

Continuum of Care Brainstorm Session (10-25-2017)

Enhancing Supportive Services

- Easier access to childcare for interviews and first three months of new employment
 - Up to 185% or 200% FPL
- More mentors and recovery specialists!
- Additional legal services to help people navigate criminal justice system
- Full service groceries downtown; more home-delivered meals and mobile pantries
- Increase resources for those who do not meet HUD's definition of "homeless"
 - (i.e. doubling up or those in weekly hotels)
- Household goods
- Create Uber/Lyft accounts for shelters to access to get clients to them; same idea for job interviews for employment services providers
- Bring back Bank on Indy at more locations
- System-wide SOAR teams available to all
- More supportive services throughout the entire city. While most are located in the downtown area, not all of the homeless in our city are downtown. Transportation is a huge barrier to services.
- Integrated job services for those experiencing homelessness and recently housed
- We should create a peer group for individuals who are homeless or formerly homeless
- Accountability and reporting from PBSO informs needs
- More training on mental health and addictions for the whole CoC
- Medicaid 1115 waiver for chronic homeless
- More in-home mental health services
- Grant writing classes / training
- Additional resources needed for resident transportation
- Determine what level of services are necessary to keep people housed and fund that
- Need foundation and private investors to cover services not covered by Medicaid; be flexible and innovative with funding for services
- Supportive services must bridge beyond "responsibility" of mental health and addiction providers. Glad we are continuing to look at other partners and resources and funding for such!
- Housing units that HUDVASH recipients move into are not good areas. What can we do in the neighborhood to cause change? – William Ross
- Eviction prevention, legal services, mediation
- Continue to develop opportunities for formerly homeless individuals to connect with the community
- Engage faith-based partners and new faith-based partners to provide collaborative support to people in housing with case management from providers
- Increasing intentional training for all homeless service providers to be more consistent and holistic
 - Motivational interviewing
 - Domestic violence 101 and safety planning
 - Framework for well-being (Full Frame Initiative, for example)

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- Clients should NEVER be cut off from services, particularly without notification of housing provider. If we are going to have wraparound services, having a 6-month waiting period to reengage tenants in services. If we provide housing without services, the system falls apart.
- More collaborative work between providers
- Funders for supportive services (gas cards, food!, uniforms, boots, training dollars)
- Employment, training dollars, unrestricted funds
- More supportive services to keep people housed; more “S” in PSH
- Finding and investing more resources in prevention services
- More homeless prevention funding!!
- Allocating more mainstream resources to housing veterans – especially those without VA benefits
- Work with faith communities on models like Open Table to broaden the community support and assistance to our homeless neighbors
- Create opportunities for laypeople to come alongside professional services to reinforce their work
- Housing providers should be notified whenever a resident is in danger of being dropped from services by the service provider
- Analysis of case management/services system to improve efficiencies and effectiveness; need to identify duplications and gaps
- Provide community training to advocates so all have same background and training in how to serve clients
- More diversion instead of arrest
- Review each agency’s roles and programs/services provided; review of procedures – what needs to happen
 - Outreach
 - Day centers
 - Shelters
 - Services toward barrier-buster care
- Concerted effort to get those experiencing homelessness signed up for HIP 2.0 (health insurance)

Increasing Housing Units

- Need more family shelters and households with pets
- Grant writing classes/training
- Create a tax incentive for landlords who rent to a homeless veteran
- Large outreach to faith communities to provide additional housing opportunities through various efforts, such as development of new housing, developing their own projects similar to CoC on a smaller scale, and other innovative solutions
- Tiny House Village
- System-wide landlord team with full range of services; risk mitigation pool; 24/7 crisis intervention; etc.

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- 2-year plan – 1st year: speak at IAA conference; 2nd year: Do an educational session at IAA
- More shelter beds for interim period before affordable housing and supportive housing kicks in
- Renovation of abandoned properties → changing neighborhoods
- Identify nontraditional housing and flexible funding to provide shared permanent housing to those who want it (i.e. people can have roommates) ☺
- Large scale push to engage more landlords
 - Create incentives for landlords
 - Decrease barriers for landlords to participate
- If we increase units, we need to increase supplies to fill the unit. We can't just house individuals in a shell of a unit with no supplies or furniture.
- **More lobbying and education for landlords (i.e. applicants with legal histories)**
- Dedicated space for homes in new development
- Promote church alliances to finance more housing units
- Increasing information and knowledge of the need for housing unit to the public and private landlords
- 1) More transitional housing; 2) Tiny houses; 3) More scattered-site housing
- Please ... solutions for **MORE** registered sex offender housing

Policy and Legal Barriers

- How do we address township trustees (all of them) to work with service providers to prevent people from falling into homelessness
- Analyze our efforts and outcomes on homeless prevention programs to better understand why we have so many new folks entering the system
- Medicaid reform – MRO services (carve into managed care)
- Easier access/more support to get licenses back and identity documents for re-entry population
- Making contact with lawyers and firms to help with legal issues, not just Christian Legal Services
- Better visibility and re-entry planning so those re-entering don't end up homeless
- Increase minimum wage and financial stability
- Find ways to waive legal fees for household receiving assistance to prevent eviction
- More low-barrier options for shelter and pre-housing (city-funded)
- Criminalization of homelessness
 - Policy
 - Legal
 - Education of public safety
- Remove barrier for drug offenders getting food stamps
- Continuing to encourage IHA to work off of a vulnerability type scale rather than a first-come, first-serve basis for Housing Choice Vouchers
- Access to legal advice at no cost to clients that can address their legal questions/needs/barriers
- Allow for camping and/or tiny house safe havens for those waiting for PSH

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- Allow individual to request their own wage print out again from WorkOne
 - Having providers do this means agencies have to set 2 appointments to prequalify clients – too much stress on agencies
- Many homeless, especially those not in the downtown area, can go unseen and unable to be offered services. Without a history of services rendered, it is hard to “prove” chronic homelessness for Coordinated Entry.
- Understanding the specific populations and identifying the barriers; review of policies in place and how to utilize what is in place
 - Domestic violence
 - Human trafficking
 - Youth
 - Addictions
 - Mental health
 - Veterans
- Challenge the criminal history barriers to obtaining PSH (arson, registered sex offender, etc.)
- Engagement with landlords to house those with felonies and sex offenses
- Criminal background barriers to PH including PSH and non-PSH (landlords too)
- Housing for homeless with felony convictions (exceptions given for types of felonies)
- Incorporating cooperative housing; current policy discourages co-op housing in Indianapolis; what can we do to change policy? – William Ross
- Empowering the CoC Community Education and Public Policy Committee to interact with legislators/lawmakers on relevant issues
- Policy made: During Winter Contingency, declare it a type of emergency where facilities can be brought online as temporary housing sites without having to jump through all the hoops we need to get people off the streets