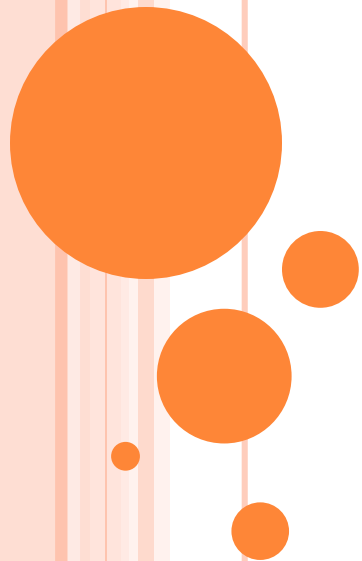


***AN OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY APPROACH
TO HELPING SENIORS
SUCCESSFULLY AGE
IN PLACE IN
SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING***



BACKGROUND

Project Renewal's mission is to end the cycle of homelessness by empowering individuals and families to renew their lives with health, home and jobs.



GEFFNER HOUSE

- Permanent supportive housing facility for 307 low-income and formerly homeless individuals.
- Interdisciplinary Team Approach
- High presence of isolation and depression among Geffner's 120 seniors.

SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

- NYS Department of Health – TAP Program (Tools for Aging in Place).
- 2 year pilot program.
- Personalized occupational therapy services were instituted at Geffner House for seniors in hygiene, health management, nutrition and community engagement.
- Modifications to senior's apartment such as grab bars and non-skid tiles.

OUTCOMES



- Escorts to appointments resulted in a significant increase in seniors utilizing primary care and mental health services.
- Data indicated that occupational therapy services were essential to TAP program.

HOPE PROGRAM

- Helping Older People Engage evolved from the TAP program.
- Goal of HOPE program to provide occupational therapy services for seniors to age in place with dignity and independence.

FUNDING

- Private foundation grant.
- Geffner's government contracts.
- Occupational therapy program replaced recreation program.

STAFFING

- 2 full-time occupational therapists and 1 part-time.
- Clinical internship of master's level occupational therapy students.
- Occupational therapy offers a more targeted approach to determine an individual's cognitive, social and organizational skills necessary to remain housed.

SERVICES

- Environmental modifications.
- Escorts to primary care, mental health and dental appointments.
- Group and individual service planning.
- Targeted treatment for skill development in hygiene and self care, health management, social participation, home maintenance, stress and anger management and others.

QUANTITATIVE DATA

- Tracking numerous factors such as ER visits, hospitalizations, behavior indicators of stability.
- 9 month in operation too soon to evaluate outcomes.

QUALITATIVE DATA

- Based on reporting of staff , there is an increased senior presence in the building and an increased sense of community.
- Increased teamwork among clinical disciplines.
- As seniors have become a more visible presence in the building, younger tenants have begun assisting them and being more aware of their well being.
- An increase in positive communication between staff and younger tenants. As younger tenants observe staff more actively providing care for senior tenants, they appear to view staff more favorably.