

Newly and chronically homeless older adults have unique pathways into homelessness and distinct physical, mental, and social needs. Using a five-step process, we conducted a scoping review of primary research to investigate the needs and solutions for sheltering/housing older people experiencing homelessness (OPEH). Thematic analysis of data from 19 sources revealed 1) shelter/housing needs and challenges of newly vs. chronically homeless older adults; 2) existing shelter/housing solutions addressing the needs of OPEH, including Housing First, permanent supportive housing, and multiservice homelessness intervention programs; and 3) outcomes of rehousing OPEH. Following, we developed a conceptual model which outlines how unique health and psychosocial needs of newly and chronically homeless older adults can be met through appropriately-designed shelter/housing solutions with individualized levels of senior-specific support. Future shelter/housing initiatives and strategies should use a rights-based approach and prioritize matching diverse OPEH needs to appropriate shelter/housing options that will support their ability to age-in-the-right-place. Part of a symposium sponsored by the Environmental Gerontology Interest Group.

#### UNCOVERING PROMISING PRACTICES FOR SUPPORTING OLDER PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Sarah Canham,<sup>1</sup> Joe Humphries,<sup>2</sup> Victoria Burns,<sup>3</sup> Tamara Sussman,<sup>4</sup> and Christine Walsh,<sup>3</sup> 1. *University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, United States*, 2. *Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*, 3. *University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada*, 4. *McGill University, Montreal, Ontario, Canada*

Montréal, Calgary, and Vancouver have seen a dramatic increase in homelessness among adults aged 50+. In order to identify ‘promising practices’ that promote aging-in-the-right-place for older people experiencing homelessness (OPEH) in Montréal, Calgary, and Vancouver, we conducted an environmental scan and three World Café workshops with 99 service providers and OPEH. We identified 53 promising practices managed or operated by 42 providers which we categorized across a shelter/housing continuum: 1) Emergency/transitional/temporary shelter/housing; 2) Independent housing with offsite supports; 3) Supported independent housing with onsite, non-medical supports; 4) Permanent supportive housing with onsite medical support and/or specialized services; 5) Long-term care; and 6) Palliative care/hospice. Study findings provide a template for existing solutions to the diverse shelter/housing needs of OPEH and insight into the gaps in shelter/housing and services that would support OPEH to age-in-the-right place. Policy and practice implications for scaling promising practices will be discussed. Part of a symposium sponsored by the Environmental Gerontology Interest Group.

#### SHELTER AND HOUSING OPTIONS, SUPPORTS, AND INTERVENTIONS FOR OLDER PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Atiya Mahmood,<sup>1</sup> Joe Humphries,<sup>1</sup> Piper Moore,<sup>2</sup> Victoria Burns,<sup>3</sup> and Sarah Canham,<sup>4</sup> 1. *Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*, 2. *College of Social Work, The University of Utah, Salt Lake City,*

*Utah, United States*, 3. *University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada*, 4. *University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, United States*

While older people experiencing homelessness (OPEH) can have life histories of homelessness or experience homelessness for the first time in later life, understandings of shelter/housing models that meet diverse needs of this population are limited. We conducted a scoping review of the international literature on shelter/housing models available to support OPEH. Through an iterative process of reading and rereading 24 sources (published 1999-2019), findings were organized into 5 categories of shelter/housing models that have been developed to support OPEH: 1) Permanent supportive housing (PSH), including PSH delivered through Housing First, 2) Transitional housing, 3) Shelter settings with medical supports, 4) Drop-in centers, and 5) Case management and outreach. Findings expand our understanding of how a continuum of shelter/housing options are needed to support distinct health and housing needs of diverse OPEH. Policy and practice implications related to integrating health and social care to support OPEH to age-in-the-right-place will be discussed. Part of a symposium sponsored by the Environmental Gerontology Interest Group.

#### AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING AND OLDER ADULTS: A CASE STUDY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Muhammad Qureshi,<sup>1</sup> Atiya Mahmood,<sup>1</sup> Ghazaleh Akbarnejad,<sup>1</sup> Rahil Adeli,<sup>1</sup> and Dana Sharon,<sup>2</sup> 1. *Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*, 2. *Brightside Community Homes Foundation, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*

Older adults living in rental housing with limited income are at-risk for experiencing life-course disruptions, including social isolation, loneliness and homelessness. To address these needs, one Vancouver-based affordable housing provider for older adults has implemented community development initiatives (CDIs), including resident-led community gardens, workshops, and social events. Based on data from three focus groups, resulting in a total of fifteen participants, this study explored the efficacy of five different CDIs in supporting residents’ social connection and sense of community. Findings revealed that CDIs contribute to increased social engagement and inclusion of older adults living in affordable rental housing. In particular, resident-led community gardens were identified as the most impactful CDI in supporting both social engagement and inclusion, with the added benefit of addressing resident’s food insecurity. We discuss how CDIs can be implemented in various housing settings for low-income older adults as an effective method of supporting aging-in-the-right place. Part of a symposium sponsored by the Environmental Gerontology Interest Group.

#### SESSION 6210 (SYMPOSIUM)

##### RESEARCH TO STRENGTHEN POLICY, PRACTICE, AND ADVOCACY ON HOUSING FOR AGING SOCIETIES

Chair: Emily Greenfield

Discussant: Nancy Berlinger

Population aging alongside other global trends—such as urbanization, widening economic inequality, and climate