

# Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO): Pilot Project Report



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# Preface

## Letter from CRAO Project Leader

With the rapid increase of aging incarcerated populations in Canada and internationally, Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO) has emerged as a significant concern for correctional services, community leaders and researchers, not to mention for formerly incarcerated older adults themselves, especially those with health and end of life care and support needs.

In an effort to address the gap in knowledge about CRAO, a community-based collaboration based out of Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario began in 2017 with partners from Correctional Service Canada, Citizen's Advisory Committee, Peterborough Reintegration Services, Centennial College and Dalhousie University. With funding from Correctional Service Canada, the Canada Research Chairs program, and the Trent Centre for Aging & Society, working together over the past two years the CRAO collaborative team accomplished three objectives with the aim of bringing the challenges and opportunities of community reintegration of aging offenders to the forefront locally and nationally.

- The 100+ delegate *No Place to Call Home: The Challenges of Reintegrating Senior Parolees into the Community and Long-term Care Symposium* (February 22, 2018), was hosted at Trent University to initiate discussion with corrections stakeholders on the barriers and challenges to community reintegration of aging offenders.
- *The Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO): Gaps in Knowledge Report* was published in 2019, based on the proceedings of the No Place to Call Home symposium and the frontline knowledge on the challenges, barriers and solutions to community reintegration of aging offenders.
- *The Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO) Pilot Project* that examines the experiences of community reintegration of aging male offenders through a case study of Haley House, a CSC contracted community residential facility serving the Peterborough region, was completed in June 2019.

The CRAO Pilot Project, which is the focus of this report, is the culmination of our community-university collaboration and, on behalf of the CRAO team, it is our hope that the report and the lessons learned from Peterborough, Ontario will help shed light on this important issue and, in doing so, will provide a foundation for further developments in research, policy and programming that will improve community reintegration of aging offenders across Canada and internationally. For more information, please visit [www.craoresearch.com](http://www.craoresearch.com).

### **Dr. Mark Skinner**

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## Letter from Correctional Service Canada

Canada, like many countries, is experiencing population aging. This demographic shift, along with an increase in late life sentencing and longer sentences have resulted in a growing number of older persons in federal custody, although overall the Correctional Service Canada's (CSC) population remains relatively young.

In 2018, in response to the growing number of older persons in custody, Correctional Service Canada developed a policy framework entitled, Promoting Wellness and Independence, Older Persons in Custody ('the Framework').

The Framework was informed by domestic and international research and in consultation with expert stakeholders in the fields of geriatrics, gerontology, law, culture, Indigenous health and correctional health. It is holistic and emphasises a person-centred, age, gender and culturally appropriate and multi-dimensional approach that supports health and wellbeing, programming, appropriate living accommodations, community engagement, and partnerships. In practical terms, the Framework is a hybrid of a framework and a strategy that allows implementation to be concurrent with the refinement of the approach as new information and research become available. A hallmark of CSC's approach is the inclusion, through personal interviews, of the voice of over 500 older persons on their experience, worries, and concerns about being an older person in custody.

One of the areas noted by older persons in custody is concern about transition/ reintegration into community. For many older individuals, returning to the community can be a challenge. The work undertaken by Trent University through its' *CRAO Pilot Project* sheds light on the complexity of these challenges, barriers and potential solutions. CSC is committed to developing partnerships with outside agencies with the goal of strengthening collaboration and promoting wellness and independence of older individuals. Ensuring older individuals' successful reintegration into the community will help facilitate healthy aging and promote overall quality of life. CSC welcomes Trent University's contribution in this area.



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 OVERVIEW

In both Canada and in international contexts, strategies of varying degrees have been implemented in order to support the population of incarcerated older adults within correctional institutions (Correctional Service Canada, 2018). Important to this report, in Canada, Correctional Service Canada (CSC) has developed a policy framework titled *Promoting Wellness and Independence of Older Persons in CSC Custody* that outlines how to support the wellness and independence of older persons in federal custody (Correctional Service Canada, 2018).

Although such strategies and frameworks are in place to support the population of older adults inside institutions, relatively little attention has been paid to the process of community reintegration of aging offenders (CRAO), where older adults transition from institutions into the community. During this time of reintegration, previously incarcerated older adults face a plethora of challenges and barriers, such as the stigmatization from the community due to their incarceration history, lack of supports (financial, emotional, physical) and complex healthcare needs (Williams & Abraldes, 2007; Higgins & Severson, 2009; Maschi, Morrissey & Leigey, 2013). With limited contemporary research examining these challenges and issues, further exploration is needed in order to understand the experiences of community reintegration for aging offenders and to showcase innovations in place to help support this population as they transition from institution to community.

In order to address this gap in knowledge surrounding the reintegration of previously incarcerated older adults, this report outlines the Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO) Pilot Project. Based out of Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, the project explores the experiences of older men on parole as they transitioned from correctional institutions into the community and a form of CRAO innovation that works to support them.

## 1.2 BACKGROUND ON CRAO LITERATURE AND FRONTLINE KNOWLEDGE

### CRAO Literature

In Canada, like other countries, there is an increasing number of older individuals in federal custody. Although older adults are typically defined as being over the age of 65, in correctional settings, “older” is defined as being over the age of 50 due to accelerated aging as a result of prolonged incarceration (Maschi et al, 2013). In 2018, Canadian federal institutions saw 20% of their population between the ages of 50 and 64, and 5% over the age of 65. Although not large proportions of older individuals, these numbers are continuing to grow (Correctional Service Canada, 2018).



This population of incarcerated older adults present complex challenges within institutionalized environments. Socially, they are faced with inmate bullying, mobility issues, and a loss of freedom (Hayes, Burns, Turnbull & Shaw, 2012; 2013). Additional challenges include health-related issues such as arthritis, respiratory ailments, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer, as well as cognitive and emotional disorders such as depression, anxiety and dementia (Higgins & Severson, 2009; Hayes et al, 2012). Although research does outline the challenges for the older population inside correctional institutions, it lacks attention to the reintegration of this population back into the community.

Challenges, such as the ones listed above do not disappear once the older individual is released from custody – they persist, as they attempt to navigate re-entering the community (Williams & Abraldes, 2007; Higgins & Severson, 2009; Maschi et al, 2013). In addition to the health-related challenges that follow them, aging offenders are faced with a lack of supports (financial, emotional, physical), stigmatization due to their incarceration history and criminal record and a lack of life skills needed to cope and survive within a community setting (Williams & Abraldes, 2007; Maschi et al, 2013). As noted above, this population often faces multiple medical conditions and often do not have proper healthcare in place when they reintegrate, therefore, these conditions often worsen (Higgins & Severson, 2009; Hayes et al, 2012; Hayes et al, 2013).

Within Canada, there is a growing focus on examining incarcerated older adults within federal institutions. In their 2010-2011 Annual Report, the Office of the Correctional Investigator (OCI) focused on the confinement, programming, and physical, mental, and palliative care needs of this population (Sapers, 2011). The following year, the OCI put forth a recommendation that CSC develop a national strategy aimed at incarcerated older adults and their care and custody needs. In 2019, the OCI and the Human Rights Commission published *Aging and Dying in Prison: An Investigation into the Experiences of Older Individuals in Federal Custody*. This report examines the experiences, challenges and vulnerabilities of older individuals within Canadian correctional institutions (Correctional Investigator of Canada and Canadian Human Rights Commission, 2019). In 2018, CSC developed a framework, entitled *Promoting Wellness and Independence of Older Persons in CSC Custody* that highlights how CSC is moving forward to implement a person-centred comprehensive approach to supporting wellness and independence of the older person population in federal custody (Correctional Service Canada, 2018). Further information on this framework can be found in the companion report, *Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO): Gaps in Knowledge Report* (Colibaba, 2019).

## Frontline Knowledge

The *Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO): Gaps in Knowledge Report* also outlines the frontline knowledge about the challenges of and solutions to the community reintegration of aging offenders. Following the *No Place to Call Home Symposium* hosted at Trent University in 2018, stakeholders from corrections, non-profit, academia, education, community support agencies and healthcare shared their first hand experiences working with this population and what they see to be the major challenges to reintegration into the community for previously incarcerated older adults, and what they believe to be viable solutions to those challenges.

