

Lessons Learned from Moving On Initiatives

What did we
learn when a new
Mayor handed us
500 Housing
Opportunities with
the Philadelphia
Housing Authority

Housing Choice Voucher set aside program for persons experiencing homelessness

- 200 Housing Choice vouchers a year for the past 5 years. 300 Housing Opportunities for Families that are usually units in PHA conventional housing.
- 1200 single adults or couples leased, since 9/23/08.
- As of March, 2016, 87% remain leased.

Who did we MOVE ON?

- People who wanted to move. CHOICE is the most important factor.
- People who in the last year
 - Had no tenant complaints
 - Had paid rent on time with no reminders
 - Had not been hospitalized

What does it take?

- POLITICAL WILL!
- DATA
- Services- Not everyone needs ACT and people's needs change over time.
- Flexibility
- Focus on the end goal: ENDING HOMELESSNESS.

Political Will: Key Partners

- Governor. Where is your state on a Supportive Services benefit as part of your Medicaid Plan
- Mayor
- Local Housing Authority Board and Leadership
- Downtown business community
- Advocacy community
- Provider community
- Is there an organized Peer Community of Formerly Homeless Persons in your community? If so engage with them, if not START ONE.

Data

- Clearly defined goals: Start and end every meeting with a data update.
- How many PSH units in your community? How are they allocated? Who receives turn over units?
- How does your Housing Authority allocate resources? Does this make it easier for harder for priority groups (e.g. chronically homeless persons) to be prioritized for these resources.

Services

- Not everyone needs Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and its REALLY expensive.
- You want the optimal treatment dosage.
 - Too little services and people will be set up to fail.
 - Too much services and you have wasted scarce resources.
 - Just right, Enough services that people will succeed

Services

- Service Needs change over time.
- Recovery is a lifelong process. Engagement in recovery changes over time.
- Key variables to watch in a service package
 - Qualifications of the services staff
 - Staff to resident ratios
- Partnering with Medicaid and Managed Care organizations gives you a built in Utilization Management process for services.

Flexibility

- Never forget the end goal.
- Always ask WHY? Use each tough case as an opportunity to learn about each other's systems.
- Build relationships! This takes time and conscious effort.
- Learn each systems' challenges, priorities and cutting edge.
 - Does the system you come from have resources to address? Housing Authorities want to keep turn over rates low. Medicaid has pressure to decrease costs, which supportive housing has been proven to do. Politicians need to raise money and get re-elected.

Focus on End Goal: Ending Homelessness

- Filter all decisions through “does this get us closer or further away from ending homelessness”
- Pick your battles strategically.
- Look for opportunities to build on the partnerships.
- Use each other’s challenges as opportunities.

Outcomes for Housing Choice Voucher set aside program

- 12187 single adults or couples leased, since 9/23/08.
- As of March, 2016, 87% remain leased.

Contact Information

Marcella Maguire, Ph.D.

Marcella.Maguire@csh.org

Stay Connected

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CSH>



Follow us on Twitter: @cella65

DBHIDS: @CSH_Info

