

HR HOPEH - Harm Reduction Housing for Older People with Experiences of Homelessness



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Sub study 1.

Harm Reduction for Older Adults: Expanding and Sustaining an Integrated Housing and Healthcare Model

Background:

- Adults aged 50 and over:
 - experience co-occurring addiction, homelessness, and poverty in Alberta in growing numbers.
 - accounted for 40% of non-fentanyl, opioid-related deaths in 2016.
- Peter Coyle Place (PCP) offers a model of integrated housing and primary health care informed by harm reduction. Multidisciplinary health and social supports are offered on-site to older adults (55+) with histories of chronic mental illness and/or addiction and homelessness.

Aim:

Increase access to overdose prevention and harm reduction services at PCP by:

- Empowering frontline service providers with knowledge, skills, and supports for service delivery.
- Strengthening collaboration between health, housing, and social service providers/agencies. Co-develop data-informed policies and programs with stakeholders across sectors to enable housing-based overdose prevention/harm reduction services for older adults across Alberta.

Action Plan:

2019-20:

- strike Advisory Groups to aid in co-design of expanded services and oversee research.
 - at PCP, including residents & staff.
 - Calgary Expert Community Advisory Group (ECAG) with representation from community agencies, AHS, and individuals with lived experience of addiction/homelessness.
- formalize community collaborative partnerships related to on-site service delivery at PCP.
- scan environment of current stakeholders and innovations offering housing-based primary health care, overdose prevention, and harm reduction across Alberta.
- review and report synthesized literature on local, national, & international innovations in housing-based primary health care, overdose prevention, and harm reduction.
- plan and produce protocols for implementing expanded model of care at PCP.
- expand PCP team (recreation therapist, nurse, support workers x2) and training provision.

2020-23:

- implement, monitor/adapt, evaluate expanded model of care (incl. OD prevention & harm reduction) at PCP.
- contribute to a community of practice with service providers from various Alberta rural and urban settings.



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