EveryTown Community Scenario

The Everytown CoC is a Balance of State continuum that covers a 22 Counties across the State. There are 10 shelters within Everytowns's geography. The largest shelter has 220 beds and the smallest shelter is a 6-bed facility for families. Everytown's CoC leadership and direct staff have made strong efforts toward ending homelessness. In the last 2 years, a lot of work has gone into fully implementing Coordinated Entry. The CoC was successfully awarded an end to Veteran homelessness by the USICH a year ago, and chronic homelessness is the lowest it has been in 15 years. That said, the local shelters still have an in-flow that is generally greater than their "out-flow" and there is a growing number of individuals that are sleeping unsheltered in various encampments across Everytown's geography. There is also a growing number of households calling the local 211 Emergency Crisis Line, which also acts as a Coordinated Entry Access Point. Rental cost are high and accessibility to affordable units are low. As a member of the CoC Board of Directors, you and others are consistently fielding questions from political leaders and concerned community members about the increased numbers of individuals sleeping on the streets. During a CoC steering committee meeting, Everytown CoC decided it would spend the next year trying to effectively implement a diversion program, and they will kick-off the effort during a planning retreat. In preparation for the retreat you have been asked to consider/answer the following questions:

1. What proportion of the homeless population do you hope to divert?

2. What are the 2 biggest challenges you anticipate?

3. Where within CES would Diversion conversations happen?

4. What kind of staff skills are needed for this work?

5. What kind of support do staff need?

6. What kind of support do your agencies need within the system?

7. What resources (financial, training, staff, service, etc.) are needed as part of your Diversion tool box?

8. Would you do any follow-up with Diversion clients?

Everytown's board decided to invite individuals that work directly (direct service/front line) with families, Domestic Violence Survivors, Veterans, Youth, and Outreach to the planning retreat. In preparation for the retreat these participants were asked to consider the following questions.

1. What kind of support and training would you need as a frontline service provider?

2. What kind of support do you think your agencies will need?

3. Where is the best place within the entire CE system for a diversion conversation to happen?

4. Are there special considerations based on subpopulations that need to be considered and what are they?

5. Are there special considerations based on geography that need to be considered and what are they?

As an additional step in the implementation of Everytown's diversion planning, the board has asked a group of local homeless advocates to review the implementation plan. The advocacy group consists of 3 previously homeless individuals and 3 presently homeless individuals. Your group is responsible for presenting Everytown's diversion plan to the advocates. Please take a couple of moments to consider the following.

1. What are the 3 most important components of this plan that might need to be communicated to the advocacy group?

2. Can you anticipate any questions or concerns the group might have from their perspective?