Dementia – Friendly Care Settings

UNDERSTANDING THE PERSON-ENVIRONMENT FIT IN DEMENTIA CARE

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LTC Facilities often maintain a level of HOMOGENEITY

BUT

Persons with dementia have different levels of competencies
Care Environments

Two examples:

Long-term facility-based care
  ◦ Nursing homes

Community-based care environments
  ◦ Adult Day Programs

How does the physical layout and environmental press impact the quality of life of residents/participants living with dementia?
Care and Construction

Facility-based care is undergoing cultural changes

- New innovative physical designs
- Changes in staffing approach
- Resident-centred care

Funding: CIHR Partnerships in Health Systems Improvement;

Based in Nova Scotia involving 23 facilities, 300 residents; 400 family and 800+ staff

Research Question

To what extent and in what ways do differences in the nursing home model of care impact resident quality of life?

What influences quality of life

RESIDENT
- Marital status
- Health scale
- Homelikeness
- Personal relationships
- Staff-Resident bonding

FAMILY
- Resident cognitive status
- Homelikeness
- Family – Staff relationships
- Resident – Resident relationships

STAFF
- New-Full-scope
- Homelikeness
- Resident – Staff relationships
- Role clarity
- Skill use
- Transformation leadership
- Resident challenging
- Job influence

Resident Quality of Life
• Person-Environment fit is the resident’s ability to exercise choice and autonomy within their environment.

• Recognition that this space need to be flexible as individuals capacities are changing and the space will need to adapt.

Assessing Adult Day Program Environment for Persons with Dementia
(Brown & Keefe, 2012)

Dementia-Friendly Environments Should…

- Be safe and secure
- Be familiar
- Afford autonomy and control
- Afford meaningful activities
- Provide spaces for staff
- Reduce agitation and provide for planned wandering
- Reduce unwanted stimulation
- Highlight important stimuli
- Have good ‘visual access’ and afford functional independence

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Flexibility

- Survey results of Adult day Programs in NS demonstrated significant challenges in environmental suitability based on the nine criteria.

- Increased need for more and improved community care options integrating agency of persons living with dementia

- Recognition that these physical spaces must anticipate and adjust to the diversity of persons participating in this space
Emerging issue: Where are care environments geographically located?
Rural coastal communities are experiencing rising sea levels along their coastlines and more frequent, more intense storms. Potential of such coastal flooding will impact on key infrastructure of importance to older persons.

Climate change adaptation planning needs to consider the geographical placement of care environments.

Closing Remarks

SPACE

Flexibility

- How a space is structured and what happens in the space (i.e., maladaptive behaviours)
- Expectations about what a person can do are built into the physical design
- Adaptations that work for some may be disabling to others

SPACE & PLACE

Endurance

- Where a space is located structures the space
- Expectations about the physical environment in which care homes are located will have implications for what happens in those spaces
- Reminder that adaptations happen beyond our control (external conditions)