Presenters

• Diana Myers, Senior Vice President, Diana T. Myers & Associates, Inc.

• Bruce Quigley, Executive Director, Housing Authority of Union County

• Chris Seibert, Deputy Administrator, Adult and Family Services, Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health

• Connie Brode, Executive Director, Huntingdon Bedford, Fulton Area Agency on Aging
Workshop Objectives

• To describe the benefits of cross sector collaboration in addressing housing needs

• To explain why and how cross sector collaborations can help special needs populations to obtain and retain stable housing

• To learn how to attract and keep cross sector partners at the table

• To hear about three successful models of cross sector collaboration
Is Affordable Housing Enough for Most Households with Lower Incomes?

• No. Some populations benefit from supportive services in order to remain stably housed in their community. This may include:

  • Households experiencing homelessness;
  • Older adults who are frail and/or those with dementia;
  • Individuals re-entering the community from incarceration;
  • Individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities;
  • Individuals with behavioral health needs; and
  • Survivors of domestic violence.
What Housing Barriers Exist?

• Many face multiple barriers due to:
  • Housing market characteristics
    • Unaffordable, inaccessible location, lack of accessible housing, larger units
  • Discrimination
    • Race, religion, disability, etc.
  • Personal barriers
    • Poor credit, rental history, criminal history
  • Inability to navigate multiple systems
What Can Be Done to Address Barriers?

• To successfully secure housing and remain stably housed some individuals may need:
  
  • Special design features: zero step entrance, lower cabinets, wider doorways
  
  • Special housing accommodations: parking, light bulbs, application taken at home
  
  • Services: case management, behavioral health, housing locator, credit counseling, legal assistance
How Can Cross Sector Collaboration Help Support Stable Housing?

• Cross sector collaborations bring together housing providers with human service and other partners to offer a holistic approach
  • e.g. employment services that can ensure stable income to maintain housing

• Collaborations provide a formal mechanism for coordination of key entities

• Collaborations can provide surprising supports once the parties are committed
  • e.g. Sheriff finding employment for participant
Benefits of Cross Systems Collaboration

• Cross systems collaboration creates synergy in finding solutions to community problems

• Collaboration reduces duplication and is cost effective

• Collaboration streamlines access to and expedites service delivery
Benefits of Cross Systems Collaboration

• Community agencies learn about and more easily access additional services for their clients
  • e.g. Mental health assessment for people with dementia

• Cross systems collaborations are innovative and can attract more resources
  • e.g. PHARE grant for Transition Age Youth Housing Program
Bruce Quigley
Executive Director
Housing Authority of Union County
Justice Bridge Housing Program

The Problem - Justice Involved individuals:
• Remaining incarcerated beyond minimum sentence and/or
• Being released despite (recidivism) risk inducing home plan

The Solution - Partnership between the housing authority, criminal justice, and human services systems.

Union County Housing Authority   b.quigley@unioncountyhousingauthority.org
Justice Bridge Housing Program - Key Components

• Defined target population
• Public Housing Authority (PHA) operates the program
• Tenant-based rental assistance provided in accordance with the procedures of the Housing Choice Voucher program
• Probation/Parole Supervision of participants. Community supportive services external to the Housing Authority
• Collaboration

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Justice Bridge Housing Program - Origins

Criminal Justice Advisory Board Membership and the (existing) culture in Union County’s
• Government and
• Justice Community
• Public

Union County Housing Authority  b.quigley@unioncountyhousingauthority.org
Justice Bridge Housing Program

How Justice Bridge:
• Addresses Barriers to housing
• Serves client needs and
• Supports stable housing

Union County Housing Authority  b.quigley@unioncountyhousingauthority.org
Connie Brode
Executive Directive
Huntingdon, Bedford, Fulton
Area Agency on Aging
Lead Agencies

- Aging
- Housing
- Behavioral Health
How did the partnership form?

Collaboration between housing and service providers to identify how individuals currently access affordable housing and needed services.

What were our strengths?

What were our limitations?
What was the goal?

• Increase awareness of resources
• Increase number of appropriate referrals
• Increase the number of seniors able to age in place
• Decrease the number of seniors prematurely institutionalized
• Decrease the number of behavioral health crises
• Decrease the number of people needing Adult Protective Services
PARTNERING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

• Bedford County Department of Children and Youth
• Breezewood Truckers Ministry
• Substance abuse treatment centers
• Churches and other religious organizations
• Other county or municipal departments or agencies
Cross Systems Meeting

- Utilization of a Shared Release Form
- Case discussion on how to successfully serve individuals
- Look at assessing individuals with behaviors and dementia
Case Discussion #1

- Single female in her 60s with history of mental illness.
- Had been evicted from her family home by her siblings.
- First Domiciliary Care Placement lasted hours.
- Second lasted a couple of days.
- 302 commitment.
- Release to a motel.
- Secured an apartment.
- Served eviction notice.
Case Discussion #2

- Single Gentleman in his 60s
- Lived in apartment alone
- AAA court appointed guardian
- History of behavioral health services
- Possible unidentified intellectual disability
- History of multiple sexual assaults
- Severe anxiety
- PCBH placement was not appropriate
What is the outcome?

A better quality of life for individuals we serve!