

A Step Toward Social Justice; Taking Action on Mould in Social Housing

Presented by McGill undergraduate nursing students;
Mary Bonsu, Windy Cloutier, Mélanie Côté, Gabriel
Domocos, Karine Mekkelholt, Dominique Sinigagliesi



Outline

- Background
 - Nursing Project
 - Project Chance
 - The Issue & Theory
 - CNA social justice gauge
 - CHNC Standards of Practice
 - Plan
 - Actions
 - Outcomes
 - Evaluation
 - Where is Project Chance Now?
 - References
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Background

- Nursing undergraduate project
 - Environmental Health Assessment
 - Visit of Community based organization
 - Project Chance
 - Mission
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The Issue

- Subsidized by Société d'Habitation du Québec
 - Inadequate construction
 - Water Infiltrations and leaks
 - Mould infestation
 - Health Hazards
 - Vulnerable Group
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Mould and Health

- Infections, Hypersensitivity disorders, toxic/irritant effects, Migraines
 - Fatigue, Nausea, cognitive dysfunction, immune dysfunction
 - Assessment of Home and Work Environment
 - Precautionary Principle (SARS taskforce)
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Theoretical Background

- CHNC Standards of Practice
 - CNA Social Justice Gauge
 - Population Health Promotion Model
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Initial Plan

- Establish a partnership between Projet Chance and the Montreal Chest Institute
 - Write a position statement
 - Create a workshop
 - Mothers are empowered to write testimonial letters
 - Create module and submit to Société d'Habitation du Québec
 - Fundraising for project needs
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Action: Creation of Partnerships

- Montréal Chest Institute
 - Health assessment of resident families
 - Health report conducted by Dr Jacques, environmental health specialist
 - Santé Publique de Montréal
 - Inspection and report conducted by Mr. Frénette, Hygienist
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Action: Position Statement

- Supported by literature
 - Serves as a summary of the situation
 - Addressing the immediate needs of Projet
Chance families
 - Recommendations
 - to improve conditions of all social housing buildings
 - to avoid similar situations in the future
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Action: Workshop

- Environmental Health Info Session
 - Handout
 - Presentation of Position Statement
 - Inspire women to advocate for better environment
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Action: Testimonials

- Power of a voice
 - Letter Template
 - Guidance
 - Typing assistance offered
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Action: Module

- Module to be sent to Société d'Habitation du Québec
 - Expert Reports
 - Position Statement
 - Testimonial Letters
 - Awaiting approval from Projet Chance board of directors
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Outcomes: Partnerships

- Permanent contact with the Montreal Chest Institute's team
 - Follow-up with Dr. Jacques for families with major health issues.
 - Resources for mothers
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Outcomes: Quantitative

- 12 tenants out of 20 were present at the workshop
 - Out of these
 - All reported to “ know more about mould impact on health”
 - Eight reported to “ understand more about human right as they related to living conditions
 - All reported to be “ more likely to work with others to protect their rights
 - Ten reported to feel they could “ share voice about something important”
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Outcomes: Qualitative

“ It is important to understand the situation and see that people are ready to help us to change that situation »

« I think it's important to teach people how to protect the home free from mould »

« Need to act on this injustice and for our rights to be respected»

« Their help will be instrumental in attaining our goal of adequate housing conditions for our young mothers and their children»

« They have the capacity to bring about great changes»



Dissemination Strategies

- Community Event
 - Presentation at the Montreal Chest Institute
 - Forces Avenir competition
 - Module distributed upon demand
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Projet Chance... where are they now?

- Module being sent to SHQ
 - After recommendations from Santé Publique and Montréal Chest Institute
 - 3 families are being relocated
 - priority is given to 4 others
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Are you inspired to take social action?

- It is not that time consuming
 - Efforts pay off
 - Template makes it easy and reusable
 - Sustainable partnerships in your community
 - We are the experts of our own special populations
 - **Nurses are catalysts for change**
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