



ALTERNATIVES SERIES

HUB AND SPOKE MODEL OF CARING FOR OLDER ADULTS IN THE COMMUNITY

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June 8, 2021

Some believe that we need to go outside of Ontario or even Canada to find innovative ways of maintaining older adults in their own homes and communities, but some of these models already exist right here at home.

In this report, SSAO will describe an excellent model of community care for individuals who would otherwise be candidates for long term care, but who are maintained in their own homes and communities in Peel Region.

Peel Senior Link

Peel Senior Link is a non-profit agency that has a long history of helping older adults to live independently and safely in their own homes and communities and avoid institutionalization.

It provided 24/7 personal support and homemaking services in its Assisted Living Services For High Risk Seniors program using a hub and spoke model serving 399 individuals through 12 hub and spoke locations throughout Peel (118,169 resident days) in a partnership with Peel Housing Corporation, Peel Living. It has diverted 116 individuals from emergency rooms and 121 individuals from having to be institutionalized in long term care facilities.

This was accomplished through a 2019/20 Targeted Investment Project – part of an effort to end hallway health care in partnership with Trillium Health Partners, MHLHIN Home and Community Care's High Intensity Supports at Home Program (2020/21), the Region of Peel, the Central West LHIN, and the Brampton Etobicoke Ontario Health Team.

The hubs are buildings where low income seniors with high support needs live, provided by the Region of Peel. There is a site supervisor/case manager in every building where 35-40 individuals are supported on a 24/7 basis over 3 shifts using a team approach. Individuals receive up to 8 hours a day of care. Community care partners provide personal support, food, and transportation.

Many of these individuals have complex care needs with multiple chronic conditions including behavioral issues, dementia, a combination of intellectual and physical disabilities, and require ongoing assistance with activities of daily living.

The spokes are the 3-5 kilometres around each building where staff also provide assistance to individuals requiring who live in the area.

This program does not have the high staff turnover rate often found in long term care facilities. Staff stay from 6-8 years and 60% of staff providing these services are full-time with benefits, and part-time staff are also paid benefits.

But here's the rub. The government provided only one time funding for this innovative project that was successfully keeping people out of long term care institutions.

What Needs to Happen

There are progressive "flagship" agencies like Senior Link Peel all over Ontario that could deliver this kind of program to keep people out of institutions if the government would only fund them.

If these community care agencies were funded to provide assistance, they could literally prevent alternate level of care patients moving from hospitals to long term care.

Unfortunately the Government of Ontario has, so far, chosen to fund expensive institutional beds instead of programs like this that provide real choice to older adults and their families.

Want To Help?

Contact your MPP via e-mail and copy the Minister of Health and the Minister of Long Term Care and tell them to re-institute, on a permanent basis, and fully fund the Assisted Living Services for High Risk Seniors Program.

You can find the e-mail list for your MPP here – click on the name to obtain the e-mail address:

<https://www.ola.org/en/members/current>

Copy the Premier - premier@ontario.ca

Copy the Minister of Health - christine.elliott@ontario.ca

Copy the Minister of Long Term Care - merrilee.fullerton@pc.ola.org

And copy us! seniorsactionontario@gmail.com

REFERENCES:

Peel Senior Link - <https://peelseniorlink.com/>