National Alliance to END HOMELESSNESS

The Georgia Rapid Re-Housing Learning Collaborative Rapid Re-Housing Workshop

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RESEARCH AND EDUCATION • INFLUENCING FEDERAL POLICY • BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY



Center For CAPACITY BUILDING National Alliance To End Homelessness

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is the leading national voice on the issue of homelessness. The Alliance analyzes policy and develops pragmatic, effective policy solutions. The Alliance works collaboratively with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity, leading to stronger programs and policies that help communities achieve their goal of ending homelessness. The National Alliance to End Homelessness identifies and evaluates hundreds of policy and program strategies and their impact on homelessness. The Alliance's Center for Capacity Building helps communities replicate and customize the best of those strategies. The Center focuses on strategies that are cost effective, data driven, and can be implemented at a scale that can significantly reduce homelessness.

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. Homeless System Simulation Game
- Rapid Re-Housing Overview Setting the Stage for Best Practice
- 4. Introduction of Core Components and Standards
- 5. Rapid Re-housing Core Components and Best Practice Standards
 - Closing a Case
- 6. Challenges: Housing Barriers
- 7. Systemic Program Design
- 8. Next Steps Being a Change Agent



Welcome and Introductions

- What is your role or interest in rapid re-housing?
- Complete these sentences:
 - 1. One concern/question I have about rapid re-housing is...
 - 2. The challenge for our community in implementing rapid re-housing is...



Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) **ends homelessness** for families and individuals.

RRH HELPS

FIND HOUSING

Help people quickly find housing within one month or less.

PAY FOR HOUSING

Help people pay for housing short term; longer-term help an option.

STAYIN HOUSING

Help access services so people can stay in housing.

The **Core Components** of Rapid Re-Housing help people **find** housing fast, **pay** for housing, and **stay** in housing.



HOMELESS SYSTEM SIMULATION GAME

Activity

Before we Start

- Each table represents a Continuum of Care
- Sit with persons from different organizations
- Seven to a table
- Please wait to receive instructions before you begin



Object of the Game

- Move as many beads as possible into permanent housing
- Prevent beads from exiting your system into unsheltered homelessness



Basic Instructions

- Each player takes their turn one at a time
- All decisions made by consensus. If you cannot make a decision by the time allowed, you must move on to the next round.
- Each round is timed
- If you finish a round prior to announcement, feel free to move ahead



Game Instructional Video

http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/homeless-system-simulation-game









POP QUIZ!



Pop Quiz

- 1. The goal of rapid re-housing is...
- 2. Eligibility for rapid re-housing is...
- 3. Rapid re-housing means...
- 4. The core components of rapid re-housing are...
- Chronically homeless persons lose their chronic status once they are rapidly re-housed. (True/False)



1. Goal of Rapid Re-Housing

- Move households quickly to permanent housing
 - Reduce the length of time people experience homeless
 - Exit households quickly to permanent housing
 - Limit returns to homelessness
 - Inclusive programs that house anyone





2. Eligibility for Rapid Re-Housing

- Literally homeless
 - HUD Category 1
 - On the streets in a place not meant for human habitation
 - Emergency shelter
 - HUD Category 4
 - Domestic Violence
- Cannot exit homelessness on their own



3. What does rapid re-housing mean?

- Rapid: (Adj.) Moving, acting, or occurring at great speed
- Re-Housing: (Verb) Provide (someone) with new housing
- Rapid Re-Housing: An intervention designed to help individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing





4. The Core Components

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5.Chronically homeless persons lose their chronic status once they are rapidly re-housed.

Answer: FALSE (What does HUD say?)

Q. Does someone that is receiving rapid re-housing considered chronically homeless for purposes of remaining eligible for permanent housing placements dedicated to chronically homeless?

A: Yes. Participants maintain their chronically homeless status while they are receiving the rapid re-housing.



Source: HUD FAQ





ENDHOMELESSNESS.ORG

RAPID RE-HOUSING OVERVIEW

HEARTH Act

- HEARTH Act Goal: 30 days or less from homelessness into permanent housing
- Reality: Housing location and placement process should begin immediately after assessment and prevention and diversion have been eliminated



Why Rapid Re-Housing?

- Housing First: People experiencing homelessness deserve housing first without preconditions.
- **Crisis/Stress Biology**: The neurohormones related during stress drive people to unconsciously prioritize short term rewards.
- Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: Survival and safety needs will drive behavior until these needs are met. Only then can a person focus on other, "higher," needs.





What does Housing First mean?

