

Partnerships with Child Welfare to Reunify and House Families

Devra Edelman
Director of Programs
Hamilton Family Center

DEdelman@hamiltonfamilycenter.org

Hamilton Family Transitional Housing

Strategically targeting resources to maximize opportunities for homeless families

AGENDA:

- Transitional Housing ~ a tool for Family Reunification and Stability
- Assessment of Family Need and Fit
- Coordination and Collaboration between Systems
- Housing Connection and Retention
- Resources to make it happen
- Successes, Challenges and Lessons Learned

Transitional Housing ~ a Tool for Family Reunification and Stability

- Focus more intensive program model on specific populations
- Collaborate with systems and providers
 - Dependency Drug Court
 - Child Welfare / Family and Children Services
 - Family services agencies / Homeless Prenatal Program
- Establish a multi-disciplinary team that meets regularly
- Enhanced staff training, therapeutic services, parent workshops, and child and youth programming
- Provide housing connections for families

Assessment of Family Need and Fit

- Transitional housing used as a resource for supporting family reunification and stabilization prior to / during search for permanent housing
- Family Needs identified through an in-depth application and assessment process:
 - Service provider referral from DDC Case Mangers
 - Family Application
 - Family interviews
 - Housing assessment tool

Coordination and Collaboration between Systems

Hamilton Family Transitional Housing Program (HFTP):

- Collaboration with SF Dependency Drug Court (DDC) initiated in 2008
- Voluntary program for families who have open dependency court cases and are receiving family maintenance or family reunification services through child welfare.
- Referrals of families working with the court are prioritized for HFTP

Holloway House Transitional Housing:

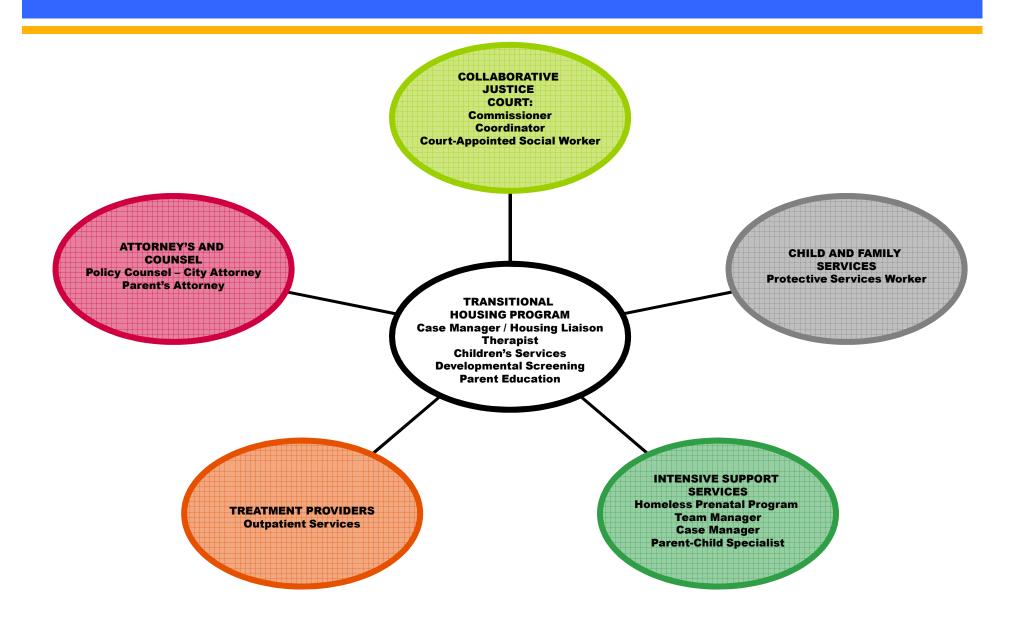
- Collaboration with SF Families Moving Forward (lead by the SF Human Services Agency) to provide transitional housing for families during housing search
- Pilot project opened November 2015 with HFC providing residential services & the Homeless Prenatal Program providing case management and housing services
- Families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, are child welfare involved and have multiple high needs – direct referrals from FCS and HPP

Hamilton Family Transitional Housing and SF Dependency Drug Court

Snapshot of Families Prioritized through DDC

- Child Welfare and Dependency Court-involved
- Multiple Children Lost to the System
- History of Substance Abuse
- Often co-occurring Mental Health Issues:
 - esp. Bipolar Disorder, PTSD, Depression, Anxiety
- Both Dual and Single Parent Households; Female and Male HOH
- Enter after completing Residential Treatment programs
- Enter while engaged in Outpatient Treatment programs

