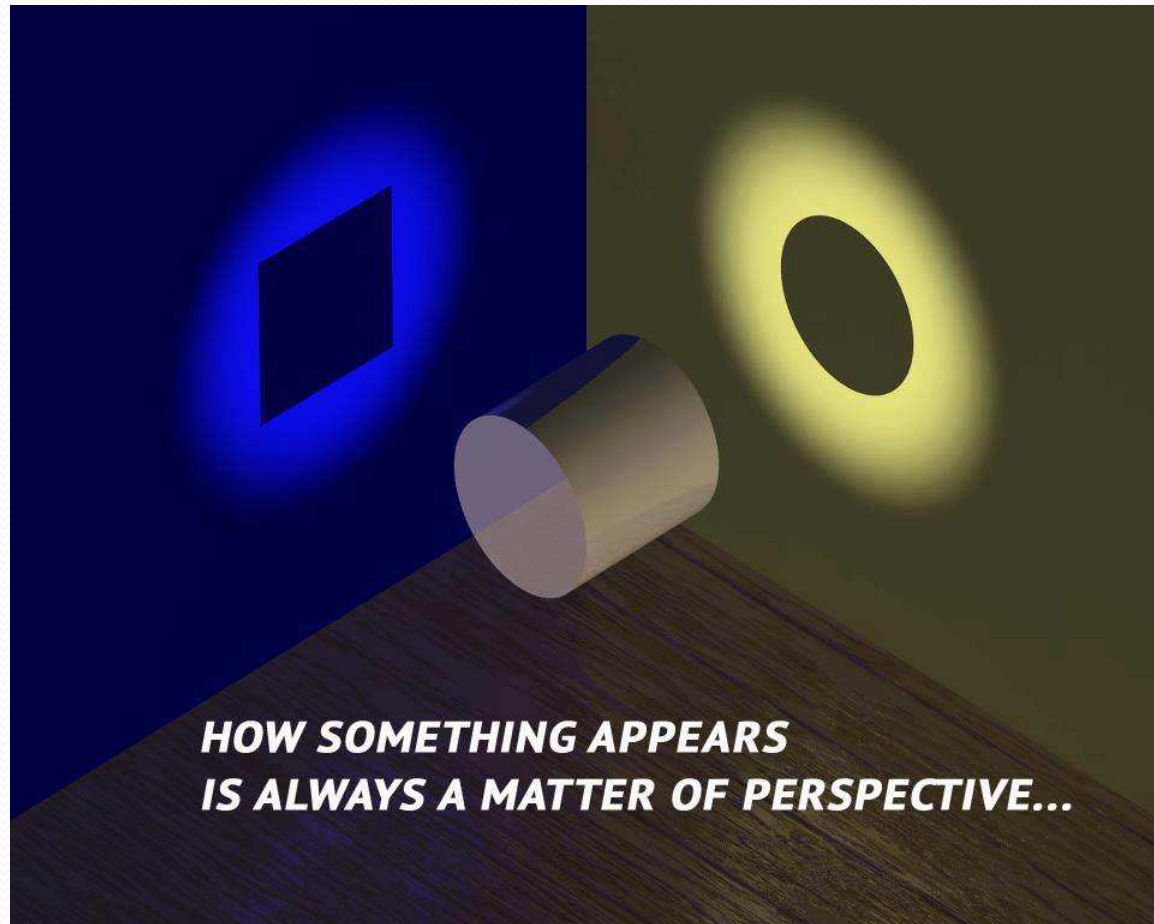


Positive Youth Development

(and other stuff you need to know!)

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Context is Everything...



Harm Reduction





Harm Reduction

- Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with risky behaviors.
- Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who engage in risky behaviors.



Trauma Informed Care

Trauma Informed Care is an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma.



Trauma Informed Care

Key Concepts:

- ***Safety***: Ensuring physical and emotional safety
- ***Trustworthiness***: Maximizing trustworthiness, making tasks clear, and maintaining appropriate boundaries
- ***Choice***: Prioritizing consumer choice and control
- ***Collaboration***: Maximizing collaboration and sharing of power with consumers
- ***Empowerment***: Prioritizing consumer empowerment and skill-building



Trauma Informed Care

- Trauma affects the individual, families, and communities by *disrupting healthy development, adversely affecting relationships*, and contributing to mental health issues including substance abuse, domestic violence, and child abuse.



Trauma Informed Care

- Becoming “trauma-informed” means recognizing that people often have many different types of trauma in their lives.
- People who have been traumatized need *support and understanding* from those around them.
- Often, trauma survivors can be re-traumatized by well-meaning caregivers and community service providers.