Housing First is a paradigm shift from the traditional housing ready approach. It follows a basic principle—that everyone is ready for housing, regardless of the complexity or severity of their needs.

Housing First is not a "program," it is a systemwide orientation and response.

-Ann Oliva: SNAPS Weekly Focus



Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing Principles

- Homelessness is a housing problem
- Permanent housing is a right
- People should be returned to permanent housing quickly and connected to resources needed to stay there
- Issues can best be addressed once people are permanently housed
- Housing is critical regardless of barriers

Is Rapid Re-housing For Everyone?

- Hard to tell who will and will not be successful
- No assessment for client resiliency
- Not a one size fits all program



Things to Keep in Mind

- Households experiencing homelessness are not significantly different than other poor households
- Majority experience homelessness due to a financial or other crisis
- Prolonged exposure to homelessness has a significant negative impact on adults and children





Homelessness and Poverty



Source: Census and HUD PIT Count





RAPID RE-HOUSING OUTCOMES AND OTHER DATA









RRH Shortens Homelessness and Helps More People



Exited shelter 3.2 months faster than those referred to rapid re-housing but did not enroll



5 families rapidly re-housed with what it costs via transitional housing (6k per family vs. 32k)

Source: Family Options Study



Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) National Data

Exhibit 23: Time to Housing Placement and Length of Participation among Rapid Re-housing Veteran Exiters, FY 2015³⁷



SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository Data.



Exhibit 20: PH Success Rates by Monthly Income at Program Entry Among Veterans Served, FY 2015³⁴



n= 73,012

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository Data.



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HOMELESSNESS

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) National Data

- The cost of SSVF rapid re-housing was \$3,689 per household in FY2015
- 9% of families and 16% of individuals returned to homelessness after 1 year, 16% of families and 27% of individuals returned to homelessness after 2 years
- Statistically Significant Predictors of Returns to Homelessness:
 History of Homelessness -Use of VA Healthcare after Exit -Age 44-54
- NOT Statistically Significant Predictors of Returns to Homelessness:

 Housing Vacancy Rate
 Rent Amount
 Rent Burden
 Income at Program Entry
 Disabling Condition
 Length of Participation



Exits to Permanent Housing



Source: Data from 14 Continuums in seven states that prepared Evaluators for NAEH Performance Improvement Clinics in 2011-2012



Exits to Permanent Housing








Cost Effectiveness



Data from 14 Continuums in seven states that prepared Evaluators for NAEH Performance Improvement Clinics in 2011-2012



Georgia Data



Georgia State PIT Count





GA Statewide 2017 PIT



National Alliance to END HOMELESSNESS

2015 Statewide Report on Homelessness

Unsheltered Change Since 2013





Georgia State-Wide HIC



National Alliance to END HOMELESSNESS

Georgia State-Wide HIC 2016



■ ES ■ TH ■ PSH ■ RRH



Georgia BOS 2017 HIC



ES TH PSH RRH



Georgia BOS RRH Funding

BOS ESG RRH Funding



RRH \$ Other ESG \$



Georgia BOS RRH Funding

BOS ESG RRH Funding

CoC Funding









Georgia ESG Rapid Re-Housing

In FY 2015

- 90.18% exited to permanent housing
- 89.6% do not return to homelessness
- Average income at entry \$430



- Rapid re-housing clients who were in families with children
- Rapid re-housing clients who were in households with only adults



Impact of rapid re-housing

Is your rapid re-housing having a measurable impact on reducing homelessness in your community?





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The **Core Components** of Rapid Re-Housing help people **find** housing fast, **pay** for housing, and **stay** in housing.









CORE COMPONENTS OF



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD1C2s9Zxt4&index=2&list=PLd8XvEHws y88zu9nBhDbt1FJQKhJvY6vL



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Rapid Re-Housing Performance Benchmarks and Program Standards

- 3 benchmarks
 - 30 days from enrollment in rapid re-housing to move into permanent housing
 - 80% of exits from rapid re-housing are to permanent housing
 - 85% of households do not become homelessness again within a year
- 53 standards
 - 3 Core Components
 - Program Design and Philosophy



Core Components

- Not linear
- Cannot work in Silos
- RRH Case Management is an integral part of housing identification and financial assistance



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Build relationships with landlords to have access to as many housing units as possible.

Find and secure housing as quickly as possible after a person or family becomes homeless.



Limit the time a family or individual spends homeless. Move people into housing within **30 days or less**.