One challenge to community reintegration that was discussed by the frontline knowledge holders, which echoes the CRAO literature presented in the previous section, is the stigmatization within the community. The knowledge holders highlight the NIMBY-ism (not in my backyard) that is felt by parolees, old or young. This stigma was discussed as being a result of the assumptions and stereotypes of incarceration and having a criminal record. Specifically for older parolees as well, frontline knowledge holders discussed how along with stigma, they must also deal with the ageism often felt by individuals in older age, no matter their history (Colibaba, 2019). In addition to stigma within the community at large, this population was described as being stigmatized by long-term care. This discrimination was described as affecting the individuals' acceptance and placement into long-term care facilities due to their perceived risk and behaviours due to their incarceration history (Colibaba, 2019).

In addition to stigma, frontline knowledge holders described housing to be a challenge in the community reintegration process for aging parolees. They outlined that there is a lack of access to safe, affordable, and supportive housing for parolees in general, and largely missing is housing options that caters specifically to the unique and complex needs of older parolees more specifically.

Along with the challenges observed by the frontline knowledge holders, the *Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO): Gaps in Knowledge Report* also discussed the solutions they thought would be useful in aiding the community reintegration process for older offenders. One solution mentioned was a long-term care facility or community residential facility (CRF) specifically designed for this population. The frontline knowledge holders discussed funding as an ongoing challenge of achieving this however, they mentioned the importance of a facility that can meet the specific needs of this population that would act as a safe place for them to reside while getting the proper care and supports that they require. A second solution is to increase release planning within correctional institutions prior to the release of the older individual. A more direct focus on planning was discussed

as important as it would ensure that community supports are in place prior to re-entry into the community to foster a positive reintegration experience. Lastly, the frontline knowledge holders discussed education as integral to aiding the community reintegration process. Community education and education for long-term care staff and administrators was discussed as of extreme importance in order to allow healthcare workers and community members to understand the needs and realities of this vulnerable population (Colibaba, 2019).

With this background knowledge in mind, Trent University created a new partnership that included some of the key frontline knowledge holders from the *No Place to Call Home Symposium*, in order to collaborate and inform both the *Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO): Gaps in Knowledge Report* and the CRAO Pilot Project which will be discussed in the following sections.



### **1.3 CRAO COMMUNITY-BASED COLLABORATION**

Following the No Place to Call Home Symposium held at Trent University in February 2018, a community-based collaboration was formed in order to inform the creation of the CRAO Pilot Project that examined the experiences and challenges of community reintegration of aging offenders and lessons from a CRAO innovation. Collaborative partners include Correctional Service Canada, Parole - Peterborough, Peterborough Reintegration Services, Citizens Advisory Committee – Peterborough, Trent University, Trent Centre for Aging & Society, Centennial College and Dalhousie University.

The members of the CRAO community-based collaboration provided their knowledge and expertise across the conception of the project. Consultations with collaboration team members were conducted on a bi-monthly, or as needed basis to discuss research design, data collection, and dissemination. Specifically, the collaboration team was involved and advised with the conception of the methodology, application for ethics approval, participant recruitment, data collection logistics, data analysis and final dissemination.

#### **1.4 PILOT PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

The goal of the CRAO Pilot Project is to examine the experiences of older persons in custody as they transition from correctional institutions into the community. The three objectives of the pilot project are, 1) to document the issues, challenges and opportunities of reintegration of older individuals on parole, 2) to document the lessons from a CRAO innovation and, 3) to establish the conceptual and methodological foundations for a multi-jurisdictional community reintegration of older individuals on parole research project across Canada.

#### **1.5 REPORT ORGANIZATION**

The remainder of the report is organized into five sections. It firstly describes the research design and methodology used within the CRAO Pilot Project. It outlines the case study used to understand the experiences of community reintegration of aging offenders and the workings of a CRAO innovation and describes the ethics approval process undertaken by the researchers at Trent University. It also describes the operational components to the research including participant selection and recruitment, data collection and data analysis. Section 3 of the report highlights the findings from the CRAO Pilot Project by outlining the experiences of community reintegration of aging offenders and the lessons from a CRAO innovation. Section 4 provides a discussion on both the implications of the findings and how they contribute to research, policy, and practice of community reintegration of aging offenders, as well as the limitations of the study. Section 5 provides next steps and ways to move forward to continue to address the gap in knowledge surrounding this issue and offers insights in how to expand the project further within Canada and within international contexts.

## 2. Research Design and Methodology

### 2.1 CASE STUDY METHODOLOGY

Through the community-based collaboration, and in consultation with the collaboration team members from Peterborough Reintegration Services (PRS), the CRAO Pilot Project conducted a case study of Haley House, located in Peterborough, Ontario. Haley House, under the umbrella of PRS, is a Correctional Service Canada contracted community-based residential facility (CBRF) that provides specialized support for men facing serious chronic physical and mental health issues, or impending end of life (Byrne, 2019). As described by Byrne (2019), Haley House is a model that provides safe and just supervision to those on conditional release all while providing an aging population with the opportunity to die with dignity in a facility that respects the security of its residents and the safety of the greater Peterborough community.

Haley House opened in April 2016 as a fully wheelchair accessible facility that features wide doorways, accessible showers and a lift between the two floors. Along with general residential rooms, Haley House also provides two rooms designed specifically for those residents facing imminent end of life or severe disability. The facility aims at providing a home-like environment to its residents, as they offer three meals a day, access to healthcare such as physicians and personal support workers (PSW), medication management and distribution, transportation and appointment accompaniment, and 24/7 security.

To ensure the safety of both Haley House and the community of Peterborough, men facing conditional release go through a robust admission process before being accepted to Haley House. Admissions to Haley House begin with referrals made by the local Community Assessment Team (CAT), consisting of staff members from PRS, the Peterborough Parole Office, the Peterborough Police Service, and the Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). The CAT team assesses behaviours, history and fit, however, they prioritize those individuals who are difficult to place and pose a challenge for other CBRFs (Byrne, 2019). In addition to an individual assessment for admission, it is also dependent upon the staff and room capacity at Haley House and if they have the resources in place to support the needs of the individual (Byrne, 2019).

Haley House made the ideal case study to examine the community reintegration of aging offenders and the workings of a CRAO innovation due to its proximity to Trent University and the engagement of the staff at PRS to support and collaborate on the research project. Haley House also had a number of participants consisting of 10 residents, 13 staff members and eight stakeholders who could be invited to participate in the research.

## **2.2 ETHICS**

The CRAO Pilot Project was approved by the Trent University Research Ethics Board (REB) (see Appendix A). Precaution was taken throughout the entire ethics application process and the conception and operation of the research project due to the nature of the research and the research participants involved. The project was designed to meet the Tri-Council Policy Statement for Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (CIHR, NSERC & SSHRC, 2010).

Interviews were done in a two-person team, consisting of a researcher with over 15 years of experience in the field of criminology and a research assistant. Researchers checked-in with Haley House staff prior to interviews beginning in the Haley House meeting room and again when they were leaving. Additionally, letters of support were provided to the REB from PRS, Haley House, and the Peterborough Parole Office to voice their support in the project.

To ensure the comfort and confidentiality of the Haley House residents who would participate in the project, firstly, they were given the opportunity to create pseudonyms to ensure their identity remains anonymous in both the raw data and the disseminated findings. Secondly, as part of the pilot project development, the original components of the research design were omitted from the final design, including observations and focus groups as methods. These omissions occurred due to the REB's perceived risk of lack of confidentiality that these methods may inflict on the participants. In addition, to ensure the comfort of the participants, audio recording of the interviews was given as an option. If the participant chose not to have their interview audio recorded, the researcher took notes instead.

The project used informed consent prior to any research commencing. All participants were provided an information and consent form (see Appendix B, C, D) to review that outlined the nature of their participation. Interviews began once the consent form was understood and signed, or verbal consent was given.