Trauma Informed Care vs. Trauma Specific Treatment

TIC

- Agency-wide
- No need to be mental health provider
- Service delivery type
- Environment

TST

- Program specific
- “Healing from Trauma”
i.e. mental health treatment
- Specific evidence-based interventions
(Sanctuary Model, Risking Connection)



Positive Youth Development

- refers to *intentional efforts* of other youth, adults, communities, government agencies, and schools to provide opportunities for youth to enhance their interests, skills, and abilities.
- differs from other approaches to youth in that it rejects an emphasis on trying to correct what is "wrong" with children's behavior or development.



Positive Youth Development

Positive Experiences +
Positive Relationships +
Positive Environments =
Positive Youth Development

Positive Youth Development

The 5 C's of Youth Development

Competence	Positive view of ones actions in specific areas such as school, social, cognitive, or family.
Confidence	A positive internal sense of self worth and ability.
Connection	Positive bonds with people and institutions where a multidirectional exchange in both directions is present.
Character	Possession of standard for correct behavior, a sense of morality, and integrity.
Caring	A sense of empathy and sympathy for others.

Positive Youth Development

Positive Youth Development

Traditional Youth Services	Positive Youth Development
Focus on problems	Focus on positive outcomes
Deficit-based	Strengths-based
Reactive	Pro-active
Targeted Youth	All Youth involvement
Youth as recipients	Youth as active participants
Programs	Community response
Professional providers	Community members



Reference Material

- TIC & TST: <http://alamedacountytraumainformedcare.org/trauma-informed-care/trauma-informed-care-vs-trauma-specific-treatment-2/>
- TIC: <http://www.traumainformedcareproject.org/>
- PYD: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/positive-youth-development>
- PYD: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Positive_Youth_Development
- HR: <http://harmreduction.org/>
- TIC Supervision Modules by Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership : [http://hhyp.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/HHYP Supervision%20Guide.pdf](http://hhyp.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/HHYP_Supervision%20Guide.pdf)



Thank You!

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Building Permanent Connections for Youth

NAEH Conference February 18th, 2016

Defining Permanent Connections

Stable, healthy relationships and connections with family (whether biological or not), friends, mentors and other significant people to whom they can turn in good times and bad.

FAMILY



Family isn't
always blood. It's the
people in your life who
want you in theirs;
the ones who accept
YOU for who you are.

The ones who would
do anything to see
you smile & who
LOVE YOU
no matter what.

Why are Connections Important?

- Reunify youth with their family in the home to end an episode of homelessness and create a housing destination
- Improve the relationship between a youth and his/her family
- Emotionally connect youth with their family to increase a youth's chance at success
- Prevent or decrease the risk of a youth running away or being thrown out of the home in the future, by creating a supportive network
- Keep families in tact
- Address trauma

What does the data tell us?

- Regional data tells us that:
 - *43% of young adults are living with family or friends when completing a youth housing assessment (N=646).*
 - *For calendar year 2013: 41% of youth under 18 exited emergency shelter, 4% of YAs (18-25) exited emergency shelter, and 27% of YAs (18-25) exited transitional housing to family or friends*
 - *17% of YYA entered in regional community sign in (N=1,466) express interest in family reunification services.*
- Research shows that the more time YYA spend disconnected from families the more likely they are to have increased risk factors and reduced protective factors.

[illegible]

Family Engagement Workshops

- 87 participants across 24 organizations
- 3 stages of workshops
 - Practitioners
 - Agency Leadership
 - Systems Level
- Objectives
 - Highlight existing work, opportunities for shared learning, training, and service gaps
 - Develop and review recommendations

