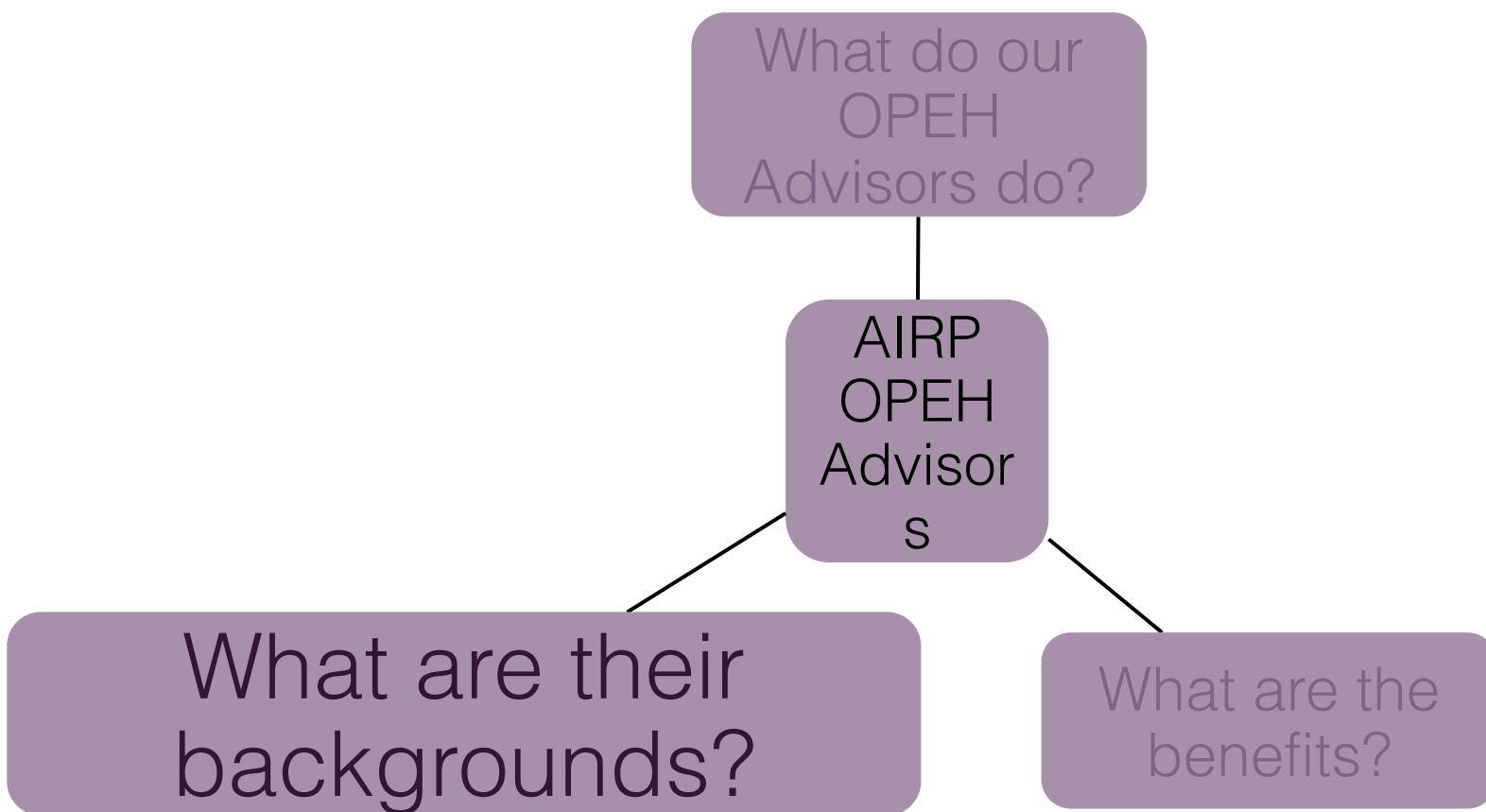
AIRP
OPEH
Advisor
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What are their
backgrounds?