## **2.3 DATA COLLECTION**

In order to meet the project objectives to understand the experiences of community reintegration of aging offenders and to understand the workings of Haley House as a form of CRAO innovation, the CRAO Pilot Project conducted qualitative interviews with Haley House residents, staff and stakeholders. The following section provides a profile of the research participants, the recruitment strategy used for the interviews, and a description of the interview process and protocol.

## **Research Participants**

Interviews (N=20) were conducted with Haley House residents (n=6), staff (n=7) and stakeholders (n=7). The residents were all males, due to the nature of the Haley House admission process, with an average age of 65.5 years. Prior to residing at Haley House, all six participants were in Canadian federal correctional institutions, including Bath Institution in Bath, Ontario (n=1), Beaver Creek Institution in Gravenhurst, Ontario (n=1), Collins Bay Institution in Kingston, Ontario (n=2), Joyceville Institution in Kingston, Ontario (n=1) and Warkworth Institution in Warkworth, Ontario (n=1).

Haley House staff participants covered a variety of roles within the PRS organization, including senior administration, past and present (n=5), assistant caseworkers (n=1) and a volunteer (n=1). Similarly, the stakeholder participants covered a diverse set of sectors and community organizations, including Peterborough Parole Office (n=2), community chaplaincy (n=1), Central East LHIN care coordinator (n=1), personal support worker (n=1), a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee – Peterborough (n=1) and an officer for the Peterborough Police Service (n=1).

## **Participant Recruitment**

Participant recruitment was done differently for the various subgroups of participants that participated in the research project. Recruitment of Haley House residents was done through an information session hosted at Haley House by Trent University researchers (see Appendix E). The information session was used to introduce the residents of Haley House to the researchers who would be conducting the interviews, to explain the project and what their participation would entail and to answer any questions the participants had about the project and their participation. Consent forms were distributed and those who were interested provided consent (verbal or written) and interviews were scheduled.

Recruitment for staff and stakeholders was done through introductory e-mails from the CRAO Pilot Project research coordinator explaining the research project and inviting them to participate. Similar to the purpose of the information session, the e-mail provided information on the project and outlined what their participation would entail. The research coordinator contacted all of the staff members of Haley House and PRS by email, and the stakeholders were reached through targeted recruitment following consultations with the collaborative team.

## Interviews

Beginning in February 2019, qualitative interviews were conducted with 20 research participants, including Haley House residents, staff, and stakeholders. Upon receiving consent, 19 interviews were audio recorded, with one participant declining so the researcher took notes.

The interviews were one-hour in length, and were held at a location most convenient for the participant and began once the participant read, understood, and signed the consent form.

The interviews with Haley House residents (see Appendix F) began with background questions to ensure a rapport was built between the interviewer and the participant. Background questions included questions related to themselves, how they heard about Haley House while inside an institution, and how they got to Haley House. The researchers then asked questions about their experience reintegrating into the community including their experience with release planning, what barriers they encountered, and what supports they received. The resident interviews concluded with questions specifically pertaining to Haley House, what they enjoy about living there and what they find challenging.

Interviews with Haley House and PRS staff (see Appendix G) were used to gain an understanding of the development of Haley House, its connection with local partners, and its role within the community reintegration of aging offenders process and within the local community. Similar to the protocol for the interviews with the residents, the interviews with staff began with background questions regarding the participant's role at PRS/Haley House and their past experience working with this type of population. It then went into questions about the community reintegration process and what they saw as challenges as well as positive experiences for the residents. The final questions focused on Haley House and how it was developed, its connection to the local community, its role within the community reintegration process and what they believed to be the next steps in its operation.

Lastly, interviews with stakeholders (see Appendix H) were used to understand the connection of Haley House to the larger community of Peterborough. The interviews began with background questions on their role within their organization and their involvement with Haley House and then similar to the interviews with staff, probed at the challenges and positive experiences of community reintegration of aging offenders through their perspectives and what they see as the role of Haley House in that process.



## **2.4 DATA ANALYSIS**

Data analysis began with transcription of the interview audio files and notes. The transcripts were then inputted into NVivo and a thematic analysis was performed. Using NVivo, the transcripts were analyzed for key themes – both predetermined by the literature and front-line knowledge and emergent from the important discussions in the interviews. Once key themes were determined, analytical codes were created and transcripts were coded accordingly. Verbatim quotations were also extracted from the transcripts in order to give voice to the participants in the findings. The following section presents the findings according to the completed thematic analysis.

### 3. Findings

Findings from the CRAO Pilot Project examined both the experiences of community reintegration of aging offenders and lessons from a CRAO innovation, in this case, Haley House. The findings presented in this section are descriptive in nature, and highlight the key themes discussed in the interviews with Haley House residents, staff, and stakeholders (Table 3.1).

The following section is organized around the analytical frames and objectives of the pilot project, of the experiences of CRAO and lessons from a CRAO innovation. The experiences are discussed through the themes of the continuum of CRAO, building supports and connections, the challenges of housing options and availability and the challenge of community acceptance. The lessons from a CRAO innovation are outlined through a description of the dignity-centred model it uses, its role as a place of support and place of community education and the role of partnerships. Verbatim quotations from the research participants are embedded within the findings to give voice to the participants and their experiences. Haley House residents are identified used pseudonyms, while the staff and stakeholders are identified by their participant subgroup.

**Table 3.1 Summary of findings**

ANALYTICAL FRAME	THEME
Experience of CRAO	Continuum of CRAO Importance of building supports and connections Housing challenges Community acceptance
Lessons from a CRAO innovation	Dignity-centred model Place of support Partnerships Community education

### **3.1 EXPERIENCES OF COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION**

#### **Continuum of reintegration**

While discussing their experience of reintegration, the residents of Haley House said the process (of community reintegration) should not necessarily begin once they were released from whatever institution they were from. Instead, they were of the view that community reintegration should begin while inside. Residents, as well as staff and stakeholders discussed institutional release planning as a method used to prepare an inmate for release and reintegration that includes participation in programs and preparation for accommodation and housing. While programs and housing preparation were described as important, many participants, most notably the residents of Haley House, described they experienced a lack of release planning while inside, as stated by Charlton, “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.” This reference to lack of planning was described by other residents as missing programming, skills training, documentation preparation and medication sustainability – all things described as necessary for community reintegration.

Charlton, went on to discuss his ideas on how to mitigate this lack of planning by stating, “What needs to happen is, the programming needs to start within a month of being in the slammer...Then, at least a month or two before you get out, there should be some kind of life skills so the guys know what to expect when they get out.” As discussed by Charlton, and within the frontline knowledge outlined in Section 1, planning for reintegration should begin on the inside so the individual being released has all requirements necessary to be successful in the community.

As mentioned above, one of the ways that the reintegration process begins on the inside is the preparation of housing and accommodation. Done by the institutional parole officers, housing options are in place prior to applying to the Parole Board. One aspect that challenges this step in reintegration is the understanding and knowledge surrounding Haley House as a CRAO innovation and housing option on the inside. Many participants discussed how, due to its infancy, there is a lack of knowledge on the inside about Haley House. However, there is a brand associated with Haley House as a house for sex offenders specifically due to its history of accepting hard to place offenders as a staff member stated, “We’ve identified that we need to get back into the institutions and not really sell ourselves, but the word is spreading. One of the stigmas, and we’ve had guys come here that have said that guys don’t want to come here because it’s all sex offenders, because that’s originally what it was.”

## **Importance of building supports and connections**

Once released into the community, many research participants discussed the importance of building supports and connections in the community reintegration process. Supports and connections were referenced in terms of creating groups in faith communities, reconnecting the friends and family, and accessing necessary medical supports within the community. Within that process, Haley House was discussed as playing a pivotal role in establishing those supports, whether that be through reaching out to family on behalf of the resident, connecting them to groups within the community, or providing access to medical supports. This role was discussed by a PRS staff member that stated, “We give them a sense of belonging because I can’t imagine how isolating it would be coming out of prison after all those years and not having any of the connections that we take for granted.”

