**KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION OF SUCCESFUL HOUSING ELEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**V. Armineh Babikian1, Yani Hamdani1; Jane Casson1**

**1 University of Toronto**

*Objective*:Successful Housing Elements and Developmental Disabilities (SHEDD) began as a research project to identify key elements of housing design and construction (e.g., materials, spatial arrangements) that can help to support people labeled with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and exceptional behaviours that challenge (BTC). The SHEDD tool was developed as a prototype to guide built environment modifications and help improve the wellbeing and community participation of adults with developmental disabilities who exhibit BTC. The second part of this research is the SHEDD Tool Knowledge Mobilization Project funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Connection Grant. The objectives of this project are to share information about the SHEDD research and tool; make connections and share ideas about housing design with self-advocates, families, housing design and planning professionals, developmental service professionals and researchers; and identify future research collaborations and ways to improve the SHEDD tool.

*Method*: The current tool includes design recommendations based on a literature review and case studies of four supported houses in Ontario. Three 90-minute webinars were hosted to make connections with key stakeholders and share ideas about housing and design. Presenters included tool developers, developmental service agencies, self-advocates, and caregivers. Online surveys were distributed to participants for feedback on the webinars and SHEDD tool.

*Results*: The project has not concluded yet, however the following are the results thus far. Environmental modifications were reported to decrease frequency of behaviours that challenge, which resulted in a decline in the use of restraints or sedatives and increased opportunities for skill-building and relationships. Webinar participants reported having an improved understanding of person-centered planning, the qualities of a durable and safe home, and the importance of built environments on wellbeing of individuals with IDD and BTC. Additionally, feedback from presenters, self-advocates, and family members led to modifications and additions for the SHEDD Tool 2.0 to include suggested materials, where items can be purchased, and a list of resources related to funding and support for residential planning.

*Discussion/Conclusions*: The built environment is a fundamental, but underrecognized, part of successful supportive housing for people with IDD. There is a knowledge gap of key design elements of supportive housing and the impact on behaviour. The SHEDD Tool helps to fill this gap as families and adults with IDD look for independent or supported residential options, modifications to existing environments, or considerations for purpose-built housing that promote wellbeing and community participation.

**Correspondence:**

**Armineh Babikian, MS, OTR/L**

**University of Toronto**

**60 Harbord St**

**Toronto, ON M5S 3L1**

[**Armineh.babikian@mail.utoronto.ca**](mailto:Armineh.babikian@mail.utoronto.ca)