Housing Identification Standards

- Actively recruit and retain landlords
- □Find housing that participants can maintain
- □Facilitate shared housing
- Help participants access
 - desirable and affordable units





Role of Case Management in Housing Identification

- Provides support during housing search
- Identify and mitigate barriers to entering housing
- Ensures "good fit" between landlord and client
- Assist client to realistically identify the "right" housing option



Tenancy Barriers

What are tenancy barriers?

- Rental history
- Previous eviction
- Criminal record
- Income
- Pets
- Others?

Don't screen people out for:

- Not enough income at entry
- "Employability"
- Exhibiting a "desire" to change
- Having a "good" attitude
- Being cooperative and engaging
- Seeming "motivated"
- Having tried rapid rehousing before



Four Things Landlords Want









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ACTIVITY Landlord Identification and Recruitment

Housing Identification

Group One: List all the places to find/recruit landlords

Group Two: List all the ways to convince potential landlords to rent to your clients



Finding Landlords in a Difficult Market

- Developing and maintaining landlord relationships must be someone's full time job
- Housing search is proactive
- Have realistic conversations with clients about what they can afford
- Cut checks fast
- Focus on housing





Creativity is Key

- Be bold and realistic
- Shared housing can be a good solution





Shared Housing Getting Prepared

- 1. Landlord and Leasing Issues
 - Identify landlords amenable to shared housing
 - One lease or several leases
 - What happens if one party bails, etc.
- 2. Roommates and Matching
 - Preparation with each party
 - Clarify responsibilities in advance
 - What is the "right" match
- 3. RRH case management and shared housing
 - preparing for role case manager as mediator
 - Staff training on mediation



What do I want in a housemate?

What to Look for or Avoid	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Someone I like				
Someone who will not have many visitors				
Someone who smokes				
Someone who is clean and sober				
Someone with pets				
A "night" person				



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HELP PAY RENT AND MOVE-IN ASSISTANCE

Pay for security deposits, move-in expenses... ... and/or rent and utilities.



Length of assistance varies, but often **4 to 6 months**.

Financial Assistance Standards

- Provide assistance for participants to move immediately out of homelessness
- Provide the minimum necessary to maximize the number of households housed
- Not a standard "package" must be flexible enough to adjust to participants' unique needs and resources





Role of Case Manager and Financial Assistance

- Assists to determine the "right" individual financial assistance
- Help identifies all potential resources of \$\$ to pay towards rent
- Client assumes maintaining housing identifies and pursues what is needed



Flexible Financial Assistance

- Individualized assistance helps
 house more people
- Do not forget about client resiliency
- Financial assistance is to pay for housing, not alleviate poverty
- Do not count on a permanent subsidy
- Remember, it is NOT one-size-fits-all








Honest Monthly Budget OrgCode

The Honest Monthly Budget Sample

Client: Chris	Version: 1	Date: Februar	46

Things that I have t	o spend money on:	Formal ways I get mone	y:
Rent	\$604	Job	\$0
Utilities	\$0	General Welfare	\$731
Food	\$100	Disability	\$0
Arrears	\$300	Pension	\$0
Repairs	\$0	Inheritance	\$0
TOTAL	\$1004	TOTAL	\$731

Other money that comes in goes toward:		Informal ways I get money:	
Child Support	\$0	Binning/Bottle Collecting	\$100
Debts	\$50	Odd Jobs	\$75
Cigarettes	\$100	Treasure Hunting	\$0
Coffee	\$0	Baby Sitting	\$50
Alcohol	\$200	Sex Work	\$0
Other Drugs	\$0	Drug Running/Dealing	\$0
Health Stuff	\$30	Day Labour	\$200
	Source:	OrgCode	



It's Time For A Break 🗴



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Rapid Re-Housing Case Management and Services Standards

- □ Voluntary but proactive case management
- □ Strengths-based approach to empower clients
- Help participants build a support network outside of program
- Case plans are:
 - □ Focused on housing retention
 - □ Short term
 - Summarize the steps both the case manager and the participant will take





Role of "Case Manager"

- Service broker
- Engaging household
- Warm handoffs to other providers
- Every conversation is housing focused
- Case management phase is the most critical component to the households maintaining housing



" We say that at home, we can 'be ourselves.' Everywhere else, we are someone else."

Evicted, Matthew Desmond



Housing-Focused Services

Paying for my apartment			
How much rent do I pay each month?			
When is my rent due each month?			
Where do I send my rent payment?			
If the rent is late, is there a late fee? How much is the late fee?			
What are the rules about noise?			
What pets are allowed?			
Are there rules about housecleaning?			
Can the landlord enter my apartment?			