In addition to establishing the supports for the residents, Haley House also acts as a form of support. In reference to the support and importance of building relationships with the residents, a PRS staff member stated, “There’s actually an importance in developing a relationship with the client...We probably increase our ability to keep the community safe if we’re in a dynamic relationship with the other, right? That seems to be the case. I am going to know if somebody is entering an offence cycle or there’s signs really early in an offence cycle that somebody is going into a place where they may commit an offence. I’m going to see that if I’m in a relationship with them in a way if I’m not. So, saying that we increase the ability to increase safety, but also, everybody enjoys the process. It’s an enriching process for everybody.” As the staff member described, along with connecting the residents to the supports that they need within the community, creating supports and relationships within Haley House not only is beneficial for the resident (social and medical support), but it also is beneficial for the community in terms of safety and accountability of the residents.

## **Housing challenges**

In contrast to the positive experience of creating supports and connections, research participants described the housing challenges associated with community reintegration. Many participants described the lack of safe and affordable housing options available to previously incarcerated older adults, especially for this older, more vulnerable population. This challenge makes Haley House an important piece of the reintegration puzzle, as a staff member describes the role it plays as a stepping stone to other options for this population, “For some of them, it’s not a final place. We’ve had guys go out and they’re living 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.”

One of the most predominant housing challenges discussed by the residents, staff, and stakeholders was the challenge associated with placing Haley House residents into long-term care. This challenge was discussed as being rooted within the stigma associated with this type of population and their perceived risks and behaviours. A stakeholder from the Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) discussed this challenge by stating, “The main thing I think that stands out for the long-term care home is we already know this person is at additional risk because of these parole conditions and they’re already overrun with people who probably have behavioural issues that is a risk so, for them, it’s difficult to take on someone that we know has that bit of an extra layer of risk.” It is due to these parole conditions and associated risks that the participants described as a challenge in navigating long-term care and getting Haley House residents accepted and placed into a facility. In order to mitigate this challenge, the stakeholder participants from the parole office discussed the work they are doing to educate long-term care staff and administrators on the actual risk of this population and how parole and long-term care facilities can work together to manage the risks and parole conditions within those facilities. This education is discussed at length in the following section.

Although Haley House is described as an important component to the reintegration process, its transitional housing model comes with some critique from stakeholders on the continuation of support for this population once they reach warrant expiry and are no longer contracted by CSC to remain at Haley House. In reference to this missing step, a stakeholder from the Peterborough Police Service stated, “The transitional step of leaving Haley House is not established. There is no where for these people to go...Those transitional homes don’t exist right now so it’s an incomplete model where people are just kind of tossed away at the end.” This stakeholder raises the question of, where do they go? With long-term care placement remaining a challenge, where does this vulnerable, aging population go when they can no longer reside at Haley House because they have reached warrant expiry and no longer have parole conditions to adhere to?

### **Community acceptance**

In addition to the challenge associated with finding appropriate housing and placement into long-term care, the community reintegration of aging offenders is also challenged by the lack of community acceptance upon release and the stigma associated with having a criminal record. In addition to the stigma within long-term care, this stigma is also felt within the local community in regards to individual’s incarceration history, as a staff member stated, “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 the right to proper care.”

This stigma within the community challenges offenders' ability to reintegrate, with it causing roadblocks in accessing employment and housing opportunities. It also challenges their ability to return to their community of origin. Oscar, a resident of Haley House, discussed this challenge as being very difficult for him, as he is nervous to eventually go back to his home community due to the perceptions of him and his offences. In reference to this fear, Oscar stated, "I've been out of the community for nine month and I'm a little nervous I guess. I'm not nervous here but when I go back to my home I will be. Most of the people don't know where I am. We're keeping it a secret as much as we can for the wife's good. They don't have to know." This fear and nervousness felt by Oscar is representative of the stigma he anticipates feeling when he returns to his home community once parole conditions allow, due to his offences and the perception of him having been incarcerated.

## **3.2 LESSONS FROM A CRAO INNOVATION**

### **Dignity Centred Model**

As an example of a CRAO innovation, Haley House was described by the research participants as running on a dignity centred model in order to provide a place for those individuals on conditional release to live and die in dignity. A staff member described their thoughts on the model and the term dignity by stating, "I use terms like dignity, but I really mean terms like family, friendship and love. Really, that's what's happening here. Even if the person is still going to present risks, the better and more dynamic the relationality is, the better the outcome is for the community, the better the outcome is for the client. The staff is also going to very much enjoy the experience in a way that a correctional officer does not." Echoing the discussion in the previous section regarding the importance of supports and the role Haley House plays within that, the model drives that connection and relation between resident and place in order to make a mutually beneficial environment for both client and community.

The dignity centred model that Haley House operates within was discussed as being contested, as participants feel that the model is incomplete at times as Haley House only has a capacity of 10 beds. A stakeholder from the parole office discussed this gap by stating, "I think Haley House is not meeting the needs of the issue as a whole. 10 beds is not meeting the need and one of those beds goes to a non-CSC person, so it's really 9 beds. We are not meeting the collective need." As mutually beneficial as the dignity centred model is, stakeholders, like the one from the parole office, discuss that it is limited in capacity due to the small number of beds it can provide to individuals getting conditional release.

## Place of support

As discussed in the previous section, Haley House plays a significant role in creating a supportive environment for its previously incarcerated residents. Firstly, it was described as providing medical supports to the residents. Haley House connects its residents with a local general practitioner who takes on all residents as patients, and connects them with a care coordinator from the LHIN and a personal support worker who comes to Haley House to provide the care. In reference to this medical support, a staff member at Haley House stated, "One of the important distinctions is Haley House is a house where care is provided, not a care provider. We are not providing the care, we are inviting personal support workers in, we're creating liaisons with hospitals and other healthcare providers, but we are not healthcare providers...sometimes that distinction got lost." This quotation is important to note, as the support Haley House is offering is only in the form of an environment where residents can access appropriate healthcare, the staff themselves are not providing the care.

Along with medical support, Haley House also offers a socially supportive environment to its residents. As previously mentioned, Haley House acts as a liaison between the community and its residents by connecting them with a community chaplain who helps residents reconnect to a faith community and by linking them with the Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) program, for example. In addition to more formal programming, many residents described Haley House, the staff and the fellow residents as forms of social outlets. Oscar describes the social aspect of Haley House by stating, "Nobody talks about what they've done but they seem to talk positive about what they like to do...It's nice being around people like that. It keeps you from thinking. My mind wanders all the time, but they don't discuss it. We just walk normal. Hockey." As Oscar discusses, the socialization of Haley House offers a peace of mind of sorts to the residents to have the freedom to talk about "normal" things, with each other, and with the staff. The residents discussed the staff as being big components to the support at Haley House, specifically the case manager who residents, such as Jim, could form a social relationship with and joke around, "It's a super place. No one should be saying anything bad about it. The staff are very, very nice. I enjoy joking around with [case manager]."

Through these discussions of support, many residents described Haley House as a free and independent environment. Although Haley House is a CSC contracted facility, that correctional aspect was not discussed at length by any participants. Rather, residents, staff and stakeholders alike eluded to Haley House as an environment where residents can pass the time as they please, however, making sure they abided by their parole conditions. In reference to this feeling of independence at Haley House, Joe commented that he enjoyed that he is "allowed to pass my days as I decide." Although the residents do have the independence to do as they wish in Haley House, it is a correctional facility and all residents are still under parole conditions.

## **Partnerships**

Staff and stakeholder participants alike discussed the importance of partnerships in the sustainability of Haley House as a form of CRAO innovation within the city of Peterborough. Partnerships such as those in healthcare (LHIN, local physician), social support (community chaplaincy), and community safety (police, parole) were integral to the development and success of Haley House since its initial establishment in 2016. A staff member of Haley House described the importance of these key players by stating, "It's been a team effort right from the word go...It's something as simple as the doctor being here. This wouldn't be happening. It couldn't."

Due to the capacity of Haley House staff, these key community partners take on a variety of roles integral to sustaining the operations of Haley House. As an example, the community chaplain was described as being a key component as he does multiple roles for both the organization and the residents. This volunteer goes to Haley House to perform a Bible study with the residents who wish to attend, he accompanies them to medical appointments, and he offers to pick up individuals who are released from an institution and drive them to Haley House. In reference to the commitment this volunteer gives to Haley House, a staff member stated, "I think he has 30 hours in his day because he is go, go, go, go. We depend on him so much and he does everything for these guys." This reference to the community chaplain is just one example of the dedication and commitment local community partners play at Haley House to keep it operating as a supportive and safe environment.

