

Housing our Seniors: A Systems Approach

Municipal Leaders Forum Working Group

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Today's Agenda

The Challenge

The Conventional Approach: Why it Won't Work

A Better Way: The Systems Approach

The Seniors Housing Continuum

Ideas and Models

Local Seniors Strategy

Municipal Leadership

Getting Started

Discussion

The Challenge

- Providing the range of housing and supports needed to meet both huge growth and increasing diversity of seniors
- Doing it in coordinated, integrated fashion
- Finding the resources to make it happen

The Conventional Approach: Why it Won't Work

- Conventional government response has been to expand the supply of long term care beds
- Balance of Care studies demonstrate more than 50% of seniors on LTC Wait Lists don't need this level of care
- Most seniors find LTC homes depressing - health deteriorates rapidly (average stay less than 2 years)
- Huge cost involved in building and operating LTC Homes

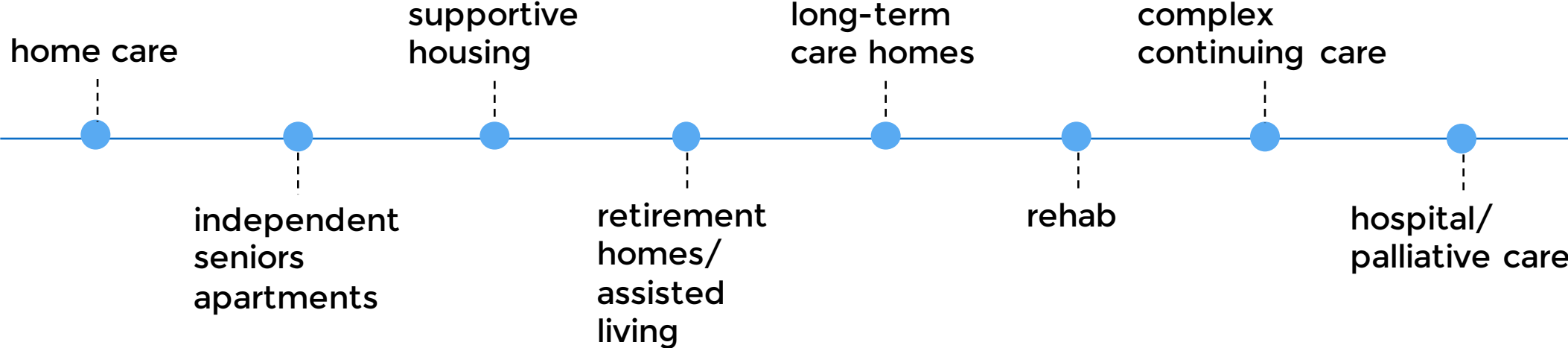
A Better Way

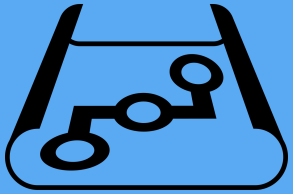
The Systems Approach

We need to think of seniors housing and care as a system comprised of many inter-related elements.

Planning needs to be done at a system level to capture all elements of demand and supply.

The Seniors Housing Continuum





Ideas and Models

- Continuing Care Communities
- Community Hubs
- Green Houses
- Repurposing Outdated Infrastructure

Spruce Lodge Continuing Care Community

Stratford, ON



John Noble Home

Brantford, ON



Casselholme/Castle Arms

North Bay, ON



PHARA Westwind Shores at Algoma Manor

Thessalon, ON

**A 33-unit apartment, 7-bed hospital,
and nursing clinic for seniors and
persons with disabilities.**

Local Seniors Strategy

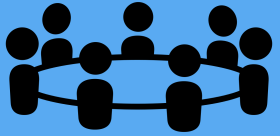
- Assess needs
- Determine current capacity of local system
- Identify gaps
- Determine how to fill gaps
- Determine required resources
- Identify potential partners (public/private/non-profit)
- Identify supportive municipal strategies (e.g. age-friendly planning, municipal seniors housing developments)

Municipal Leadership

- Must be Council commitment
- Need a “champion”
- Push the envelope
- Size of municipality not a barrier

Getting Started

- Council needs to commit resources (staff, time, funding)
- Should be structured approach (e.g. multi-stakeholder Seniors Committee)
- Reporting a key
- Start with Seniors Strategy and make it happen!



Discussion