Hamilton Family Transitional Housing and SF Dependency Drug Court



Housing Connection and Retention

- Family Case Managers work with families on Family Action Plan focused on permanent housing exits
- Ideal housing options identified using Housing Assessment Matrix
- Coordination with Hamilton Family Center's First Avenues program:
 - Rapid Re-housing Subsidies, move-in assistance and other financial support for housing
 - Real Estate department works with landlords to develop relationships and identify housing options
 - Exit planning meetings between HFTP Case Managers, Housing Resource Associates and Housing Connections Case Managers
- Housing Retention Support:
 - Housing Retention Case Managers provide home-based support for families receiving RRH subsidy to support stabilization
 - HFTP Case Managers provide aftercare support for families

Outcomes

Improved Housing Outcomes

- 75% of DDC referred families who have exited HFTP exited to Permanent Housing
- 11% of DDC referred families who have exited HFTP exited to Temporary Housing (with family / friends or motel)
- 14% of DDC referred families who have exited HFTP exited to a Recovery Program

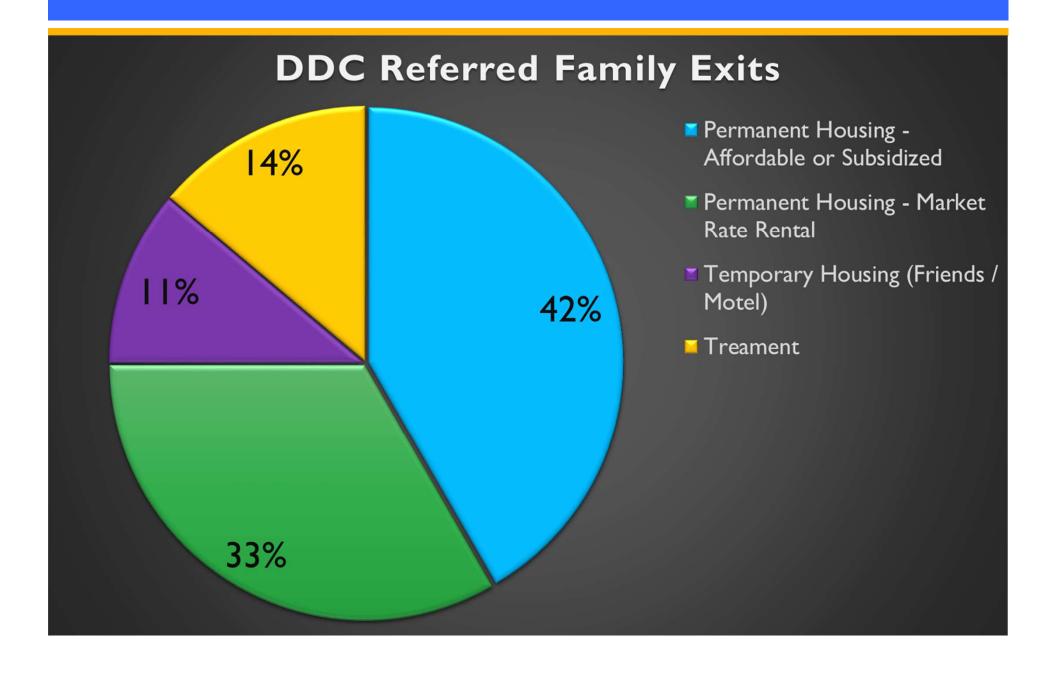
Improved Child Welfare Outcomes

- DDC children spent a greater percentage of their case in their parents' care
- DDC children were up to 50% more likely to be reunified with their parents than were comparison children.
- 82% of DDC referred families maintained child custody during and post-program