## **Community education**

Staff and stakeholders discussed one of the largest roles of Haley House is to be educating the local community on the risks of their residents. The scope of education was described by educating individual stakeholders, educating community organizations and educating the community as a whole. In terms of stakeholder education, Haley House changed the point of view of stakeholders in regards to working with its residents. In a first hand experience, the stakeholder from the Central East LHIN stated, "I was scared at first, being quite honest. But, Haley House has totally changed my mind about how they are and how they act...it's a great place." This quotation shows that the LHIN stakeholder was apprehensive at first in engaging with a population of previously incarcerated individuals, however, the environment of Haley House and interacting with the residents themselves has opened their mind and deconstructed the stigma for that individual stakeholder.

In terms of education of organizations, the stakeholders from parole discussed their ongoing efforts of educating long-term care staff and administration on the risks of the residents of Haley House. They also discussed how they are teaching the long-term care facilities how the two organizations (long-term care facilities and the parole office) can work together to



ensure that the conditions are being met all while the resident is receiving the care they need. In reference to this ongoing education of long-term care, a stakeholder from the parole office stated, “we will have a conversation with the senior management of those facilities to say in a one-on-one presentation, that the information remains the same in terms of here’s the issues, here’s the clientele and how we can be a partner but I think the more we normalize that, address specific questions that folks have, I think all of that will be assisted but it’s going to be a slow and steady process.” Continuing this education with long-term care has the ability to eliminate the stigma associated with this population, build a partnership between long-term care and parole, and allow Haley House residents to be placed into facilities where they are able to receive appropriate care.

Lastly, Haley House has had a role in educating the local community in the community reintegration process for previously incarcerated older adults. When Haley House opened its doors in 2016, the Executive Director at the time held public forums to educate the surrounding community of its role and its residents and to hopefully lower the stigma and any community hesitation towards Haley House. While these public forums were discussed as positive, the idea of community education for Haley House was described as an ongoing challenge. A stakeholder from the Citizens Advisory Committee in regards to this stated, “Educating the community is a big piece that we’re trying to do but it continues to be a challenge and always will be. There’s always the stigma related to people who have been in jail.” Despite the challenge, Haley House continues to educate the community to ensure a safe community where the public and residents alike live in a safe and inclusive community.

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The findings from the qualitative interviews with Haley House residents, staff, and stakeholders meet the objectives of the pilot project by examining the experiences of the community reintegration of aging offenders and lessons from Haley House as an example of a CRAO innovation. Experiences of community reintegration include firstly, that aging offenders experienced a continuum of reintegration and outlined that the reintegration process should begin on the inside with proper release planning and programming. Secondly, building supports and connections was discussed as a positive experience of community reintegration and how for the resident participants specifically, Haley House acted as a conduit for community connections. Participants also discussed the challenges associated with housing as they reintegrate into the community, making note that accessing long-term care while in Haley House is a big roadblock they are trying to overcome. Lastly, participants found stigma to be a major barrier to experiencing community reintegration due to the stigma within the community towards this population due to incarceration history and criminal records.

Findings also revealed lessons from Haley House, as an example of a CRAO innovation. Lessons include the importance of a dignity-centred model, where Haley House provides a space for residents to die in dignity. Secondly, lessons include the role of creating a supportive environment for residents reintegrating into the community, including both medical/healthcare and social supports, where they highlighted the importance of the community chaplain volunteer who dedicates his time to supporting the residents through a Bible study and accompaniment to medical appointments. Participants also discussed the importance of partnerships in the sustainability of Haley House. Parole, police, local healthcare professionals, and community chaplaincy were named as key players who helped to ensure Haley House is a safe and supportive space within the community. Lastly, community education was discussed as a vital role of Haley House within the local community, as they seek to educate individual stakeholders, community organizations and the broader community about the role of Haley House within the reintegration process.

### 4.2 CONTRIBUTIONS

The CRAO Pilot Project made thoughtful contributions to research, policy, and practice. It contributes to research by first, filling the gap outlined in the *Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO): Gaps in Knowledge Report* that spoke to the lack of research in the Canadian context that examined the experiences of aging offenders reintegrating in the community. In order to fill the gap, it examined a case study of a CRAO innovation in Peterborough, Ontario that is working on aiding the reintegration process of aging offenders. This case study explored

the experiences of community reintegration of aging offenders, and the lessons from Haley House, the CRAO innovation, on how it works with the offenders and the community to support the reintegration process. The CRAO Pilot Project also provides a methodological framework for exploring these themes of reintegration that could inform a similar research project examining community reintegration and CRAO innovations in other jurisdictions in Canada and internationally. The CRAO Pilot Project has created ethical, research design and data collection protocols that yield rigorous results for research projects examining similar themes of reintegration.

In addition to research contributions, the CRAO Pilot Project also contributes to policy by having the potential to inform policy surrounding corrections and aging offenders and any policy involved in release planning by showing the role it can play in acting as a first step to community reintegration. The research also has the ability to contribute to housing policies for this population, especially policies within long-term care facilities. With a continued focus on community education, the work of Haley House paired with the findings from the pilot project can transform policies within long-term care facilities around the acceptance and admittance of older adults on parole and with histories of incarceration.

Lastly, the research project, specifically the lessons from Haley House as a form of CRAO innovation can practically contribute and help to inform other organizations both in Canada and abroad who are looking to develop and implement a CRAO innovation of their own. The findings show a supportive model, a key to sustainability, and the importance of community education. Although the case study examined in this research is specific to Peterborough, the results can provide a foundation for establishing another CRAO innovation aiming to support the community reintegration of aging offenders in other areas.

### **4.3 LIMITATIONS**

Throughout the CRAO Pilot Project, there were limitations that presented themselves. Firstly, as a result of the ethics approval process, the design of the research study was modified significantly to adhere to the Tri-Council Policy Statement. Modifications included omitting observations and focus groups as a research method for the pilot study. These methods are potential approaches for future research in this area.

Secondly, there is limited empirical research on the community reintegration of formerly incarcerated men and women in Canada. With the exception of focused quantitative studies of community-based supervision for sex-offenders release (Hannem and Petrunik 2007), barriers to employment after release (Ricciardelli and Peters 2017), or the experience of re-integration for men serving life sentences (Munn and Bruckert 2013), there are no

systematic quantitative studies of offender reintegration. This gap in Canadian research is linked to many barriers faced by researchers, as well as former offenders themselves. Access to vulnerable populations, such as men and women who have experienced incarceration, by academic researchers is constrained by university research ethics boards (REBs) (Balfour & Fayter, 2019). Deemed to be 'high risk' research due to the offence histories of the research subjects, or as we encountered in this pilot project, the biases of research ethics board members, data collection methods are often limited to one-to-one interviews. Formerly incarcerated men and women may also be unwilling or unable to participate in research aimed at recounting their experiences of imprisonment and community re-entry. For many, prison is an experience to be forgotten and interviews with experts are a source of anxiety and mistrust.

This study of the reintegration of aging adult men on parole with significant health challenges, relied exclusively on six interviews with male residents of Haley House, and 14 interviews with staff and stakeholders. The specialized nature of this study of a very unique residence (Haley House) in a community of 80,000 people, presents challenges to achieving a quantitative study. Nonetheless, we argue these findings reflect a thorough review of the operations of Haley House. A next stage of the research potentially will be a document analysis of governance procedures and policies to better understand how Haley House provides care and how security is provided in the community.

## 5. Moving Forward and Next Steps

In order to expand our thread of inquiry into the experiences of community reintegration for previously incarcerated older adults and the community-based innovations geared to helping this population, there are next steps in the operational phases of research that can be undertaken. As shown in Table 5.1, Colibaba (2019) reports on the gaps in knowledge in the CRAO literature and the frontline knowledge from the *No Place to Call Home* symposium. As outlined in Colibaba (2019) and in Section 1, there are a growing number of aging individuals within CSC custody and a complex range of challenges that population encounters in institutional environments. The literature also highlights the gap in knowledge surrounding the challenges and experiences of that population as they transition from institution to community.

