



Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



Merchandising of Older Adults Institutional Housing and the Ethical Implications: The Point of View of Public and Private Sector Actors.

REFERENCE

Charpentier, M. (2004). Merchandising of Older Adults Institutional Housing and the Ethical Implications: The Point of View of Public and Private Sector Actors. *Frontières*, 17(1), 42-47.

TEXT TYPE

Format: Scientific article

Content: Empirical

DISCUSSED THEMES

Extent of the phenomenon, forms of abuse in residential facilities, risk factors, vulnerability factors, burden and stress, commoditization, private residences for seniors, ethical challenges, residents' rights.

GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

Based on the results of a qualitative and quantitative study, this article aims to disseminate the views of stakeholders from the public sector, as well as those of owners of private residences for seniors, on ethical issues inherent to the privatization of health services and social services Quebec.

PROBLEM

The number of private residences for seniors has expanded greatly since the 1980s. There are 2500 at this time, which offer lodging to 8% of the population of Quebec. This rapid growth raises many questions concerning the residents' rights. In fact, although there are rules regarding the buildings themselves, no standards specifically address the living conditions and services within the residences.

METHODOLOGY

This study is both quantitative and qualitative. First, a questionnaire was sent by mail to all the stakeholders in the public and private networks. A total of 137 subjects out of the 213 who were approached responded, among which were 65 respondents from the public sector and 72 respondents from the private sector. The perceptions of the respondents from both groups were then compared, for the purpose of the study. Two focus groups, one constituted of eight practitioners from the public network and the other of six owners of private homes, were held.

RESULTS

The results show very different perceptions, depending on whether they come from the public or private sector. First, in terms of freedom of seniors to choose their living environment, many public sector practitioners resent the current inequalities and the fact that many seniors facing a loss of autonomy cannot afford a private residence that offers all the specialized services that they require. With regard to the quality of life in private residences, the owners have a more positive assessment than practitioners from the public network. Access to the required care is, for both groups, a principle underlying the development of private sector facilities for seniors. Finally, regarding the level of protection against abuse, public sector practitioners recognize the existence of the phenomenon in residential and long-term care centers (CHSLDs: Centre d'hébergement et de soins de longue durée). In the view of the private residence owners, isolation of the homes, exhaustion of managers and financial problems can explain the emergence of situations involving abuse.

DISCUSSION

Managers and practitioners working in the public network are more concerned about the living conditions of seniors living in private homes than the owners of these homes, which is reflected by the lower scores obtained regarding the respect of residents' rights. This can be partly explained by the context of intervention, which is at the end of the line, and by the gloom which has become instilled in the network. Owners favorably assess the quality of their services, which reflects a great pride in their achievement and their specificity. Diverse opinions indicate the presence of disparities and inequalities between private homes and the residents that they welcome. Still, stakeholders in the private and public sectors agree on the relevance of state intervention.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, it is essential to take into account the diversity of market resources and the many underlying social inequalities in the future development of social policies. These should focus on the search for equity, while struggling against the current inequalities.

AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

The author proposes a greater recognition of the contribution of the private sector to living accommodations for older people, as well as financial support and direct services by public organizations.

DRAFTING DATE

June 11, 2014

