

Housing First Case Scenario

Directions

- As a team at your table, read the case example on your table about Kevin
- Choose a person to report out to the large group
- Working together as a team, use the USICH Housing First Checklist at the Program Level to answer the questions below

Scenario

A local shelter has referred Kevin to a Permanent Supportive Housing Program that has beautiful, relatively new units. The program requires weekly meetings with a case manager. Kevin is meeting with a staff member of the housing program to see if he is eligible. Here's what Kevin shares in response to the staff questions:

I've been homeless for a long time. I don't have any money and I can't work. I used to have an apartment a long time ago. I was evicted because of using alcohol and all the people that came into my apartment. I have tried to stop drinking but it is hard. It is very hard being in the shelter—too hard to sleep and deal with my diabetes.

The staff member tells Kevin that the housing program doesn't allow alcohol use and gives him a referral for a substance abuse treatment program and a transitional housing program so he can work on getting clean and learn good tenancy skills.

Questions

1. What actions did the staff take that are not housing first?
2. What can they do to move their program to a housing first approach?
3. What support might the program need to make this shift?
4. What happened here from a system perspective? What can they do to move their system to a housing first approach?