- Tenant
 - responsibilities
- Living arrangements
- Healthy
 - Boundaries
- Resourcefulness



Voluntary Services

- Client decides when visits occur, not how often
- Reschedule, reschedule, reschedule
- Identify and support household strengths
- Client identifies goals for how they will keep their housing





" If your services are meaningful to participants' goals, they will choose engagement."

Staff Observation from the HomeFree rapid re-housing program in Portland, OR



Strengths-Based

- Assess and build upon a person's strengths
- Use their strengths to empower them
- Avoids stigmatizing language
- Fosters hope
- Establishes positive building blocks that already exist as a foundation for growth
- Reduces power and authority barrier





Strengths-Based Affirmation Activity

Bill has just missed his third scheduled appointment with you. You've tried to call him but his phone is out of minutes. It's 4:45pm and you are wrapping up for the day and hear a knock on the office door. It's Bill, and he is anxious to complete the Social Security application you agreed to go over with him. Bill apologizes for missing the previous meetings but says he had a doctor's appointment he needed to attend. You specifically asked Bill prior to scheduling the third meeting whether he had conflicts and he said "No."



Strengths Based Re-Framing

Deficit Based

- Family is in perpetual crisis
- Family is dysfunctional
- Family resists agency intervention
- Parents fight
- Family wants maximum assistance

Strengths Based

- Family has continued to exist under stress, have strengths that have helped them survive together so far
- Family is overwhelmed and is in need of support
- Family believes in taking care of their own
- Parents are still together or still communicate
- Family wants to stay housed



Services





Support Map for ______

Family

lame:	
Contact Info:	
ype of help:	

lame:	
Contact Info:	
ype of help:	

Community Assistance Programs

Ν	0	n	n	0		
	a				•	

Contact Info:_____

Type of help:_____

Name: _____

Contact Info:	
Type of help:	

Name: _____

Contact Info:	
Type of help:	

Strengths:_____

May need support with _____

Name:		
ontact Info	o:	
ype of nei	o:	
Other	Commu	inity Reso
Name:	for	
Contact in	10:	
Type of ne	ib:	
Name:		
	fo:	
Contact In		
Contact In Type of he	lp:	
Contact In Type of he	lp:	
Contact In Type of he	lp:	
Name: _	lp:	
Name: _	lp:	

Name: _____ Contact Info:_____ Type of help:_____

Name: _____

Contact Info:

Type of help:_____

Friends

What Does Housing Stability Mean?

- Do rapid re-housing clients have to stay in the same unit in which they were placed?
- Should we try to place clients in units they can eventually afford?
- Should clients have enough income when they enter rapid re-housing to sustain housing after assistance ends?



CLOSING A CASE



Closing a Case Key Considerations

- Clarity: Ending homelessness or ending poverty?
 - What are you measuring to determine if someone is "ready"?
 - Transparency: outlined in Policies and Procedures and shared with staff AND clients
- Exiting planning starts at entry
 - Case plans goals are short term (can be completed within 30 90 days) and focused on housing
- Case manager regularly review goal progress, discuss if exit timeline still works, and adjust
 - Transparently discuss options and criteria for ending assistance
- Resources are in the community
 - Your program and supports can not and should not be the only supports



Case Closing Questions and Indicators

- When do you assess whether to close a case or continue providing assistance?
- Who is involved in the decision-making?
- What are the key indicators you assess to make this determination?
 - Ratio of income to rent/living costs?
 - Housing in good standing?
 - Connections to resources and supports?



Exit Case Study

Stephanie has been working with your program for nine months. She was initially very engaged with program services and was moved into permanent housing after only a two-month housing search process. Her level of engagement took a downturn a few months ago, however, and it has been a challenge to get her to respond to phone calls or meet with her case manager.

Stephanie's only income is the \$733 she gets from SSI. Rent for her room is \$800/month. She reported to the case manager at intake that she wanted to work, but several months of working with the local employment services department has not led to any job offers.

Stephanie's landlord has reported that she is a very good tenant and has been a good neighbor but is concerned that she will not be able to pay the rent after her time in the program is complete. You have just paid the final month of rent for which Stephanie is eligible.



OrgCode Exit Planning Tool

EXCELLENCE IN HOUSING

Exit Planning

Client:	Version	Date	
cuent	Version.	Dute.	

About Us

Family Name:	
Head(s) of Household:	
Address:	
Health Insurance	

Emergency/Medical Contacts

Role/Relationship	Name	Telephone Number
Emergency	Emergency Services	9-1-1
1.	10 5000 20 6 26 20	
2.		
3.	20 20	

Our Plan to Maintain Housing

I will continue to pay our rent by making sure we do the following things:

I will make sure that we don't get kicked out of the apartment by doing/not doing the following things:







Brainstorm solutions to all challenges staff identify!