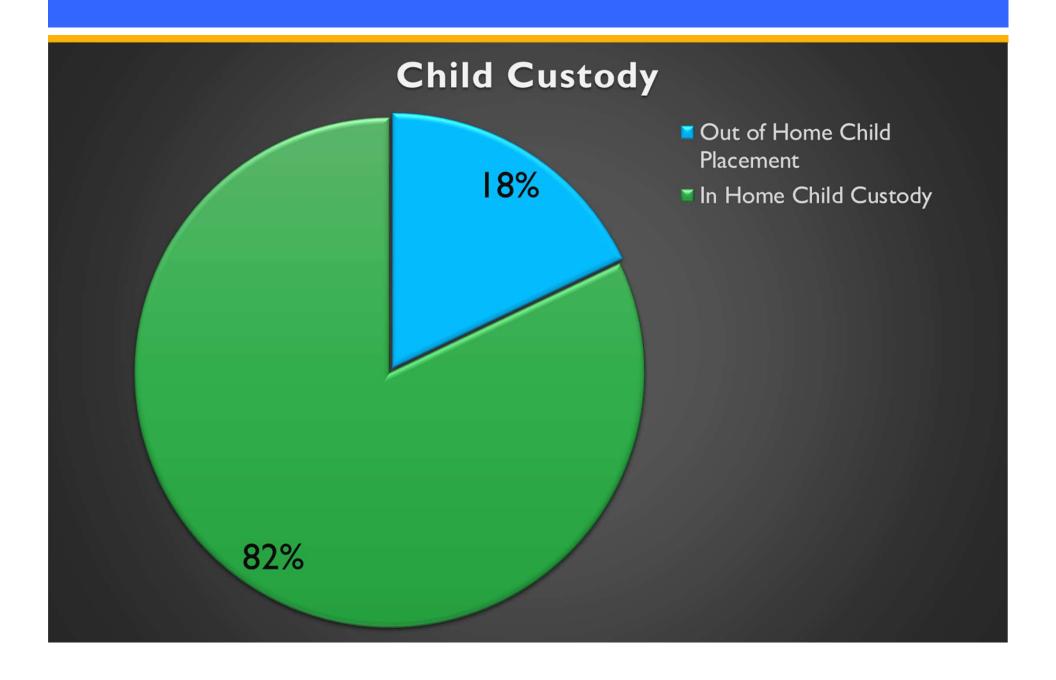
Improved Treatment Outcomes

- DDC parents much more likely to enter substance abuse treatment
- DDC parents spent significantly more time in treatment and more likely to complete treatment

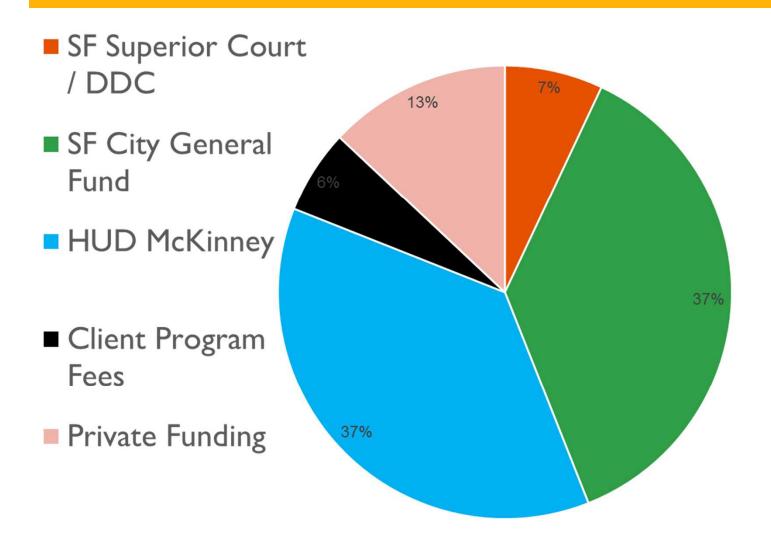
Outcomes ~ Housing Families



Outcomes ~ Keeping Families Together



Resources that Make it Happen



Successes, Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Team provider perspectives often differ some more focused on sobriety while others more focused on harm reduction; often "housing ready" versus "housing first"
- DDC clients are beholden to Child Welfare requirements, which usually require sobriety – i.e. if there is a relapse, child custody is at stake; Program is a Harm Reduction model and will not deny services due to relapse, but if children are removed, parents may become ineligible for program due to definition of a family.
- Key is collaborative communication regarding provider's definitions of success and expectations and team decision making with the client involved
- HUD Funding and Definition of Homelessness

Summary Points

- Collaborating and coordinating with all providers is paramount ideal is to have a single point of contact for each provider
- Identifying families for whom transitional housing is a good "fit" is Key
- When you serve families with increased barriers you need to also think strategically about how services are provided and how this can happen – changes in programming and philosophy are often necessary
- Future Considerations:
 - Increasing recovery focused services on-site (most are provided through outpatient programs currently)
 - Allow families time to stay in program and reunify if children are removed (currently 14 day allowance)
 - Identify Liaison with Child and Family Services (Social Workers often change)
 - Seek Alternate Funding (non-HUD); State Child Welfare funds