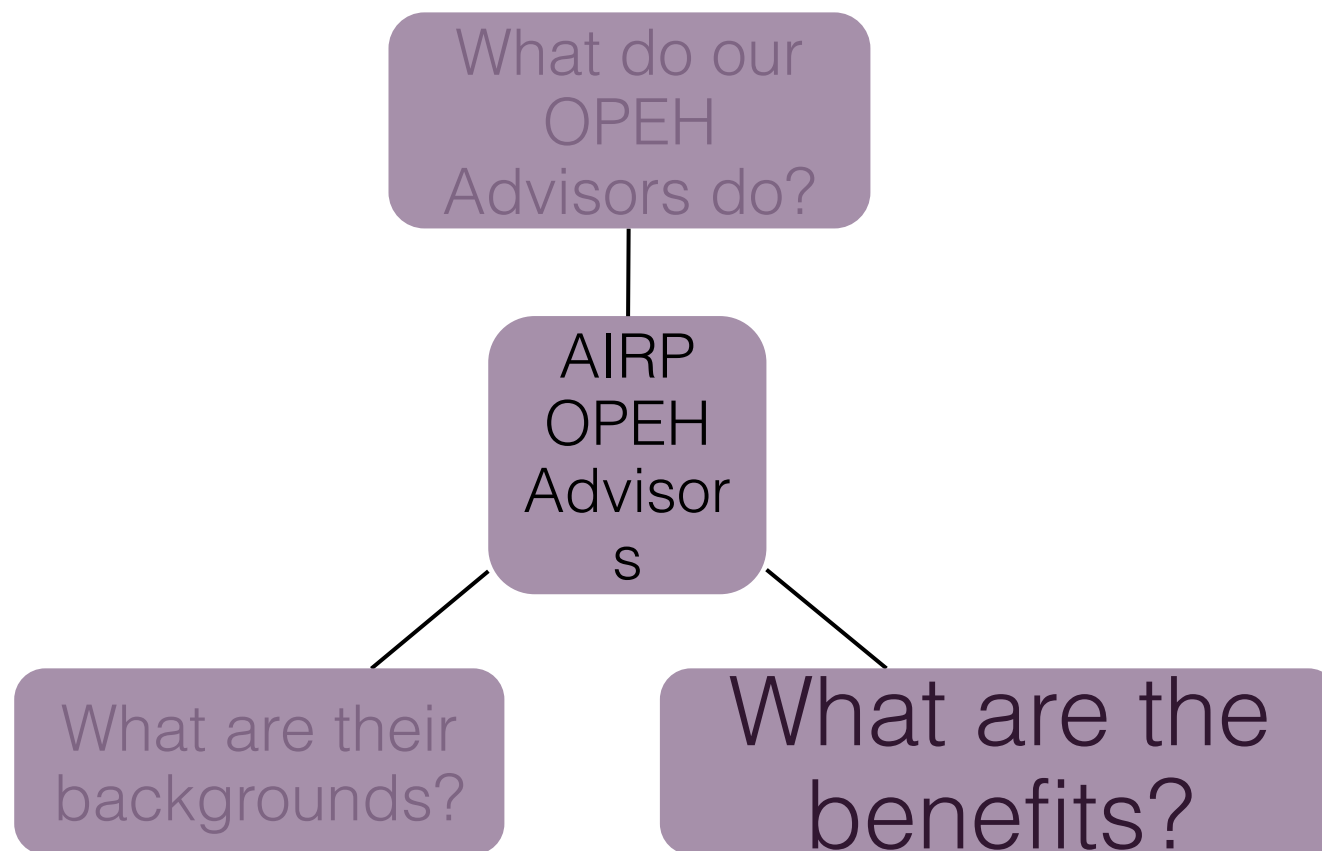
What are the
benefits?



AIRP OPEH Advisors



AIRP OPEH Advisors



METHODS: Data Collection Tools

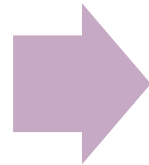


What is Photovoice?



Photovoice is a qualitative method used in community-based participatory research to document and reflect reality in a hands-on manner.

