**Relocation Best Practices for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder Living in Permanent Residential Placements**

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**Objectives**: This study investigates the elements that lead to successful housing relocations for adults with autism spectrum disorder and/or developmental disabilities transitioning between supported residential placements. Currently, there is limited research in the area of housing relocations for persons with ASD and/or developmental disabilities and current transition models may not take into account the need for consistent communication between parties nor the support required before, during and after the transition. This study hypothesizes that consistent procedures and regular communication between supported persons, families and support staff would result in the best outcomes pre and post-relocation.

**Methods**: Participants included adults with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder accessing supported living, substitute decision makers, and support staff. A checklist of 27 essential relocation tasks was reviewed at bi-weekly meetings up to 2 months prior to a date or relocation and monthly for 3 months post-move.

A post-transition questionnaire was completed by substitute decision makers and support staff to measure outcomes after the move.

**Results**: Out of 12 relocation transitions between July 2018 and January 2020 the checklist of essential transition tasks was used with 6 teams. Preliminary findings suggest that the consistent communication between families, supported persons and support staff resulted in successful relocations. Families and staff were aware of who to connect with during the process, the visits and meetings were scheduled in an appropriate time frame, and families and staff were comfortable with the supports in place prior, during and post relocation. The remaining transitions followed previous methods and procedures which did not follow an optimal coordination of supports nor a timeline indicated within the checklist which resulted in the supported persons returning to a more restricted environments. Data continues to be collected as the checklist tool is consistently used in current and pending transition relocations.

**Discussion**: Results of this study are expected to guide future transition planning and implementation for adults with developmental disability living in permanent supported residential placement.

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