**Table 5.1 Summary of gaps and next steps**

LITERATURE	FRONTLINE KNOWLEDGE	CRAO PILOT PROJECT	NEXT STEPS
Challenges of the community reintegration of aging offenders	Experiences of the aging offenders	Further investigation into the construction of the experiences community reintegration of aging offenders	Using Institutional Ethnography as a methodology
Canadian specific literature on community reintegration of aging offenders	Public education regarding the community reintegration of aging offenders	National and international examples of CRAO innovations	Examination of Canadian and international CRAO innovations
National and international examples of solutions to the challenge of community reintegration of aging offenders			

Adapted from Colibaba (2019) (p.38)

In order to fill the gap and expand our understanding of these challenges and experiences, as well as our understanding of CRAO innovations, further research using an Institutional Ethnography (IE) methodology would yield useful and rigorous results. IE as a methodology explores the social relations organizing institutions from the perspectives of the people who participate in them. It draws on people's experiences to make clear how everyday activities are organization and how they are coordinated and concerted purposefully in ways they cannot see (Campbell & Gregor, 2002; Smith, 2005; Wright, 2003). Where the CRAO Pilot Project examined what it was like to be an older adult reintegrating into the community

after a period of incarceration, using IE can frame similar studies to understand how the everyday activities of older adults reintegrating into the community following a period of incarceration are organized and coordinated by 'the system' – the social construction of their experience.

In order to expand on the IE methodology, an expansion on the methods will add rigour to the understanding of the nuances of CRAO. A next step in the methods of a CRAO research project is to perform a document analysis of the CRAO innovation, potentially involving Haley House, to understand and review the innovation at the genesis, operation, evaluation, and aspiration stages. Performing a document analysis to expand on the research can be used to gain a more thorough understanding of the CRAO innovation's creation and operations and how they contribute to the model of the innovation and the construction of the experiences of the residents.

An additional way to move forward in filling the gap in understanding the experiences of community reintegration is to perform an examination of CRAO innovations elsewhere in Canada and international settings. An expansion into other CRAO innovations will allow for further investigation into the experiences of community reintegration for previously incarcerated older adults, and create new learning from other innovations aimed at helping to address the challenges of this population.

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# Appendix A

## Trent University REB Approval Letter



Office of  
Research & Innovation

Mark Skinner  
Geography Dept.  
ESB

February 15, 2019

File #: 25552  
Title: Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders

Dear Dr. Skinner,

The Research Ethics Board (REB) has given approval to your proposal entitled "Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders".

The committee strongly suggests and encourages you to encrypt any data that is being collected that contains any personal or identifying information. Please add a statement to your consent form concerning this. For help with encryption services, please contact Trent's IT Department.

Please add a running footer to your consent form, with the date of Trent REB approval and consent revisions number (e.g., 01-Jan-12, Version 2), so that the consent form used can be easily identified in future.

When a project is approved by the REB, it is an Institutional approval. It does not undermine or replace any other community ethics process. Full approval depends upon the approval of all other bodies who are named as stakeholders in this research.

In accordance with the Tri-Council Guidelines (article D.1.6) your project has been approved for one year. If this research is ongoing past that time, submit a Research Ethics Annual Update form available online under the Research Office website. If the project is completed on or before that time, please email Karen Mauro in the Research office so the project can be recorded as completed.

Please note that you are reminded of your obligation to advise the REB before implementing any amendments or changes to the procedures of your study that might affect the human participants. You are also advised that any adverse events must be reported to the REB.

On behalf of the Trent Research Ethics Board, I wish you success with your research.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Mauro for".

Dr. Peri Ballantyne  
REB Chair  
Phone: (705) 748-1011 ext. 7813, Fax: (705) 748-1587  
Email: [periballantyne@trentu.ca](mailto:periballantyne@trentu.ca)

c.c.: Karen Mauro  
Compliance Officer

# Appendix B

## INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM

### Interviews with Residents

The goal of this research project is to examine the experiences of aging men as they transition from correctional institutions into the community. The research is being conducted by Trent University, led by Dr. Mark Skinner, in collaboration with Correctional Services Canada, Citizens Advisory Committee, Peterborough Parole Office – Ontario Region, and Peterborough Reintegration Services. We wish to learn about the experiences of older parolees in the Peterborough (Ontario) region by talking with residents of Haley House. The interview will focus on questions about your experiences coming from prison to Haley House, how you have experienced reintegration into the Peterborough community, and your perspective on day-to-day life at Haley House. We hope to share what we learn from you with other agencies helping older offenders in their communities.

You are being asked to consent to participate in an interview as part of this research project. You can choose how you wish to give your consent: by providing your signature on the enclosed consent form, or verbally when you meet with the researcher. Your participation would involve a one-hour interview conducted at Haley House in an area that you prefer. A research associate will be at Haley House to do the interviews. Her name is Gillian. If you agree, your interview will be audio recorded, so that we can use the audio to type out the interview later. If you would rather your interview not be recorded, Gillian will take written notes during the interview instead.

The research team will be the only people who will read the information that you provide in the interview. No one from Correctional Services Canada, Citizens Advisory Committee, Peterborough Parole Office – Ontario Region, nor Peterborough Reintegration Services will see your personal answers, nor will your answers be shared with staff, volunteers, nor the Executive Director of Haley House. Although we will be careful to remove your name from the interview data, and to ensure that your name will not be used in any of the analysis and reporting documents that come from the project, it may be possible for your responses to be connected to you given the few residents at Haley House.

After the interviews are completed all the information collected from the interview will be kept encrypted on secure computers that require a password and in locked filing cabinets at the Trent Centre for Aging & Society research office at Trent University, and will not be accessible to anyone other than the research team. All information collected from the interview will be deleted five years after the completion of the project.

Your participation in the interview is entirely up to you. You may choose not to answer any of the questions, or to stop participating at any time, and all notes about you and your responses will be removed from our records. We realize there are both risk and benefits to participating in this research. Potential risks include personal discomfort in recalling past

experiences of incarceration, social isolation, stigma and anxiety due to health problems, as well as discomfort sharing personal information. We will do our best to ensure that a trusted staff or volunteer is available following the interview to connect you to any supports that may be needed. As researchers, we are required to share disclosures made by you of any potential harms to yourself or others, including child abuse. This information would be reported to an appropriate professional. This means there is limited confidentiality when it comes to this kind of information that you may share with us.

Potential benefits of participating include helping other communities develop housing resources like Haley House to address the needs of aging offenders. We are also committed to supporting residents of Haley House to have a voice and to be recognized for their knowledge about successful reintegration and housing.

The final reports based on all the interviews will be shared through information sessions hosted by the research team as well as through reports distributed to Peterborough Reintegration Services (PRS) and within Haley House. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Mark Skinner ([markskinner@trentu.ca](mailto:markskinner@trentu.ca), 705-748-1011 ext.7946). The project has been approved by the Trent University Research Ethics Board. If you have any questions about the research please email or call Karen Mauro at Trent University. She is the Certifications and Regulatory Compliance Officer. Her phone number: 705-748-1011 ext. 7896, or her email is: [kmauro@trentu.ca](mailto:kmauro@trentu.ca).

Sincerely,

**Dr. Mark Skinner**, CRAO Pilot Project Leader  
Acting Dean, Professor and Canada Research Chair  
Trent University  
[markskinner@trentu.ca](mailto:markskinner@trentu.ca)  
705 748 1011 ext. 7946

**As a participant in the above project, I, \_\_\_\_\_**  
**understand and agree with the following:** (please print your name)

1. I understand that this project has been approved by the Trent University Research Ethics Board;
2. I understand that my involvement entails allowing a Trent University researcher to interview me about my transition experience and living at Haley House;
3. I have been fully informed about the nature of the research and the extent of my participation;
4. I may withdraw my participation in the project at any time without consequence;
5. The information collected during interviews will remain confidential;
6. My identity will not be used in any reports or publications and will only be known to the research team;
7. I understand there are potential risks associated with participating including discomfort sharing personal information, recalling experiences of incarceration, social isolation, stigma and anxiety due to health problems; however, I understand these risks will be managed by researchers providing contact information for support services as needed.
8. I understand that the researchers are required to share disclosures of any potential harms to myself or others, including child abuse to an appropriate professional.
9. The information collected during interviews will be stored by the research team on secure computers and in locked filing cabinets at Trent University, and will be deleted after five years;
10. I understand that I can contact Project Leader Mark Skinner (705 748 1011 ext. 7946) with any questions about the project, or Karen Mauro, Certifications and Regulatory Compliance officer (705 748 1011 ext.7896) with any concerns about research ethics;
11. All of my questions regarding my participation in the interview and consent have been answered to my satisfaction.

