



# Innovative approaches to healthcare: Vanier Towers Project

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SOCIAL WORKER

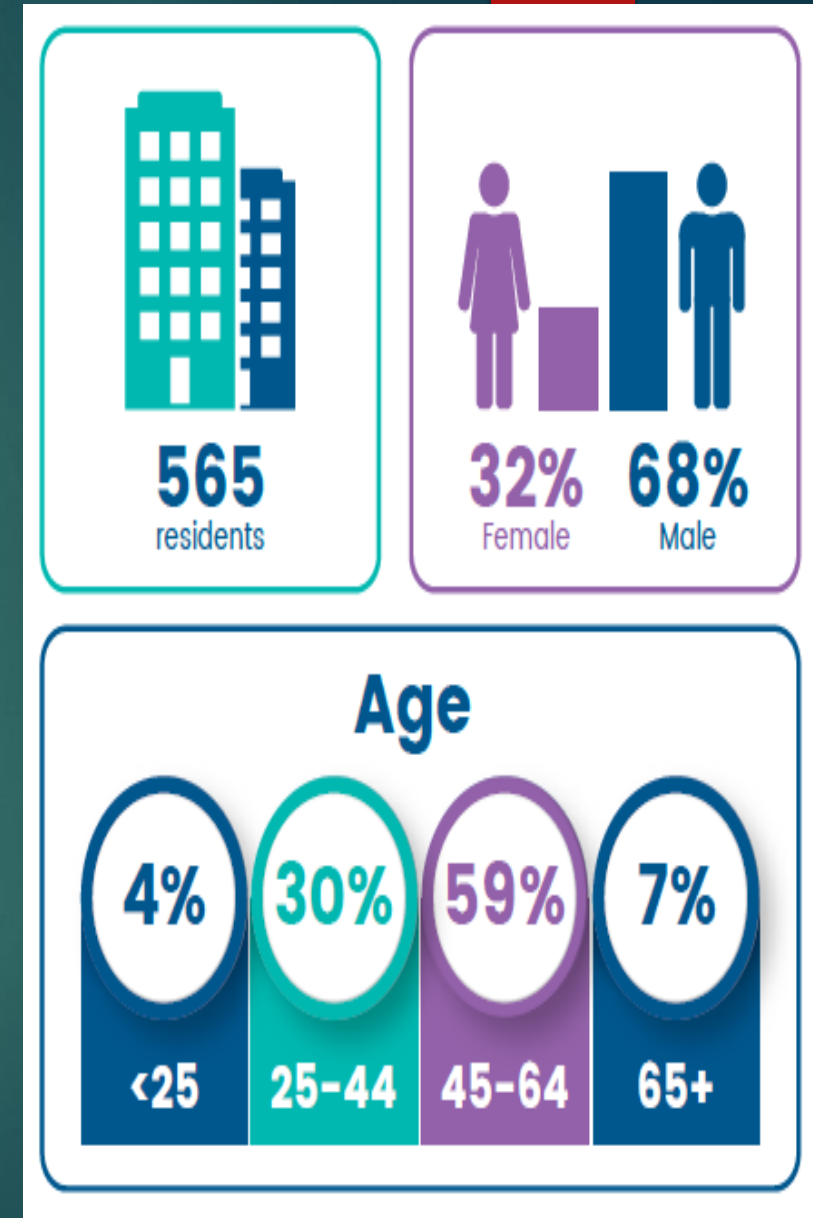
CONCURRENT DISORDERS CAPACITY BUILDING TEAM

# Agenda

- ▶ Introduce Vanier Towers
- ▶ Discuss the inception of this unique project
- ▶ Understand the anticipated outcomes of implementing client pathways to meet the needs of specific populations
- ▶ Questions

# Vanier Towers

- ▶ Social housing
- ▶ 181 Jackson Street West & 95 Hess Street South
- ▶ Independent living for adults aged 16-59
- ▶ 1 bedroom & bachelor units
- ▶ Old!

