

## Specialized Personal Care Home (PCH) Environments Descriptors:

Note: The following descriptors are intended to outline environments for individuals who are either pended awaiting placement in a PCH or currently within a PCH. A process must be in place to determine eligibility for admission and discharge to the below noted environments which includes a comprehensive behavior assessment. Each unit will have appropriate entry and exit criteria.

### Alternative Care Environment

- Also known as General Dementia Care Unit, or Special Needs Unit
- A secure unit serving residents with more intense care needs which may include, but are not limited to, individuals with dementia exhibiting moderate responsive behaviours impacting their ability to fit safely within the regular PCH environment. Examples of responsive behaviours include: calling out, physical resistance, disruptive or unusual sleep patterns and wandering resulting in high risk of elopement, room entering, needing frequent redirection and staff intervention.
- This smaller unit (recommended maximum up to 15 beds) provides a quiet, calm environment for continuity and consistency in care approaches, easier management of stimuli and allows for flexible routines.
- The expected outcome for residents in these units is decreased anxiety and responsive behaviours and supports safe wandering as well as improved resident safety and better quality of life.
- This environment may require enhanced staffing ratios to care for residents in a safe manner.
- Access to specialty services such as psychiatry, and psychology is on referral.
- Provides unique programming and environmental modifications to meet the needs of the residents.

### Behavioural Support and Care Environment

- Behavioural Support and Care environments are divided into small, secured units (recommended maximum 10 beds) which provide long term care to individuals with extensive (severe) responsive behaviours secondary to a previously diagnosed cognitive disease or disorder which put themselves or others at risk.
- This may include, but is not limited to: residents who exhibit physical/ verbal aggression/agitation; have uninhibited sexual expression; who exhibit responsive behaviours that impact their ability to fit safely within the regular PCH or alternate care environments.
- This environment requires enhanced staffing in order to provide safe care. Provides unique programming and environmental modifications to meet the needs of the residents.
- Geriatricians, Psychiatry, and/or psychology services are provided on a consultative basis, at a minimum.
- Residents may reside in this type of environment until such time as the disease process deteriorates to the point that they no longer require this specialized environment.

### **Behavioural Treatment Unit (BTU)**

- BTU is small (maximum 10 bed) secured unit which provides assessment and short-term treatment (6 months or less) for PCH residents who are experiencing extensive (severe) responsive behaviors secondary to a previously diagnosed cognitive disease or disorder and are not manageable in their current PCH environment.
- Residents are admitted from other PCH's to treat and manage extensive (severe) responsive behaviours not manageable within their current environment. Behaviours may include, but are not limited to: extreme physical and verbal aggression, and uninhibited sexual expression impacting the safety of self, and others.
- This environment requires enhanced staffing in order to provide safe care and services are provided by RPN's, Psychology, Geriatric Medicine Specialist and consulting Psychiatry. Provides unique programming and environmental modifications to meet the needs of the residents.
- Following the assessment/intervention the goal is to reintegrate the resident back to their home PCH.
- Residents who continue to exhibit extensive behaviours following treatment that are deemed not manageable in the general PCH environment may be considered for transfer to Behavioural Support and Care Environment.
- Not to be confused with a mental health facility and is part of a licensed Personal Care Home.