Contact:

Devra M. Edelman
Director of Programs
Hamilton Family Center
415-409-2100 x122

<u>dedelman@hamiltonfamilycenter.org</u> <u>www.hamiltonfamilycenter.org</u>

Los Angeles Continuum of Care Homeless Family Solutions System

Changing the Way Homeless Families Access Housing Supports



Families Coming Home Together Pilot

National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness
National Alliance to End Homelessness

February 19, 2016

The Challenge

- Homelessness is often a barrier to the reunification of families in Family Reunification
 - Homeless assistance available to single individuals does not address family challenges to stability
 - Homeless parents will not qualify for family programs as there are no minor children in the household

FCHT Partners

- Department of Children and Family Services
- LA County Community Development Commission
- First 5 LA Supportive Housing for Homeless Families Program
- Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
- Department of Public Social Services
- Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers
- Edelman Children's Dependency Court
- 211 LA County

Eligibility Requirements

- Parents with children detained by the Child Dependency Court whose sole barrier to reunification is the parents' lack of housing
- Child aged 0-5
- Families with moderate barriers to housing stability
- Families at or below 50% of the Area Median Income
- Homeless –living in a place not meant for human habitation, crisis housing, or motel paid for by charitable or government funds.

Process Overview

- Families were recommended for the pilot by CSW, LADL to DCFS for review
- If all parties agree to the referral, Housing Assessment Referral signed by Dependency Clerk/Judge
- 211 LA County refers family to First 5 Supportive Housing Program for Homeless Families provider
- Provider assists parents in securing safe, affordable housing
- Children reunited within 5 business days of securing housing-crisis housing or permanent housing

Learning Experience

- Reunification in crisis housing can be a good thing
- Rapid Re-housing is an appropriate intervention for some families in reunification
- Ongoing education of the workgroup regarding homeless services and the housing process
- Trainings for LADL Attorneys and Dependency Court Judges
- Depth of challenges within the child welfare agency

Is Housing the Missing Piece? Partnering with Child Welfare Agencies

February 19, 2016
NAEH Families and Youth Conference

Leah Lindstrom Rhea, CSH

The Source for Housing Solutions



csh.org

Our Mission

Advancing housing solutions that:



Improve lives of vulnerable people



Maximize public resources

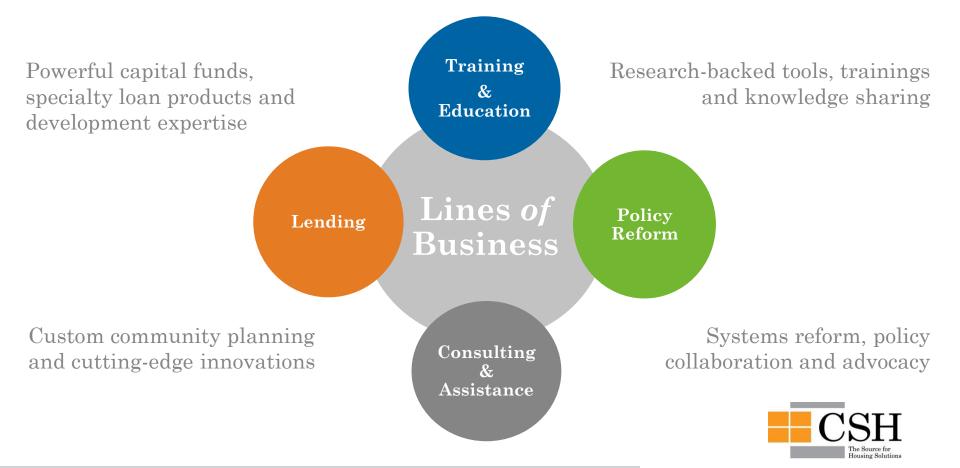


healthy communities



What We Do

CSH is a touchstone for new ideas and best practices, a collaborative and pragmatic community partner, and an influential advocate for supportive housing.



Child Welfare Involved Families

Supportive housing provides essential support to families that present a high cost to society.



