



Spotlight Presentation 1-1: Housing Is Healthcare: A Story of Collective Impact

Presenter:

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Description:

Guelph CHC partnered with Kindle Communities and Stonehenge Therapeutic Community on the 10 Shelldale Permanent Supportive Housing Program. We worked from a collective impact model, where each partner brought their unique skills and contributions to the table to create the biggest impact. We are creating a new model of care for people that integrates health and housing support.

Session objectives and learning outcomes:

- How the collective impact model was practically applied in this project
- How bringing health and housing partners together leads to our success
- How our learning can be applied to any other issue your community is facing

Full description:

Challenge:

Housing is one of the most important determinants of health. People living in Guelph-Wellington who are experiencing homelessness and have complex health and social needs face many barriers to accessing and maintaining housing.

Currently, there are very few options for these community members and many are accessing unstable shelter options or living in encampments. This supportive housing collaboration between 3 organizations has created a purpose-built housing option, with 24/7 support to meet a known housing gap in the community.

The collaborative model has allowed us to secure federal, provincial, municipal and private funding to get our project completed quickly.

Action:

The collaborative team has worked with partners and people with lived and living experience to develop a program model and policies, procedures and processes that are grounded in health equity, anti-oppression, harm reduction and trauma-informed practices.

We have a collaborative leadership structure, which will oversee the program, track progress, monitor outcomes and guide quality improvement. We have also engaged in joint advocacy with the Ministry of Health to secure sustainable base funding to ensure the right mix of support is available for this program to adequately serve high-acuity clients, which will have a positive impact on the individuals and broader community.

Impact:

There are currently 250 people experiencing homelessness in Guelph-Wellington and approximately 140 experiencing chronic homelessness (greater than 6 months). These individuals need additional health and social support to find and maintain housing.

This Permanent Supportive Housing program will improve health outcomes and quality of life for the 32 residents by having access to an onsite integrated team to support their physical, mental and substance use health.

For every \$10 invested in delivering 24/7 support at 10 Shelldale, at least \$16.10 in average savings across the healthcare, social service, and justice systems will be realized.

Trajectory:

We believe that our partnership model is unique. Many supportive housing projects are led by a single organization that does it all. We are a collaborative of 3 organizations who are bringing our unique skills, scope and contributions to the table to create one integrated model. This enhances the service delivery model while reducing risk.

We believe this partnership is the “secret sauce” that allowed us to secure a \$2.7M private donation and the overwhelming support of every level of government in our community. This could be a new model of health and housing coming together to meet community needs. The partners are already exploring opportunities to replicate our model to continue meeting the health and housing needs of people in our community.

We plan to open in February 2024.