

SUPPORTING RESIDENTS MOVING INTO LONG-TERM CARE: MULTIPLE LAYERS SHAPE RESIDENTS' EXPERIENCES

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Brief Description of Research or Project: Moving into a nursing home represents a monumental life change; one most older adults hope to avoid at all costs. While older adults who relocate are most affected by this life altering circumstance, recent studies on perceptions and experiences with the relocation process have been dominated by families' accounts. In this talk Dr. Sussman will present findings from an interpretive grounded theory study that included 10 new residents' experiences with different phases of the relocation process including the decision to move into a LTC home, the pre-move preparations, the moving day circumstances, and the initial adjustment period following the move. Analysis of the data revealed a complex intersection of conditions at multiple layers that shaped residents' experiences of the transitional process. Recommendations to enhance circumstances at individual, interpersonal, and systemic layers for each temporal stage of the relocation process are proposed. Implications for social work practice across the continuum of care are also discussed. **Why is this research important to profile at the Research Day 2014?** Moving into a nursing home represents a monumental life change; one most older adults hope to avoid at all costs (Leggett, Hiskey, & Erskin, 2011). Despite preferences for community care, between 18-33% of older adults 85 years and older living in Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) countries such as Australia, North America, Scandinavia, and Western Europe, relocate to a nursing home (Summerfield & Babb, 2004, National Institute on Aging, 2006; Banerjee, 2009). This talk will offer research informed recommendations that are directly applicable to social workers and other allied professionals who support resident relocations to LTC. A model for facilitating the relocation process at all stages of the transition will be presented for reflection and discussion (see attached figure). It is hoped that attendees will walk away from this presentation inspired to adapt their and their organization's policies and practices to better meet the needs of residents facing this monumental life change.