CSH's Keeping Families Together pilot demonstration in NYC

- annual public cost \$3/day
- child welfare involvement declined
- children were reunited with their families from foster care
- average school attendance improved

Child Welfare and Supportive Housing Resource Center

- provides technical support
- facilitates information-sharing
- assists in capacity-building
- encourages and supports peer learning



Child Welfare & Supportive Housing

RESOURCE CENTER



Common Characteristics & Profile of Shared Clients

Frequently Encountered Families	Episodically Homeless Families
Small subset that fail to meet basic needs of children over time	Small subset that experience repeated episodes of homelessness
Extreme and persistent poverty	Extreme and persistent poverty
Involved in multiple public services	Involved in multiple public services
Caregiver has history of trauma, childhood abuse, and interpersonal violence	Parent has history of trauma, childhood abuse, and interpersonal violence
Caregiver has complex behavioral health problems (MH, SA)	Caregiver has complex behavioral health problems (MH, SA)
Large families with many children	Large families with many children



Partnerships to Demonstrate the Effectiveness of Supportive Housing for Families in Child Welfare

















Partnerships to Demonstrate the Effectiveness of Supportive Housing for Families in Child Welfare

Tests supportive housing as an intervention to make an impact on "high risk" families child welfare still struggles to serve effectively



Supportive Housing



Housing
Affordable
Permanent
Independent

Support Services

Flexible
Tenant-Centered
Voluntary

- Case Management
- Parenting Coaching/Life Skills
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Mental Health Services
- Primary Health Services
- Employment Services

Targeting Families for Demo

Child Welfare

• Most likely to experience negative child welfare outcomes.

Inadequate Housing

• Multiple barriers to staying housed.

Multiple Needs

• Child with disability; domestic violence, child under 2 yr; 4+ children, arrest history



Partnerships to Demonstrate the EFFECTIVENESS of SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR FAMILIES IN CHILD WELFARE



Who Are the Families Being Served?

- Overall, about 40 % of families enrolled in the demo are reunification cases and 60 % are preservation cases
- Across sites, there are high rates of child welfare history, including:
 - Prior reports (75%)
 - History of child welfare services (40%)
 - Primary caregiver history of abuse or neglect (56%)
 - Placement in foster care as a child (22%)



Who are the Families Being Served?

- Overall, high rates of mental health issues; around 50 percent across sites.
- Overall, high rates of substance use (39%).
- High rates of criminal justice involvement (40%).
- High rates of homelessness and housing instability
 - 45% have history of frequent moves
 - □ 42% of families have past homelessness
 - □ 41% of families were being evicted or asked to leave in 14 days
 - □ 32% utilized emergency shelter (at time of program entry)
 - □ 14% fleeing domestic violence



What do we Expect to Learn?

How to identify and target high-need families for supportive housing and allocate resources efficiently.

What do supportive housing models for this population look like?

Does supportive housing:

- Reduce child welfare involvement for high-need families?
- Reduce homelessness and improve housing stability for high-need families?
- Help integrate housing and child welfare systems
- Save taxpayer dollars in child welfare and other public services?



Supportive Housing can Help Meet Child Welfare Mandates



FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD





Intensive Supportive Housing for Families (ISHF)









Promising Partnerships

Child Welfare/Housing Liaisons

Co-location of Staff

Family Team Meetings

- Family centered, strength based, SH engagement tool
- Beyond permanency/court

Interdisciplinary Team Meeting

 Beyond SH case managers; core team of service providers

Targeting Vulnerable Families

- Coordinated entry & homelessness system
- Chile welfare investigations & intake



Promising Partnerships

- Building on previous relationships and skills
 - Existing contracts with foster care agencies
 - Utilizing strengths of community based programs
- Using Data
 - Identifying families
 - Continuous quality improvement
 - Program evaluations/RTC studies



Leveraging Resources Outside of Child Welfare

- Example: HEART Steering Committee
- Mental Health, Legal Aid, Urban League, Center for Working Families
- Preschools, children's hospitals (NPP), afterschool youth programs, summer camps

Housing Resources

- 5 PHAs dedicated Housing Choice Vouchers or FUP
- Housing Authority create preference for child welfare involved families
- Private foundation dollars for temporary rent assistance



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JUNE 8-10 CHICAGO, IL

Connect with the most important people and topics in supportive housing today

- ✓ Criminal Justice
- Supportive Housing Development ✓ Rural Housing
- ✓ Pay for Success
- ✓ Families & Youth
- ✓ Healthcare

- ✓ Tenant Success
- ✓ Supportive Housing Bootcamp
- ✓ Ending Chronic & Veterans **Homelessness**

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