---

I consent to this interview being audio recorded     YES     NO

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR VERBAL CONSENT: [Researcher signature to confirm verbal consent has been given by participant]

Researcher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix C

## INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM

### Interviews with Staff and Volunteers

While strategies are in place to support aging offenders within correctional institutions, relatively little attention has been directed to understanding community reintegration of older parolees, and those living with chronic health conditions. The goal of this project is 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 Haley House.

The research is being conducted by Trent University, led by Dr. Mark Skinner, in collaboration with Correctional Services Canada, Citizens Advisory Committee, Peterborough Parole Office – Ontario Region, and Peterborough Reintegration Services. The project involves interviews with staff and volunteers of Haley House as well as residents and key stakeholders such as medical professionals, parole officers, and members of the Board of Directors of Haley House. As a staff member and/or volunteer, during the interview we will focus on questions about your experiences working or volunteering at Haley House with regards to your professional background and training, day to day routines in working with the residents, and the overall approach of the organization to providing housing for former offenders with chronic health conditions.

You are being asked to consent to participate in a one-hour interview to be conducted at Trent University at the Trent Centre for Aging & Society. Your parking costs will be paid for and refreshments will be provided during the interview. We appreciate you spending some of your free time with us to assist with the research project. The interview will be conducted by Amber Colibaba, the research assistant for this project, who will be in touch to schedule an interview.

You can choose how you wish to give your consent: by providing your signature on the enclosed consent form, or verbally when you meet with the researcher on the day of the interview. If you agree to participate in an interview, we will ask your permission to audio-record it. Audio-recording will enable the interviewer to focus on the conversation with you. However, if you prefer not to have your interview recorded, the interviewer will, instead, take written notes.

The research team will be the only people who will read the information that you provide in the interview. No one from Correctional Services Canada, Citizens Advisory Committee, Peterborough Parole Office – Ontario Region, nor Peterborough Reintegration Services will see your personal answers, nor will your answers be shared with other staff and volunteers or the Executive Director of Haley House. Although we will be careful to remove your name from the interview data, and to ensure that your name will not be used in any of the analysis and reporting documents that come from the project, it may be possible for your responses to be connected to you given the few staff and volunteers at Haley House.

After the interviews are completed all the information collected from the interview will be kept encrypted on secure computers that require a password and in locked filing cabinets at the Trent Centre for Aging & Society research office at Trent University, and will not be accessible to anyone other than the research team. All information collected from the interview will be deleted five years after the completion of the project.

Your participation in the interview is entirely up to you. Your decision not to participate will not be shared with anyone at Haley House. You may also choose not to answer any of the questions, or to stop participating at any time and all notes about you will be removed from our records. A possible professional risk of being interviewed for this research project may be attribution of your responses. We are also required to share disclosures made by you of any potential harms to yourself or others, including child abuse. This information would be reported to an appropriate professional. This means there is limited confidentiality when it comes to this kind of information that you may share with us.

Potential benefits of participating include helping other communities develop housing resources like Haley House to address the needs of aging offenders. We are also committed to supporting staff and volunteers of Haley House to have a voice and to be recognized for their knowledge about successful reintegration and housing of former offenders with chronic health conditions.

The final reports based on all the interviews will be shared through information sessions hosted by the research team as well as through reports distributed to Peterborough Reintegration Services (PRS) and within Haley House. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Mark Skinner ([markskinner@trentu.ca](mailto:markskinner@trentu.ca), 705-748-1011 ext.7946). The project has been approved by the Trent University Research Ethics Board. If you have any questions about the research please email or call Karen Mauro at Trent University. She is the Certifications and Regulatory Compliance Officer. Her phone number: 705-748-1011 ext. 7896, or her email is: [kmauro@trentu.ca](mailto:kmauro@trentu.ca).

Sincerely,

**Dr. Mark Skinner**, CRAO Pilot Project Leader  
Acting Dean, Professor and Canada Research Chair  
Trent University  
[markskinner@trentu.ca](mailto:markskinner@trentu.ca)  
705 748 1011 ext. 7946

**As a participant in the above project, I, \_\_\_\_\_**  
**understand and agree with the following:** (please print your name)

1. I understand that this project has been approved by the Trent University Research Ethics Board;
2. I have been fully informed about the nature of the research and the extent of my participation;
3. I may withdraw my participation in the project at any time without consequence;
4. The information supplied during the interview will remain confidential;
5. My identity will not be used in any reports or publications and will only be known to the research team;
6. I understand there may be professional risks associated with participating in terms of attribution of my responses regarding Haley House.
7. I understand that the researchers are required to share disclosures of any potential harms to myself or others, including child abuse to an appropriate professional.
8. The information supplied during the interview will be stored by the research team on encrypted computers and in locked filing cabinets at Trent University, to be destroyed after five years;
9. I understand that I can contact Project Leader Mark Skinner with any questions about the project (705 748 1011 ext. 7946), or Karen Mauro, Certifications and Regulatory Compliance officer (705 748 1011 ext.7896) with any concerns about research ethics;
10. All of my questions regarding my participation in the interview and consent have been answered to my satisfaction.

---

I consent to this interview being audio recorded     YES     NO

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR VERBAL CONSENT: [Researcher signature to confirm verbal consent has been given by participant]

Researcher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix D

## INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM

### Interviews with Stakeholders

While strategies are in place to support aging male offenders within correctional institutions, relatively little attention has been directed to understanding community reintegration of older parolees, and those living with chronic health conditions. The goal of this project is 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 Haley House as a place where health care supports are integrated into specialized housing.

The research is being conducted by Trent University, led by Dr. Mark Skinner, in collaboration with Correctional Services Canada, Citizens Advisory Committee, Peterborough Parole Office – Ontario Region, and Peterborough Reintegration Services. The project involves interviews with residents, staff and volunteers of Haley House, as well as key stakeholders such as medical professionals, parole officers, and members of the Board of Directors of Haley House. During the interview with you we will focus on questions about the overall approach of the organization to providing housing for former offenders with chronic health conditions.

You are being asked to consent to participate in a one-hour interview to be conducted at Trent University at the Trent Centre for Aging & Society. Your parking costs will be paid for and refreshments will be provided during the interview. We appreciate you spending some of your free time with us to assist with the research project. The interview will be conducted by Amber Colibaba, the research assistant for this project who will be in touch to schedule an interview.

You can choose how you wish to give your consent: by providing your signature on the enclosed consent form, or verbally when you meet with the researcher on the day of the interview. If you agree to participate in an interview, we will ask your permission to audio-record it. Audio-recording will enable the interviewer to focus on the conversation with you. However, if you prefer not to have your interview recorded, the interviewer will, instead, take written notes.

The research team will be the only people who will read the information that you provide in the interview. No one from Correctional Services Canada, Citizens Advisory Committee, Peterborough Parole Office – Ontario Region, nor Peterborough Reintegration Services will see your personal answers, nor will your answers be shared with other staff and volunteers or the Executive Director of Haley House. Although we will be careful to remove your name from the interview data, and to ensure that your name will not be used in any of the analysis and reporting documents that come from the project, it may be possible for your responses to be attributed to you.



After the interviews are completed all the information collected from the interview will be kept encrypted on secure computers that require a password and in locked filing cabinets at the Trent Centre for Aging & Society research office at Trent University, and will not be accessible to anyone other than the research team. All information collected from the interview will be deleted five years after the completion of the project.

