Strategies to Incorporate Housing First and Rapid Rehousing Programs
Panel Discussion

- **Jesse Haywood** – Director of Homeless Services, Gaudenzia, Inc.
- **Leah Rainey** – Housing Program Specialist Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- **Christine Simiriglia** – President and CEO, Pathways to Housing PA
- **Jennifer Lewis**, Moderator, Senior Project Manager, Stone Sherick Consulting Group
Keeping up with the current policy and program requirements of HUD as well as many other supportive housing funding agencies can be a challenge.

However traditional supportive housing providers can develop successful programs that both compliment their mission and meet the funding requirements of these agencies.

This workshop looks at:

- Strategies to incorporate Housing First and Rapid Rehousing programs in housing services
- The key role of the local CoC/County agencies in creating successful partnerships
- Lessons learned and a look to what we may see from HUD in the near future.
Gaudenzia and Homeless Services in Allegheny County
Gaudenzia Overview

- Founded in 1968
- Serving 17,000 annually
- 151 Programs in 82 Facilities
- 97 units of transitional and 149 units of permanent housing
- Gaudenzia growing presence in Erie and Pittsburgh due to need for homeless housing and services.
First Programmatic Change

- Transitional Housing
- Rapid Rehousing

Paradigm shifts
- Staff
- Landlords
Second Programmatic Change

Traditional Case Management

Housing First

Paradigm shifts
- Agency
- Staff
Challenges

Challenges with Rapid Rehousing

- Clients
- Locating housing
Collaboration - Allegheny County DHS

Collaborative Efforts with Allegheny County DHS related to RRH
- Program changes (Housing 1st centered)
- Landlord engagements
- Allegheny Counties efforts to assist RRH programs
Allegheny County DHS
ALLEGHENY COUNTY & DHS

- Population: 1,231,527
- Serving over 200,000 people (every 5th resident)
- Largest county department
- Manage a $800+m budget
- Employ over 1,000 staff
27 Distinct Housing Providers

91 Housing Programs
  • 59 HUD Contracts
  • 32 HAP Contracts

2017 PIT
  • 1145 Total
  • 53 Unsheltered

Over $34M from all funding sources
Annual Count of Persons Served (2017)

In 2017 (to date), **10,882 people** accessed services within the Homeless System, including:

- **1,810 families** with **3,482 children**
- **5,845 single individuals**
- **484 veterans**

The continuum of services include:

- Eviction Prevention Services and Rental Assistance
- Street Outreach
- Emergency Shelter
- Bridge Housing
- Rapid-Rehousing
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Other Supports
### Sense of Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACTION - Housing</td>
<td>My Place RRH</td>
<td>5/1/2017</td>
<td>4/30/2018</td>
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<td>Alle-Kiski</td>
<td>Safe at Home</td>
<td>7/1/2017</td>
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<td>Auberle</td>
<td>At Home</td>
<td>7/1/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auberle</td>
<td>Integrated RRH (from PATF)</td>
<td>8/1/2017</td>
<td>8/31/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHS</td>
<td>Keys to Success</td>
<td>9/1/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHS</td>
<td>RRH Demo</td>
<td>3/1/2017</td>
<td>2/28/2018</td>
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<td>CHS</td>
<td>Housing Solutions</td>
<td>8/1/2016</td>
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<td>Center for Victims</td>
<td>CV Housing Plus</td>
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<td>Gaudenzia</td>
<td>G-PGH Phase III</td>
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<td>9/30/2018</td>
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<td>Goodwill</td>
<td>Harbor 2</td>
<td>9/1/2017</td>
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<td>Goodwill</td>
<td>Good Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goodwill</td>
<td>Good Start 2</td>
<td>9/1/2017</td>
<td>8/31/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercy</td>
<td>A Step Forward</td>
<td>11/1/2017</td>
<td>10/31/2018</td>
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<td>Mercy/Beth Haven</td>
<td>Personalize Hsg Options</td>
<td>8/1/2017</td>
<td>7/31/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercy</td>
<td>Through Open Door</td>
<td>10/1/2017</td>
<td>9/30/2018</td>
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<td>VLP</td>
<td>Constitution</td>
<td>9/1/2017</td>
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<td>WPIC</td>
<td>Soteria</td>
<td>12/1/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>YWCA</td>
<td>Bridges RRH</td>
<td>9/1/2017</td>
<td>8/31/2018</td>
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12 Providers  18 Programs

