

There Isn't Anywhere to Go: Exploring the Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders

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Introduction.

- Increasing population of incarcerated older adults (aging offenders) inside institutions
- While strategies are in place to support aging offenders within institutions, relatively little attention has been directed to understanding community reintegration of older parolees
- In 2018, Trent University created a new collaboration looking at the issues of community reintegration of aging offenders (CRAO)
- This presentation will examine the projects created by a community-based collaboration

Community-Based Collaboration.

- *No Place to Call Home* Symposium at Trent University – Feb 22 2018
- Examined the challenges of senior parolees in the community and long-term care facilities
- Collaborators from symposium formed the CRAO committee to help inform future projects



Correctional Service
Canada

Service correctionnel
Canada



FEBRUARY 22, 2018

GSC 114, Gzowski College,
Trent University
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
(Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.)

\$30 general admission
\$15 for students
For tickets go to:
<https://noplacetocallhome.eventbrite.ca>
Lunch and parking is included

CAREER & NETWORKING FAIR

Students interested in a career or program placement within correctional services, victim services, community outreach and other related fields are encouraged to attend both the talks and the career & networking fair.

Employer tables may be visited throughout the day in the atrium in front of GCS 114 with a dedicated networking session from 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For more information, contact:
Justin Sutton at 705.748.1011 ext. 6441



Opening Speaker
HENRY DE SOUZA joined the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) as Director General within the Health Services Sector in 2008. He is currently DG Clinical Services and Public Health with responsibilities for the development and implementation of standards, guidelines and strategies relating to the provision of essential health services to the federal offender population. Responsibilities also include the development and implementation of health promotion and disease prevention programs and initiatives. His talk is called: *Correctional Service Canada's strategy for promoting wellness and independence of older persons within CSC.*



Keynote Speaker
DR. CRYSTAL DIELEMAN is an occupational therapist and assistant professor at Dalhousie University. Her current work examines intentions and outcomes of wellness court programs, sexual activity among forensic mental health clients, and the health, legal and social justice priorities of prisoners. Her talk is called: *'I'm too old for this sh**': Experiences of age and imprisonment.*



Feature Speaker
DAVID BYRNE, Executive Director of Peterborough Reintegration Services in Peterborough, Ontario, will describe how Haley House CRF emerged out of Community Chaplain Dan Haley's efforts to assist federal offenders transition back to the community at end of their lives. David will provide a brief history of the organization, describe how Haley House grew out of previous models and present the current program model, noting emerging challenges. His talk is called: *A Place Like This: Haley House as a Model of Supporting Aging Federal Offenders in their Transition to the*

Project Trajectories.

Gaps in Knowledge Report

To establish a base of knowledge about key gaps and how to move forward to enhance the work of CSC, CACs, and community reintegration services.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide a background on the community reintegration of aging offenders literature
- Showcase expert perspectives on the community reintegration of aging offenders
- Outline the frontline knowledge of the barriers, issues and solutions to the community reintegration of aging offenders

Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO) Pilot Project

To examine the experiences of aging male offenders as they transition from correctional institutions into the community, and to better understand the organizational structure and approach of a CRAO innovation.

OBJECTIVES

- Document the issues, challenges and opportunities of community reintegration of aging offenders, and
- Establish the conceptual and methodological foundations for a multi-jurisdictional CRAO research project across Canada.

What We Know From the Literature.

Population inside institutions is aging

- 25% of inmates in Canadian correctional facilities over 50
- Increased 50% over last decade

Challenges of incarceration

- Social (bullying, mobility, loss of freedom)
- Medical (arthritis, depression, dementia, etc.)

Issues and challenges of community reintegration of aging offenders

- Social (stigma, finances, support, housing)
- Medical (access to healthcare)

Gap in contemporary literature surrounding the community reintegration of aging offenders

What We Know From Frontline Knowledge.

Perspectives from 40 symposium attendees outlined the following:

Challenges of community reintegration of aging offenders

- Stigma
- Access to long-term care
- Access to housing
- Lack of community supports and skills

Solutions to address the issues and barriers

- Aging offender specific community residential facility
- Increase in release planning
- Public education

CRAO Pilot Project.

CRAO Innovation

- Haley House
- Established in 2016
- CSC contracted community residential facility
- 10 beds
- Provides specialized support for men facing serious chronic physical and mental health issues, or impending end of life



Research Design.

Qualitative interviews (N=20)

- Haley House residents (N=6)
- Haley House staff (N=7)
- Stakeholders – parole, community chaplaincy, LHIN, PSW, CAC, police (N=7)

Interviews with residents

- Experiences of community reintegration (barriers, challenges, supports)

Interviews with staff and stakeholders

- Development of Haley House, its connection with local partners and its role within the local community

Experiences of Community Reintegration.

Continuum of Reintegration

“There’s no planning. Not one iota. Even when there is programming, it’s always left to the last minute and maybe you’ll get it, maybe you won’t.” – Charlton, Haley House Resident

Supports and Relationships

“They got you **thinking about the outside** and got you used to what was going on”
– Jim, Haley House Resident

Stigma

“People hear sex offender and they hear murderer. They’re not seeing them for the human being they’ve become since they’ve been out of jail. The fact that **they still have a soul and have the right to proper care.**” – PRS Staff

CRAO Innovation.

Transitional Housing

“For some of these guys, it’s not a final place. We’ve had guys go out and live on their own, but for some guys, **it’s a stepping stone to either long-term care or death** because those are what their options are.” – Staff at Haley House

Partnerships

“It’s been a **team effort right from the word go**...It’s something as simple as Dr. Friesen being here. Without that, this wouldn’t be happening.” – Staff at Haley House

Community Education

“**Educating the community. That’s the big piece that we’re trying to do** and it continues to be a challenge and it always will be...There’s always the stigma related to people who have been in jail.” – CAC Stakeholder

Discussion.

What the literature and frontline knowledge tell us

- Challenges of incarceration for older adults
- Gap in our understanding of community reintegration

What the experiences and CRAO innovation tell us

- Reintegration begins on the inside
- Importance of the community

Contributions to research, policy and practice

Challenges of doing CRAO research

Next steps

- Examining CRAO innovations across Canada and in international settings

*“It’s the next best thing to being home...
I feel good. I feel free.”*

- Oscar, Haley House Resident

Further Information.

Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders: Gaps in Knowledge Report

NOW AVAILABLE

For more information contact:

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