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## **A Retrospective Look at Creating Success for Forensic Clients in the Community**

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**Introduction:** Forensic clients, those deemed Not Criminally Responsible (NCR), often have greater difficulty in transition from hospital to community than other offenders. Various residential models arose in the 1960's out of the failure and dissatisfaction with direct release after years of isolation. These programs incorporated a re-integration approach with graduated supported living. A nongovernmental organization (NGO)'s residential location in western Canada was among the first to create a community transition housing program for forensic clients restoring dignity and personal autonomy in progressive degrees through activity engagement.

**Objectives:** This paper provides a fifteen year retrospective look at data examining client outcomes, and critical elements for sustaining success stays within the community. The PEO model was utilized to create the housing structure, staff training, day to day programming as well as the outcome review.

**Practice Implications:** The PEO model is effective for designing programs to address the challenges faced by forensic clients in their community reintegration. Specific considerations for these clients include establishing: stable long term relationship with the program, consistent skill training across multiple staff, and individualized occupational driven daily programs responsive to resources, easily adapted and sustained over multiple years.

**Conclusion:** Through its domains, the PEO model gives consistent structural considerations all to all aspects of programming for forensic clients that can be easily analysed and evaluated. Shared outcomes from NGO experience will identify principles and specific strategies to participants for implementing similar programs across communities.