

# Rapid Rehousing: Overview and New Developments

- Department of Mental  
Health 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Housing  
Institute June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

# Learning Objectives

- o By the end of this workshop, attendees will:
  - o Have a greater understanding of rapid rehousing programs
  - o Know what rapid rehousing programs are available in Los Angeles County

# What is Rapid Rehousing?

- Rapid: (Adj.) Moving, acting or occurring at a great speed
- Re-housing: (Verb) Provide (someone) with new housing.
- Web definitions of rapid re-housing: Approach that focuses on moving individuals and families that are homeless into housing as quickly as possible (NAEH)

# Core Components

- **Housing Identification**

- Assist households to find and secure appropriate rental housing

- **Rent and Move-In Assistance (Financial)**

- Move-in costs, deposits, and the rental and/or utility assistance

- **Rapid Re-Housing Case Management and Services**

- Make appropriate and time-limited services and supports available to families and individuals to allow them to stabilize quickly in permanent housing.
- Monitor participants' housing stability and be available to resolve crises, at a minimum during the time rapid re-housing assistance is provided.
- Provide or assist the household with connections to resources that help them improve their safety and well-being and achieve their long-term goals.

# Why Rapid Rehousing?

- Rapid re-housing places a priority on moving a household experiencing homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible without having to meet a checklist of eligibility criteria—or ever have to enter shelter
- Help households experiencing homelessness identify and select among various permanent housing options based on their unique needs, preferences, and financial resources
- Help households negotiate manageable and appropriate lease agreements with landlords
- Make appropriate and time-limited services and supports available to families and individuals to allow them to stabilize quickly in permanent housing.

# Benefits of Rapid Rehousing

- *o* Significantly increased the number of households moving into permanent housing
- *o* Reduction of the average length of stay in homelessness/shelter
- *o* LA County recidivism rates are consistently below national averages
- *o* Ensures that limited resources such as PSH or Section 8 go to those most in need

# The Challenges

- o Some households do not want to move into permanent housing without Section 8 or low-income housing
- o Employment is not always a welcomed approach
- o Some people feel they are more needy than the assessment indicates
- o Some households WILL fall out of housing and return for services—its going to happen BUT the system is ready to respond
- o Getting staff onboard with “Housing First” strategies—meaning moving households with zero income into housing

# Housing First

Housing First is an approach to ending homelessness that centers on providing people experiencing homelessness with housing as quickly as possible – and then providing services as needed.

[http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/housing\\_first](http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/housing_first)

# Critical Elements of Housing

## First

- o There is a focus on helping individuals and families access and sustain rental housing *as quickly as possible and the housing is not time-limited*;
- o A variety of services are delivered primarily following a housing placement to promote housing stability and individual well-being;
- o Such services are time-limited or long-term depending upon individual need; and
- o Housing is not contingent on compliance with services – instead, participants must comply with a standard lease agreement and are provided with the services and supports that are necessary to help them do so successfully.

# Progressive Engagement

Progressive engagement refers to a strategy of starting off offering a small amount of assistance initially, and adding more if needed to help each household reach stability. This strategy uses the lightest touch possible for each household to be successful, knowing more assistance can be added later if needed.

[http://usich.gov/population/families/progressive\\_engagement/](http://usich.gov/population/families/progressive_engagement/)

# Harm Reduction

- **Harm reduction** refers to policies, programs and practices that aim to reduce the harms associated with the use of psychoactive drugs in people unable or unwilling to stop. The defining features are the focus on the **prevention of harm**, rather than on the prevention of drug use itself, and the focus on people who continue to use drugs.
- *The utilization of harm reduction strategies can be a useful tool in all aspects of housing stabilization-not just in the arena of substance use.*

# Rapid Rehousing for Adults and Veterans

- *o* First step of the City of Los Angeles comprehensive strategies to end homelessness
- *o* Address immediate needs of homeless individuals by providing short-term assistance to homeless individuals to get off the street and on with their lives

# RRAV Components

- o Standardized Assessment
- o Individualized Assistance: Case Management & Housing Search and Placement
- o Direct Financial Assistance
- o Housing Stabilization
- o Community Based Collaboration

“Assessing for assumed client success in maintaining permanent housing should not be part of pre-intake screening or admission to a RRH program”

– NAEH Guidance

# RRAV Target Population

- o Homeless individuals or homeless households comprised entirely of adults
- o Literally homeless or fleeing domestic violence (HUD Category 1 or 4)
- o CES Survey Priority Score 1 (must be chronically homeless), Priority Score 2, Priority Score 3 (must have acuity score 8-9), & TAY (Priority Score 1 w/ acuity score 2 or 3)
- o Household income below 50% AMI
- o Currently resides or has resided in the City of Los Angeles in the previous 12 months
- o Subpopulations include Veterans not eligible for SSVF and TAY
- o Limited supportive services & financial assistance for HACLA voucher holders

# Department of Health Services Housing and Jobs Collaborative (HJC)

- Key principle

- There is absolutely nothing more fundamental to achieving long-term stability than a stable place to live and a way to earn a living.

# HJC Components

- Short-term rental subsidies
- Case Management
- Employment Services

# HJC Target Population

- o Adult, single, non-chronically homeless individuals not requiring long-term or significant service needs
- o Adults who can return to gainful employment with supportive employment services, short-term vocational training, or through connections back to their former area of employment
- o Individuals identified as needing a short-term rental subsidy

# Homeless Family Solution System

- Coordinated and integrated network of homeless family service providers
- Targets families to the most appropriate housing intervention
- Multiple rapid rehousing funding streams allow for maximum flexibility of short-term rental subsidies

# System Eligibility

## General Eligibility

- o Household is a family
- o Literally homeless or imminently at-risk
- o Annual household income is at or below 50% AMI

## Program Specific Eligibility

- o Annual household income at or below 30% AMI
- o Literally homeless or imminently at-risk
- o Mental health, substance abuse, etc

# Panel Discussion

- o Are there any special considerations which need to be taken into account for certain populations?
  - o Have rapid rehousing programs successfully served these populations?
- o What are some of the biggest challenges faced by rapid rehousing program participants?
- o What solutions have you used to address those challenges?

Questions?

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