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<tr>
<th>Start Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original RRH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Started in 2015</td>
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<td>Started in 2016</td>
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<td>Started in 2017</td>
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Rapid Rehousing Community of Practice

- Partnerships with local providers
  - Importance of clear communication “We’re in this together”
  - Clear expectations and regulations
  - Provider Driven: input and feedback necessary for success “You’re the expert”
  - Data Driven: tracking certain measures and benchmarks

- Securing needed resources
  - Homeless Preference Housing Choice Voucher
  - Housing Navigator
  - Risk Mitigation Fund
  - HQS Rehabilitation funding (potential)

- Success in making an impact
  - 706 Active Clients
  - Youth specific RRH and DV
  - Challenges remain with benchmarks
Prioritizes providing permanent housing for people experiencing chronic homelessness with multiple disabilities, thus ending their homelessness enabling them to improve their quality of life.

There are no barriers or preconditions to being housed.

Client choice is valued in housing selection and supportive service participation.
Homelessness in Philadelphia in 2017

- **5,693 persons** experiencing homelessness
- **825 families** with **1,508 children**, 
- **956 unsheltered** - Unsheltered is a count of homeless persons sleeping on the streets or in other places not fit for human habitation.
- **3,315 persons** in households without children, including **271 unaccompanied youth** (ages 18-24) & **26 unaccompanied children** under the age of 18
Who are these homeless people?

- Philadelphia has a **25.7% poverty rate** making us the poorest of the 10 most populous cities in America. These people are poor.
- Many are unemployed, underemployed or currently unemployable in today’s workforce.
- 39% are Severely Mentally Ill
- 38% are Chronic Substance Abusers
- 6% are Veterans (this is an undercount)
- 16% are Victims of Domestic Violence
Data Driven Priorities – Coordinated Entry

Prioritize need for available services:

- Who is using your Emergency Departments?
- Who is being seen on outreach and what are their issues or needs?
- Who has used your shelter system?
- Who has used your behavioral healthcare system?
- Who is going in and out of jail?
- Who is most likely to die on your streets?

The people that go to the top of this list are the people that get referred for Housing First services!
Why Housing First?

- HUD has adopted the Housing First model as a best practice and is looking to fund programs in communities that are using it.
- As a best practice model, Housing First uses Assertive Community Treatment or Intensive Case Management to serve those with the most complex needs in accessing and maintaining community-based scattered site housing.
- It typically works best with our sickest, longest termed homeless, most difficult to serve citizens.
- This year Pathways is using the Housing First model to work with heroin abusers. It is a fairly new application of the HF model.
Scattered Site Housing

• In Philadelphia, there is a sufficient amount of rental housing in lower income neighborhoods that falls at or under our Fair Market Rent (FMR) with HUD. We rent and subsidize available apartments all over the city. People get to view several and pick where they want to live. They then pay 30% of their income toward rent.

• The apartments are furnished with everything someone needs to start out.

• Our goal is for people to become part “of” the community again, and not just be “in” the community.
Intensive Support Services

- Multi-disciplinary Teams include, a Team Leader & Assistant Team Leader (master’s level), a Psychiatrist, a nurse, case managers, peer specialists and an administrative assistant.
- We also supplement the teams with a Drug & Alcohol Specialist and access to a primary care physician, a Housing Placement Specialist, Community Integration Specialists, and a Benefits Specialist.
- Most services are provided in the community rather than the office (about 80%).
Housing First Gets Results

- 89% Housing retention after 5 years.
- 42% of people with substance use disorders are in some type of treatment.
- Crisis Response Center episodes decreased by 87%.
- Psych hospitalizations decreased by 70%.
- Interactions with the Criminal Justice System decreased by 50%.
How Can You Do This In Your Community?

- Marrying Medicaid and other service dollars to HUD subsidies.
- Practicing truly integrated care and applying for grant money to do so.
- Partnering with other agencies and creating coalitions that philanthropy wants to fund.
- Instead of looking for new money, look at converting existing programming.
- We can help with TA and training: [www.pathwaytohousingpa.org/training](http://www.pathwaytohousingpa.org/training)
Jennifer Lewis
Senior Project Manager
Stone Sherick Consulting Group
215-837-2056
jlewis@sherickpm.com