Empower people



Record and reflect
their community's
strengths and
concerns



Promote critical
dialogue and
knowledge about
personal and
community aspects

(Wang, 1997; Mahmood et al, 2012)

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

METHODS: Photovoice and Client Interview



Photovoice: A participatory action research

Semi-structured interview

Photovoice
interview



11 Clients

3 Sessions

45 to 60 min
sessions

In-person

Findings: Themes



Community mobility
and access



Supportive features
of temporary housing



Accessible built and
natural environment

Findings – Community and Mobility Access



“I love bus, because you can get on and see everything, see all these different things, so, I’m quite happy to get on the bus... it’s important to have transportation... it’s freedom to roam”
(THP Client)



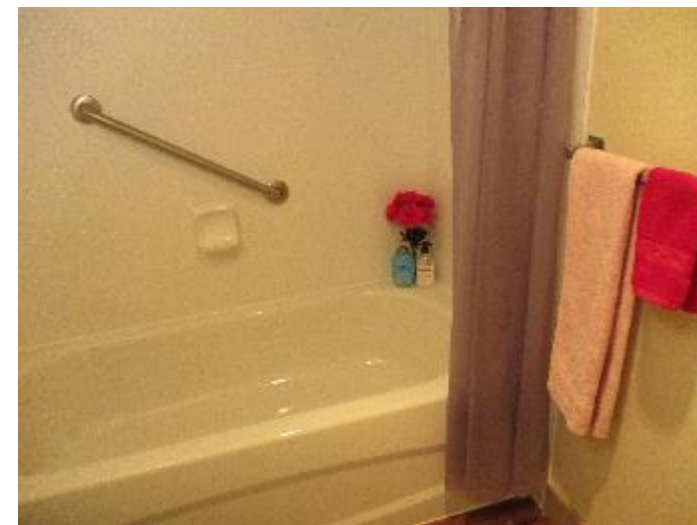
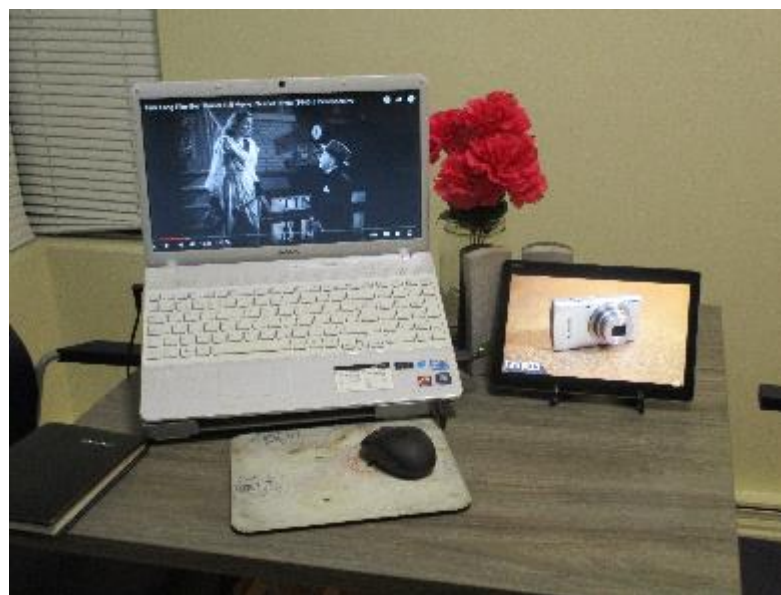
Findings – Supportive Features



“...you just want to have a sense of safety, because... if you are scared every time, you know you're walking from the bus to home, it really messes you up a little bit in your mind... so when you have that security there you know the lighting, the key fobs, and just people around the area... I think that sense of security is so vital, especially for seniors...” (THP Client)

Findings – Supportive Features

"...it [temporary housing program] has allowed me to have access to my own computer and then I was also given the tablet, so I have portable access to it as well, to the internet and different programs which allow me to help look for housing. 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... it's a lot of grief involved, so I think with the internet, you can still stay connected to the world and feel like you're still part of it, it's like the world comes to you..." (THP Client)



Findings — Built & Natural Environment

“...you got somewhere to go... you don’t have to be stuck in the apartment, you could go to the gazebo or even sit around the gazebo... just to talk and relax... and meet people.”
(THP Client)



Conclusion

How is the AIRP project an example of community-engaged research?

- ❖ Photovoice is a type of participatory and community-based research method
- ❖ By employing this research method approach, the project inherently promotes community engagement
- ❖ Showcase lived experience through photos and interpretation of their own photos
- ❖ OPEH advisors with lived expertise provide input and guidance throughout the project
- ❖ Local advisory committee also provides guidance (i.e., community organizations that represent/support target population)

AIRP's contribution towards future of community-engaged research?

- ❖ Process and methods of the project can be used in other research projects
- ❖ Community organizations and OPEH, are integral in knowledge generation and mobilization allowing to build suitable resources and guidelines for scaling up or out of projects



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THANK YOU