



# Best Practices for Maintaining Housing with Intellectually Disabled John Howard Clients

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# Research Setting

- ▶ Independence Apartments
  - ▶ Federal halfway house
  - ▶ 30-35 CSC clients
  - ▶ 1-3 PDD clients

# Research Objective

- ▶ To suggest best practices for housing support services for intellectually disabled at the Edmonton John Howard Society

# Methods

- ▶ Qualitative methodology
- ▶ Semi-structured interviews with:
  - ▶ Three PDD clients
  - ▶ Ten CSC clients
  - ▶ Six professional stakeholders

# Findings

- ▶ Separate Facility
  - ▶ Client group incompatibility
  - ▶ Conflicting needs
  - ▶ Taken advantage of by others
  - ▶ Difficulty finding and maintaining housing
  - ▶ Support needs

# Client Group Incompatibility

- ▶ CSC clients are higher functioning
- ▶ Intellectually disabled clients don't understand different rules
- ▶ Toxic environment

# Client Group Incompatibility

- ▶ “Because it’s like mixing oil and water. They do not mix well together at all . . . .” (Professional Four)
- ▶ “At the end of the day for us. PDD guys are different they can focus on other things. At the end of the day we can only focus on our self. . .What he does what happens to me what happens to him are different things [if we violate rules].” (Client Three)

# Conflicting Needs

- ▶ Zero tolerance versus harm reduction



# Conflicting Needs

- ▶ “Yah, it’s a really dangerous thing to have a separate program where we don’t have a lot of say when they come back intoxicated because they don’t have conditions.” (Professional Three)
- ▶ “. . . with the PDD clients there might be times where they do come back under the influence. But we can’t kick [the PDD clients] out because they pay rent and have tenant rights [whereas the CSC clients do not pay rent]” (Professional One).

# Taken Advantage of by Others

- ▶ Bullying
- ▶ Borrowing
- ▶ Negative role modeling

# Taken Advantage of by Others

- ▶ “Bullying . . . . Kind of taken advantage of a little bit. He doesn’t know how to say no.” (Client Three) said referring to one of the intellectually disabled clients being convinced to take part in a crime
- ▶ “Your dealing with individuals who are easily manipulated. So often they’re getting taken for smokes and money. They’re being encouraged to engage in activities that they otherwise might not do.” (Professional Three)

# Difficulty Finding and Maintaining Housing

- ▶ Housing of last resort
- ▶ Homelessness prior to arrival
- ▶ Violating rules main reason for eviction

# Difficulty Finding and Maintaining Housing

- ▶ “Yah, I was living on the street then and I had lots of different workers trying to find me places but no other places were willing to take me because they didn’t want to take the risk of I may be changing my life but there’s a risk of something still happening.” (Client Two)
- ▶ “. . . generally when our clients leave . . . [here] . . . they go [to the homeless shelter] because we’re their last resort.” (Professional One)

# Support Needs

- ▶ Heterogenous client group
- ▶ Boundaries
- ▶ Wraparound services

# Support Needs

- ▶ “Like if there’s someone who [has] . . . an intellectual problem dealing with that kind of stuff they might not be [good] with interpersonal relationships and knowing boundaries. . . .” (Client Five).
- ▶ “So, wraparound service is just making sure that every part of their needs is supported and supported by multiple different community agencies. . . . So, all of their needs are met and they’re met by multiple community supports.” (Professional Three)

# Concluding Remarks

- ▶ Separate facility is best
  - ▶ Decrease in negative role modeling
  - ▶ Increase pro-social bonds



Thank you