COMMERCIAL BREAK

Re-Housing Clients with High Tenancy Barriers



Homelessness is Misunderstood & It Impacts Shelter Practice

While there are over 43 Million people living in poverty, less than 600,000 will be homeless on any given night.

Federal rent assistance programs only assist 5 Million people annually.

4.2% of the population in the United States lives with a Serious Mental Illness. Only 42% receive treatment or counseling.

7% of the population has an addiction or dependency on alcohol. 93% receive nor treatment or assistance with their problematic alcohol use.

3% of the population uses other illicit drugs. 88% receive no treatment or counseling.



Most People Stay Housed

- Almost everyone with poor credit history is housed, not homeless.
- Almost everyone with a history of evictions is housed, not homeless.
- Almost everyone with a felony conviction is housed, not homeless.
- Almost everyone who is a registered sex offender or sexual predator is housed, not homeless.

-Orgcode



Virginia High Barrier Families Pilot Evaluation

- 11 organizations targeted families with high barriers to housing
- 92% in permanent housing at conclusion of pilot
- Medium income increased after housing placement
- Families housed in 30 - 45 days





SYSTEMIC PROGRAM DESIGN







Collective Impact and Rapid Re-Housing

Common agenda

- Homelessness is a problem with a solution housing
- Rapid Re-Housing is a necessary part of a communities solution to end homelessness

Shared measurement systems

RRH programs use same benchmarks to measure effectiveness, regardless of populations served

Mutually reinforcing activities

- Core components and eligibility standards
- Independent programming not as effective

Continuous communication

- RRH providers stay connected and message the same agenda and activities
- Backbone support organization
 - Integral part of the full continuum of care make sure RRH is seen systemically



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Systemic Rapid Re-Housing

- Best practice standards for core components across providers
 - Housing Identification
 - Financial Assistance
 - Rapid Re-Housing Case
 Management

Never a one size fits all package program But not a bunch of "boutique" programs



Program or Systemic Intervention





Staffing Challenges

- Not for everyone
 - Not typical social work
 - Short term relationships
 - Problem solvers
- Revisit job descriptions
 - Clear expectations
 - Not the same job descriptions as before
 - Nights and weekends
- Skills and passion
 - If you don't love this job, you shouldn't do it
 - Ability to connect and let go quickly

Staffing

Housing Locator

- Understands the needs and concerns of landlords
- Identifies housing resources and recruits landlords
- Helps participants identify their housing needs
- Knowledgeable about landlordtenant law

Housing Stability Case Manager

- Provides case management during and after housing placement
- Links clients to mainstream and community resources for stabilization
- Helps client identify strengths to retain housing and behaviors that contribute to housing instability
- Home-based visits



Staff Training

First Month

- Boundaries and confidentiality
- Safety and emergency preparedness
- CRP/First Aid
- Homelessness
 101
- Housing First

First Six Months

- Motivational Interviewing
- Mental health and substance abuse dual recovery
- Trauma informed care
- Harm reduction

Annually

- Safety
- Confidentiality
- Self-care
- Anti-harassment
- Cultural competency

Friendship Place Staff Training Policies and Procedures



NEXT STEPS – BEING A CHANGE AGENT



Things to Keep in Mind

- Households experiencing homelessness are not significantly different that other poor households
- Majority experience homelessness due to a financial or other crisis
- Prolonged exposure to homelessness has a significant negative impact on adults and children



Summary

- Rapid re-housing is not a program, it is a critical system-wide intervention to end homelessness
- The Core Components of Rapid Re-Housing help people:
 - Find housing fast
 - Pay for housing in the short term
 - Stay in their housing



Remember

Rapid Re-Housing Does

- Reduces the length of time people experience homelessness
- Minimize the negative impact of homelessness on their lives
- Assist people to access resources that can help with long term goals – if they choose

Rapid Re-Housing Does Not

- Eliminate poverty
- Assure people will have affordable housing
- Protect people from impact of life losses or bad choices
- Eliminate housing mobility

HOUSED PEOPLE ARE NOT HOMELESS



What is one thing you commit to doing differently in the next week?



NAEH Resources

www.endhomelessness.org

- Rapid Re-Housing Benchmarks and Standards
- Rapid Re-Housing Toolkit
- "Rapid Re-Housing Works" landing page



Anything Else?

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