Your participation in the interview is entirely up to you. Your decision not to participate will not be shared with anyone at Haley House. You may also choose not to answer any of the questions, or to stop participating at any time and all notes about you will be removed from our records. A possible professional risk of being interviewed for this research project may be attribution of your responses. We are also required to share disclosures made by you of any potential harms to yourself or others, including child abuse. This information would be reported to an appropriate professional. This means there is limited confidentiality when it comes to this kind of information that you may share with us.

Potential benefits of participating include helping other communities develop housing resources like Haley House to address the needs of aging offenders.

The final reports based on all the interviews will be shared through information sessions hosted by the research team as well as through reports distributed to Peterborough Reintegrative Services (PRS) and within Haley House. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Mark Skinner ([markskinner@trentu.ca](mailto:markskinner@trentu.ca), 705-748-1011 ext.7946). The project has been approved by the Trent University Research Ethics Board. If you have any questions about the research please email or call Karen Mauro at Trent University. She is the Certifications and Regulatory Compliance Officer. Her phone number: 705-748-1011 ext. 7896, or her email is: [kmauro@trentu.ca](mailto:kmauro@trentu.ca).

Sincerely,

**Dr. Mark Skinner**, CRAO Pilot Project Leader  
Acting Dean, Professor and Canada Research Chair  
Trent University  
[markskinner@trentu.ca](mailto:markskinner@trentu.ca)  
705 748 1011 ext. 7946

**As a participant in the above project, I, \_\_\_\_\_**  
**understand and agree with the following:** (please print your name)

1. I understand that this project has been approved by the Trent University Research Ethics Board;
2. I have been fully informed about the nature of the research and the extent of my participation;
3. I may withdraw my participation in the project at any time without consequence;
4. The information supplied during the interview will remain confidential;
5. My identity will not be used in any reports or publications and will only be known to the research team;
6. I understand there may be professional risks associated with participating in terms of attribution of my responses regarding Haley House.
7. I understand that the researchers are required to share disclosures of any potential harms to myself or others, including child abuse to an appropriate professional.
8. The information supplied during the interview will be stored by the research team on encrypted computers and in locked filing cabinets at Trent University, to be destroyed after five years;
9. I understand that I can contact Project Leader Mark Skinner with any questions about the project (705 748 1011 ext. 7946), or Karen Mauro, Certifications and Regulatory Compliance officer (705 748 1011 ext.7896) with any concerns about research ethics;
10. All of my questions regarding my participation in the interview and consent have been answered to my satisfaction.

---

I consent to this interview being audio recorded     YES     NO

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR VERBAL CONSENT: [Researcher signature to confirm verbal consent has been given by participant]

Researcher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix E

## INFORMATION SESSION AGENDA

- Location:** Haley House, Peterborough, Ontario
- Invited guests:** Residents of Haley House
- Facilitators:** Dr. Mark Skinner (Project Leader), Dr. Gillian Balfour and Amber Colibaba
- Purpose:** To introduce the research project and team, answer any questions about the research, and provide guests with an opportunity to consider being interviewed.

### Proposed agenda:

1. Introduction to research team members
2. Description of the research project: to learn about Haley House as a housing model for men with chronic health care needs, who are reintegrating into their community after a period of incarceration.
3. Research plan:
  - a. Interviews with residents: what has reintegration into the Peterborough community been like? What has your experience at Haley House been like?
4. Risks and benefits of being involved in the research
  - a. Residents: psychological or emotional upheaval of reporting experiences of transitioning from prison to the community; stressors of worry over health care needs and general well-being. Also, attribution of responses to individuals given small number of residents.
5. Informed consent process
  - a. Review of rights of participants (free to ask questions about the research objectives and what will happen with the interview data: who will review it etc; confidentiality of data; freedom to not answer questions or to stop the interview; choice to have interview audio recorded
  - b. Signature or verbal consent as preferred
  - c. Final reports and presentation to community groups and service providers.
6. Questions and Answers
  - a. Opportunity for guests to ask questions
7. Invitation to participate
  - a. Follow up contact information shared
  - b. Scheduling of one on one discussions about the project and possible interview times
8. Wrap up
  - a. Expression of appreciation for the opportunity to share information

# Appendix F

## INTERVIEW GUIDE

### Residents of Haley House

Introduction script: As we talked about at the information session, we would like to know more about what it takes for men like yourself to get to Haley House from prison. We also want to be able to educate people on how difficult it is for men to be released and access housing.

First, we'd like to ask you some general questions about 'getting here' and what it has been like reintegrating back into the community.

**Background:** These questions help us understand your path to Haley House,

1. What is your age?
2. How long were you in custody prior to being released on parole to HH?
3. Which prison were you in at the time you were released?
4. How long were you in prison prior to being released to Haley House? Did you come directly to HH upon being released or were you released into other types of housing, then came to Haley House? Were there delays getting released from prison due to the lack of housing available in the community? Were there other reasons for any delay?
5. How long have you been at Haley House?
6. Have you resided in other halfway houses prior to coming to Haley House? Where else have you resided since your release from prison?
7. How did you come to hear about Haley House?
8. What made you think that Haley House might be a good option for you?
9. Who helped you plan for the transition to Haley House and what plans were put in place?

### Experiences of Reintegration

Now we want to learn about your experiences coming back into this community, who helped you, what was difficult about getting settled here, and what was helpful.

10. In what ways did prison help you plan for your release?
  - a. Programming
  - b. Staff/volunteers

## **Barriers to Reintegration**

11. What were some of the barriers (challenges, difficulties) you faced while reintegrating into the local community?
12. What kind of social supports did you have in place when you returned to the community? (prompts: friends, family, other forms of help).
13. Would you say you had adequate financial support? What kind of financial supports were you able to access?
14. Would you say you had adequate and proper medical/access to healthcare? How long after your return to the community before a healthcare plan was in place? Who helped you with that?
15. Were you able to access housing that suited your needs such as close to public transportation or health services, wheelchair accessible, if needed?
16. Have you been able to access mental and physical health services? Who has help you do that?

The last few questions are about the everyday life at HH, what do you like about it, what is challenging sometimes.

17. What is everyday life like at Haley House?
18. What are the strengths or benefits you have experienced from residing at Haley House?
19. What are the barriers or challenges you have experienced with Haley House?
20. How has residing at Haley House impacted your health and well-being?
21. What makes HH different from other halfway houses?

# Appendix G

## INTERVIEW GUIDE – Staff

### Background

1. What is your role at Haley House/Peterborough Reintegration Services?
2. Do you have previous experience working with this population (older adult, offenders, people with chronic illness/disability)?

### Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders

3. What are some of the challenges of the community reintegration process for aging offenders?
4. What are some of the positive experiences of the community reintegration process for aging offenders?
5. What do you believe are the gaps in the community reintegration of aging offenders?

### Development of Haley House

6. How did Haley House come to be?
7. What options or opportunities made it possible to pursue the development of Haley House?
8. What barriers or challenges were encountered in the development of Haley House?
9. Can you describe the resident selection process for Haley House?

### Connection with local stakeholders

10. What community partnerships were critical in the development of Haley House?
11. What community partnerships are critical in the workings of Haley House today?
12. What supports and services are important for the residents of Haley House?

### Haley House and the local community

13. What do you see as the role of Haley House in the community reintegration of aging offenders?
14. What do you see as the role of Haley House in the Peterborough and surrounding community?

# Appendix H

## INTERVIEW GUIDE – Stakeholders

### Background

1. What is your current position at your place of work (Parole, LHIN, Police, Physician)?
2. How long have you been involved with Haley House/Peterborough Reintegration Services?

### Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders

3. What is your role in the community reintegration of aging offenders process?
4. What are some of the challenges of the community reintegration process for aging offenders?
5. What are some of the positive experiences of the community reintegration process for aging offenders?
6. What do you believe are the gaps in the community reintegration of aging offenders?

### Haley House and the local community

7. How did you first come to hear about Haley House and what were your initial thoughts?
8. What do you see as the role of Haley House in the community reintegration of aging offenders?
9. What do you see as the role of Haley House in the Peterborough and surrounding community?
10. What ideas or suggestions do you have for improving Haley House and its role within the community?