Identified Best Practices

Family Friendly Policy and Procedures

Natural Support Involvement

Involve and Support to the Family Unit

Ongoing Assessment of Safety

Promotion of Youth Choice

Connection to Family Resources

Post Reunification Support

Recommendations

Culture Change



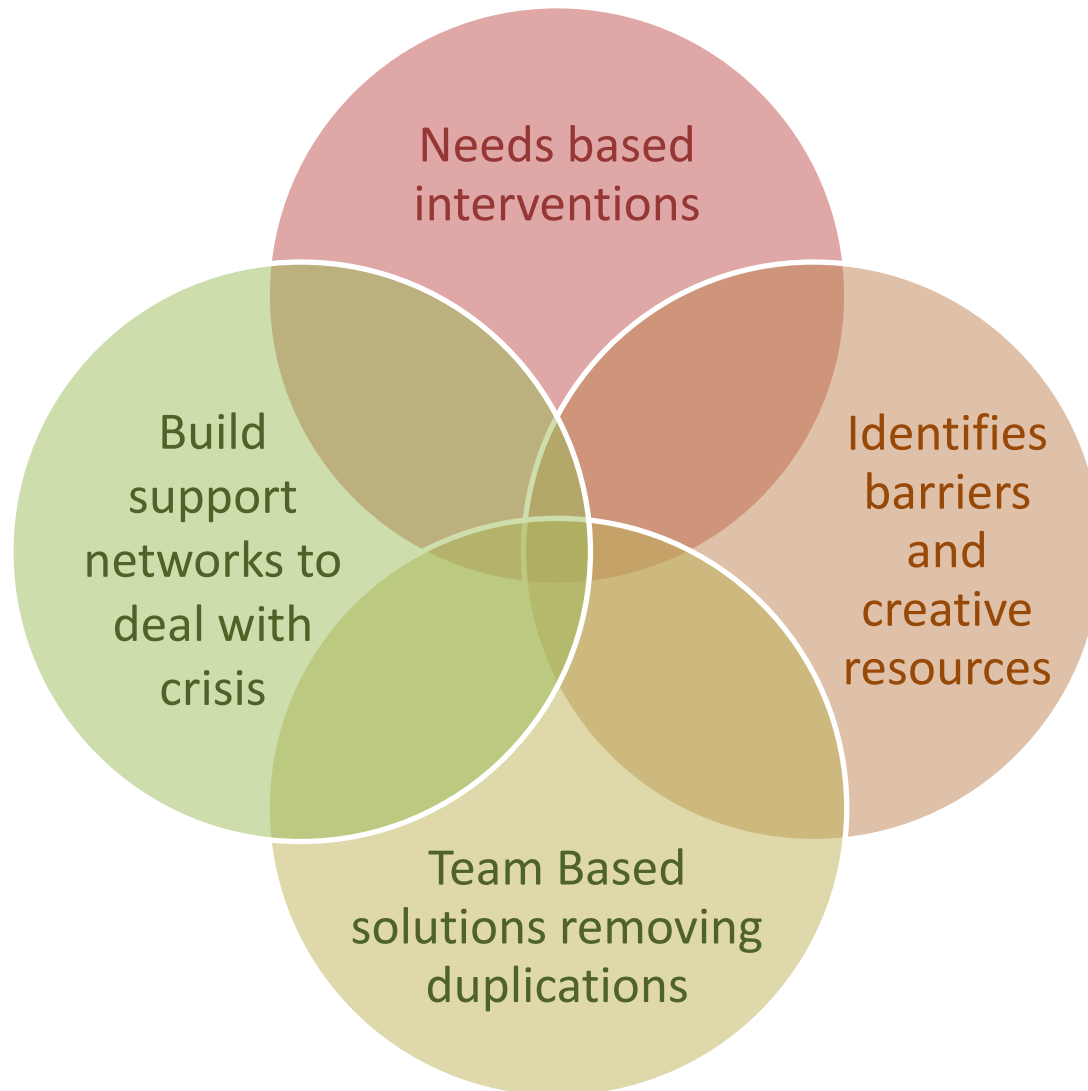
Improve Coordination



Fill Service Gaps



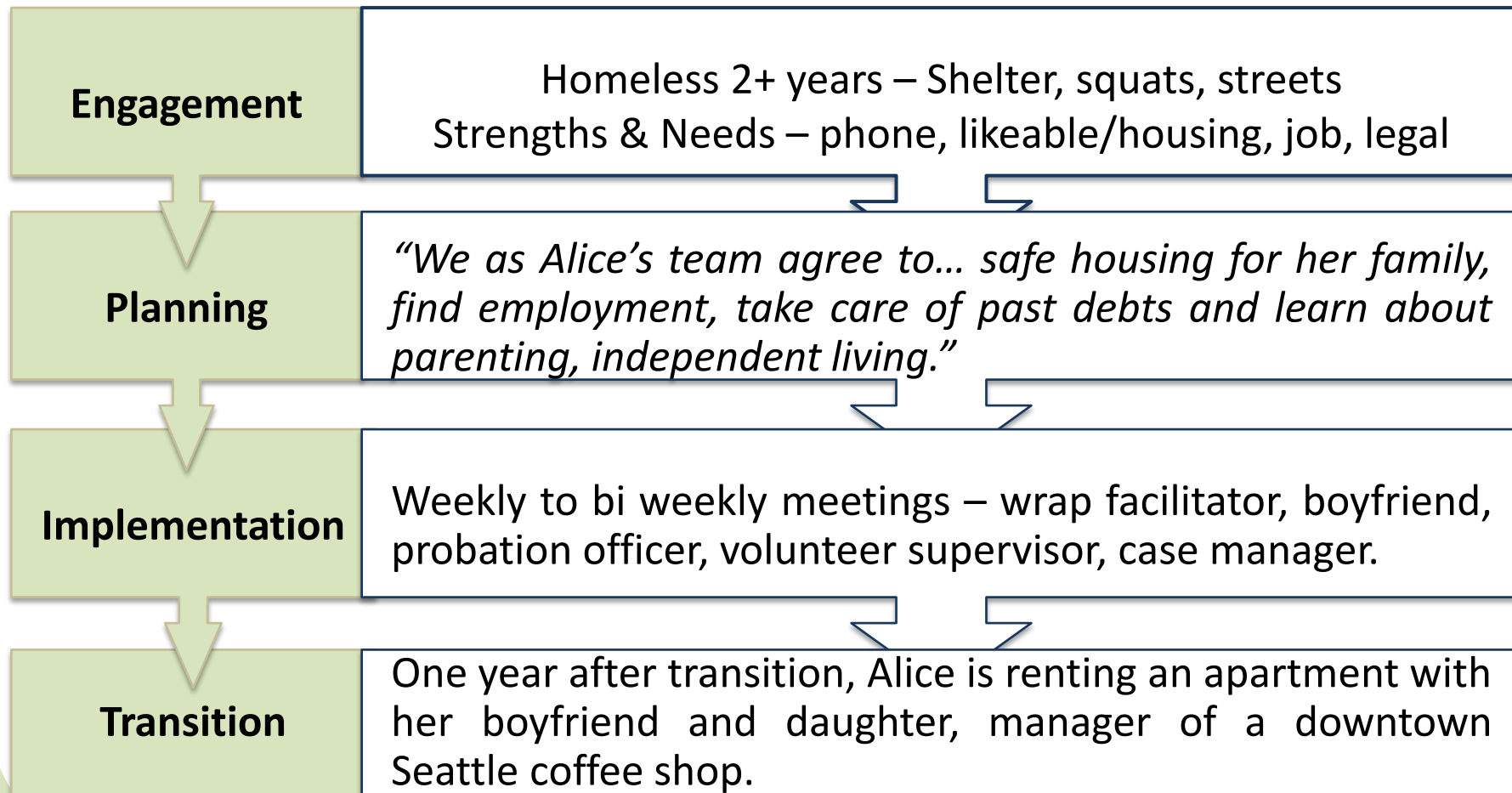
The Wraparound Model



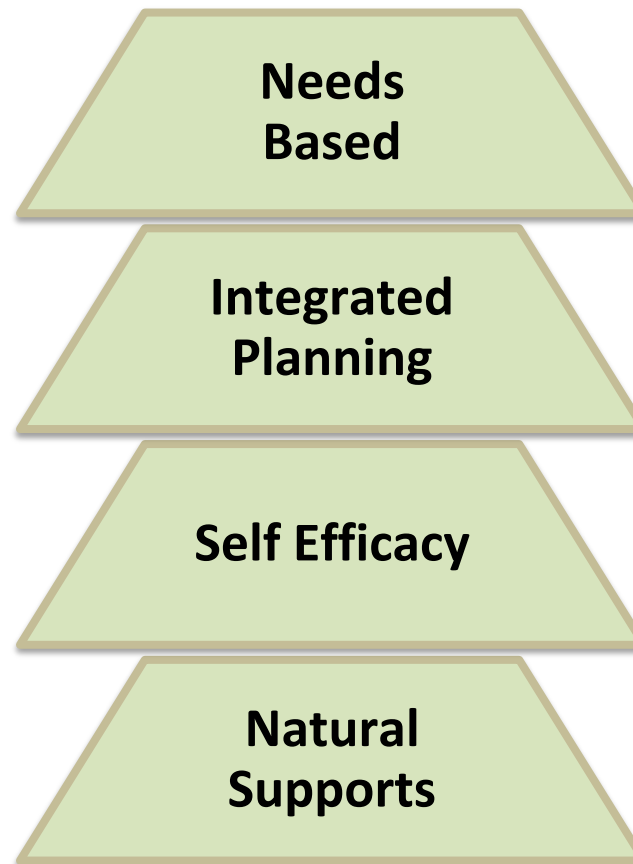
Wraparound Activities

Four Phases

Youth's Wrap Team



Wraparound Theory of Change



Our Results

73% of our wraparound teams have a natural support
55% report an increased number of permanent connections
91% of youth who exit the program exit with stable housing
40% exit to living with a natural support
70% youth are housed 1 year post exit

Lessons Learned

- It is important to be mindful of one's own natural supports lens.
- Natural supports is taught, experienced and may need to be explained. Defining what a safe adult may be necessary when talking with youth. Natural supports can mean more than just blood families and can include family-friends and friends.
- Service provider must address crisis first and foremost.
- There is a dual role of providing services for YYA and the natural supports. Service providers are not just asked to be YYA provider but also a family provider.
- Timing and other circumstances may change a youth's answer to connecting with natural supports
- Client assistance is needed to offer flexible solutions for youth to build permanent connections