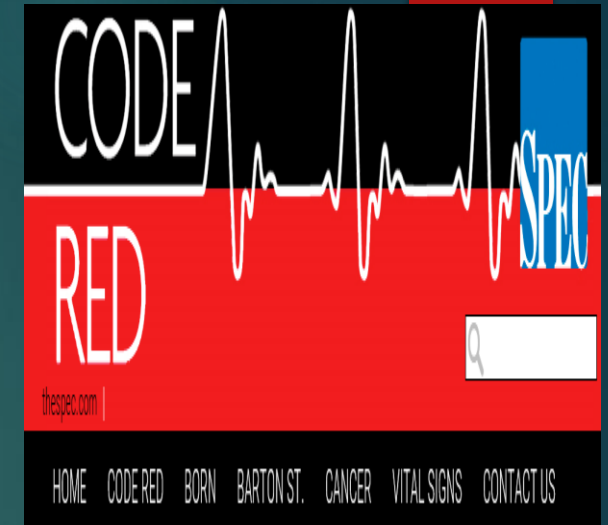


# History

- ▶ Historical changes in subsidized housing eligibility
- ▶ Lack of inventory
- ▶ Deinstitutionalization
- ▶ Changes in screening and application process
- ▶ Inadvertent ghettoization

# Code Red

- ▶ <https://codered.thespec.io/>



# Code Red 10 Years Later

- ▶ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2019/02/28/code-red-10-years-later.html>

# Vanier Towers

- ▶ “Hamilton high-rise with one of the worst lifespans in the world”
- ▶ “The scandal of our times”
- ▶ “The multi-million dollar mess at Hamilton’s CityHousing”
- ▶ “Stress is a killer and it is in abundance in my world solely due to my surroundings. My children and grandchildren will not visit. I have lost friends who no longer wish to come to this building.”

# INSPIRE

- ▶ Study's Goal: To evaluate a process that identified health issues and associated potential solutions in Vanier Towers.
- ▶ <https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health/reporting/community-health-profile>



# Key Findings

- ▶ Low income and unstable housing are barriers to achieving one's full health potential
- ▶ Safety and the social environment are impacting residents' well-being.
- ▶ Mental health and substance use is a significant burden on this community.
- ▶ The community frequently uses emergency health services.
- ▶ Premature death is common, yet often avoidable.

# Defining the problem and current state:

- ▶ Complex and unique needs
- ▶ Lack sufficient services
- ▶ Pest infestations
- ▶ Access barriers to service
- ▶ Culture and sub-cultures within the buildings
- ▶ Unresolved conflict between tenants
- ▶ Stigmatization
- ▶ High rates of crime

# Recommendations for change:

- ▶ Service delivery redesigned to be delivered in non-traditional ways
- ▶ A holistic, multi-pronged approach
- ▶ Community Hub

# Vanier Towers Community Hub

Role/Program	Organization	Supports Offered	Time
Community Relations Worker	<del>City Housing</del> Hamilton	Helps maintain tenancies	2 x <u>3 hour</u> sessions = 6 hours/week
Property Manager	<del>City Housing</del> Hamilton	Addresses property needs and manages tenancies	5 days/week
Community Development Coordinator	<del>City Housing</del> Hamilton	Resident led group support, leadership development, and community engagement	As needed
Case Worker	Ontario Works (City of Hamilton)	OW case management	½ day/week
Case Facilitator	Addiction Support Initiative (Ontario Works, City of Hamilton)	Addictions case management	Two ½ days/week
Home Management Worker	Home Management (City of Hamilton)	Life skills	5 days/week
Public Health Navigator	Public Health (City of Hamilton)	Health systems navigation	1 hour/week
Recreation programs	Recreation (City of Hamilton)	Offers free resident rec passes. Onsite exercise programs	N/A  ½ day/week
Health and Wellness Counsellor	Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre	Counselling	½ day/week
Primary Care Nurse	Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre	Nursing	½ day/week
Peer Support Worker	Mental Health Rights Coalition	Peer support	6 hours/week
Care and Share Lounge	Resident-led group	Computer and phone access; tuck shop	Daily

# Role of SJHH Social Worker

- ▶ Short-term case management
- ▶ Assistance navigating services
- ▶ Biopsychosocial assessment of needs
- ▶ Collaborative treatment planning
- ▶ Time-limited 1:1 counselling for addictions and mental health using both a harm reduction and abstinence based approach
- ▶ Follow-up for stabilization and transition to hospital, community and/or other appropriate services
- ▶ Group programming
- ▶ Other?

# Goals of project

- ▶ Quality of Life
- ▶ Access to primary care, mental health, and social services
- ▶ Reduction of service strain

# Good News Stories

- ▶ Carlos
- ▶ “Olivia”
- ▶ “Colleen”



*That's all Folks!*



