

The Treatment of Older Persons
with Gambling Problems Using
an Outreach, Home-visiting
Approach

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Principles in *Older-Persons* *Sensitive* Gambling Treatment

- No requirement for self-referral
- No requirement for self-identification

Principles in *Older-Persons* *Sensitive* Gambling Treatment

- Provide services where the client is at, both re: stage of change and geography (in the home / community)
- clients

Principles in *Older-Persons Sensitive* Gambling Treatment

- Provide staff skilled at
 - working with geriatric issues
 - working in community
 - working with precontemplative clients
 - moving clients from precontemplation
 - advocating for clients
 - remaining with precontemplative clients

Principles in *Older-Persons* *Sensitive* Gambling Treatment

- Mandate for staff to **remain** with precontemplative clients
- mandate for harm reduction strategies
- mandate for intervention in non-gambling specific issues if identified

Staff Qualifications

- comfort with precontemplative client
- skill in moving them to contemplative
- acceptance if there is never movement
- skill at advocating for more responsiveness in other sectors
- demonstrated skill at being resources to other services & sectors (often a condition of referrals)

Ministry Documents Referring to Older Adults As a “Special Target Population”

- Graham Report (1988)
- Putting People First
- Treating Alcohol & Drug Problems in Ontario, 1990
- LTC/MH Interface document (1995)
- PIECES Training (1998)
- Rationalization Project - Guidelines for Restructuring Services (OSAB 1996)
- Making It Happen (1998)
- Setting the Course (OSAB 1999)

For more information . . .

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