

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Effective Outreach and Engagement Services Series

Addressing Homelessness: Permanent Supportive Housing/Housing First for People with SMI/CODs

February 11, 2020

2:00 to 3:15 p.m. ET



SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

Addressing Homelessness: Permanent Supportive Housing/Housing First for People with SMI/CODs

Pat Tucker, Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP)
Shawn Frankenstein, Service Access and Management, Inc.
Sherri Downing, Moderator

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Disclaimer

The views, opinions, and content expressed in this presentation and discussion do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or policies of the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) or the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).



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Presenters



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Agenda for today



- Welcome and introductions
- Housing models, including Housing First
- Schuylkill – Service Access and Management’s housing program
- Questions and answers
- Closing

Learning Objectives



Identify different types of housing models and the benefits of each.

Understand how one community implemented housing.

HOUSING MODELS



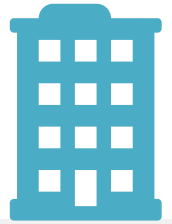
Types of Housing

Temporary Housing Models



Individuals and families experiencing temporary or situational homelessness due to job loss, economic hardship, domestic violence, or other short-term emergencies have very different housing needs from individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

Emergency Shelters



For individuals or families who need short-term shelter, these programs provide an immediate alternative to sleeping outdoors or in a location not meant for habitation. They can include safe places for survivors of domestic violence and their children. Shelters provide a short-term safety net. Many emergency shelters do not provide daytime access to the facility.

Types of Housing — continued



Transitional Housing

These programs provide up to 24 months of housing in supervised settings, along with social services to help individuals and families prepare for permanent housing. It can be project-based, meaning that residents move out when they exit the program, or transition-in-place, with residents assuming the lease at the end of the program.



Medical Respite Programs

These programs serve individuals experiencing homelessness who are not yet well enough to be on their own but not sick enough to continue a hospital stay. Without access to medical respite care, individuals experiencing homelessness are unlikely to successfully manage their post-hospital medical regimen.

Types of Housing: Housing First

- Housing First is an approach to **quickly and successfully connect** individuals and families experiencing homelessness to **permanent housing without preconditions or barriers to entry**, such as sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements.
- Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness, as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry.



Housing First: Background

THE PAST

- Reaction against view that people experiencing homelessness must “earn” housing:
 - Provide permanent, affordable, and supportive housing without treatment prerequisites
 - Focus on reducing barriers to entry

THE PRESENT

- Evolution into distinct approach for delivering permanent supportive housing:
 - Services informed by harm reduction and motivational interviewing
 - Project-level policies and procedures that prevent lease violations and evictions

Housing First: Key Principles

- Housing is safe and affordable.
- All people can achieve housing stability in permanent housing; supports may look different.
- Everyone is “housing ready.”
- Housing can improve quality of life, physical health, mental health, and employment.
- People have a right to determination, dignity, and respect.
- Housing and services are based on participant needs and preferences.



Housing First: Core Components


- Low-barrier admission policies
- Rapid and streamlined entry into housing
- Voluntary supportive services
- Full rights, responsibilities, and legal protections for tenants
- Practices and policies to prevent lease violations and evictions
- Applicable in a variety of housing models



Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)



- Helps house individuals and/or families as quickly as possible
- A housing first solution for non-chronic homelessness
- Helps individuals or families rent apartments
- Provides temporary community support services, which can include case management
- Offers time-limited financial assistance



Permanent Supportive Housing

Schuykill – Service Access and Management, Inc.

Purpose

- Developed due to unmet needs of individuals with mental illness:
 - Community residential rehabilitation (residing at/referred to)
 - Danville State Hospital (residing at/referred to)
 - Safe haven (residing at/recently used)
 - Transition age youth, 18-25
- Identified need for new housing stock targeted to the population
 - Safe, permanent housing
 - Landlords working to keep the tenants housed

Plan / Outcome

- Funding / Plan
 - Proposed plan to state agency for one-time grant
 - Identified landlords willing to:
 - Rent to target population on referral by SAM
 - Commit to rent for a defined term of years
- Outcome
 - Investment in renovating two buildings
 - Created six 2-BR apartments, three at each building
 - Section 8-approved
 - Utilities included in rent
 - Rent based on HUD Fair Market Rent
 - Furniture purchased for the units

Referrals

- SAM case managers refer consumers who meet criteria.
- Program helps consumers apply at the local housing authority.
- When a unit becomes available, all referrals are reviewed.
 - The most appropriate candidate is chosen, and the landlord is informed.
 - The landlord offers the unit, and the tenant signs their own lease.
 - The tenant can remain in the unit indefinitely.

Program Expansion

- SAM has added four more buildings since 2012.
 - Capital projects with other funding sources and same general outlines
 - Some differences in target population
- Total of 23 beds in 6 buildings:
 - Seven 2-BR units
 - Nine 1-BR units
- Lessons learned

Presenters

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Thank You

- Thank you for attending the “Addressing Homelessness: Permanent Supportive Housing/Housing First for People with SMI/CODs” webinar.
- Today’s presentation was recorded and will be made available for future reference.
- Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Effective Outreach and Engagement Services Series

- Addressing Homelessness: Harm Reduction and Recovery for People with SMI/CODs - February 25, 2020
- Addressing Homelessness: Promoting Self-Care, Wellness, and Treatment Adherence Among People with SMI/CODs - March 10, 2020
- Addressing Homelessness: Crisis Intervention Strategies for People with SMI/CODs - March 24, 2020
- All webinars will take place from 2:00 to 3:15 p.m. ET

SAMHSA's Mission

SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.

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