Progressive Engagement Activity

Who needs more assistance and is the system structured to respond?

Instructions: In this exercise, you will work with the group at your table to talk through the scenario and make decisions about whether or not the household needs further assistance. Then, you will work to determine what SYSTEMIC elements or action steps need to be addressed to make sure the system response is appropriate. You can assume that RRH is the only program you can offer to each of the households at first and that each household in the exercise is eligible and approved for RRH from one program or another. Each household served will have received pre-housing services and move in assistance.

In the BACKGROUND section, you will learn about the household. In the "AFTER TWO MONTHS IN RRH" section you will learn how the household is doing.

SCENARIO 1: GARY

BACKGROUND: Gary has two boys, ages 10 and 13. They have been living in a shelter for four months after a string of evictions and doubling up with family. Gary is excited about being approved for Rapid Rehousing but worried that he won't find a landlord who will rent to them. Gary does day labor here and there and worries that his inconsistent income won't be enough to pay the rent if he does find a landlord. It's hard for him to keep a job because his ten year old is severely autistic and needs a lot of attention. The boy's school is helping them through the application process for disability.

AFTER A FEW MONTHS IN RRH: Gary's case manager reports that the ten year old was approved for disability. The first check will arrive next month. The school also supported them by helping enroll the ten year old in before and after school services, so Gary is now available to do more consistent work although he hasn't found anything yet. The case manager has checked with the landlord who reports the family is quiet and keeps to themselves. She commented that she thinks Gary is a good father.

QUESTION 1: Does this household need more assistance? If so, what assistance and/or services do they need? Why did you make that decision?

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QUESTION 2: Is your system set up to offer what the household needs?

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QUESTION 3: How can you take action to make sure your system can respond to what the household needs?

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Progressive Engagement Activity

Who Needs More Assistance and Is the System Structured to Respond?

Instructions: In this exercise, you will work with the group at your table to talk through the scenario and make decisions about whether or not the household needs further assistance. Then, you will work to determine what SYSTEMIC elements or action steps need to be addressed to make sure the system response is appropriate. You can assume that RRH is the only program you can offer to each of the households at first and that each household in the exercise is eligible and approved for RRH from one program or another. Each household served will have received pre-housing services and move in assistance.

In the BACKGROUND section, you will learn about the household. In the AFTER A FEW MONTHS IN RRH section you will learn how the household is doing.

SCENARIO 2: SERENA

BACKGROUND: Serena has been homeless off and on for longer than she can remember. She has managed to stay clean for six months but it's a struggle every day. She was engaged by street outreach for the first time nine months ago. The worker performed a VI-SPDAT and told her she got a 15. She was so happy to hear that she scored high enough to move into a PSH apartment but is discouraged because her housing is taking too long. Serena receives SSI but often runs out of money by about the 15th of each month, especially if she decides to stay in motels. A Housing Navigator she is working with asked Serena if she would be interested in moving out on RRH since there are not enough PSH units. The Navigator said there are a couple apartments that are cheap—around 70% of her SSI income. Serena agrees to move out so she doesn't have to be on the streets anymore. Serena owes money to the power company and thinks she might have an eviction on her record. She also has a warrant from a misdemeanor trespassing she got a while back.

AFTER A FEW MONTHS: Serena's case manager reports that she is worried about her. The case manager heard that Serena is letting a couple of friends stay with but she insists they're not partying. Serena meets with her case manager every week and keeps her house tidy. The rent turned out to be about 80% of Serena's income and she's interested in having her friend move in to help out. The case manager has worked with Serena to maintain a budget and to make sure she is connected to food banks and other resources that help stretch her budget. Serena also seems to have a bit of cash come in every now and then – she says it's from her sister. Serena wishes she could move to PSH where she hears that she wouldn't have to pay rent.

QUESTION 1: Does this household need more assistance? If so, what assistance and/or services do they need? Why did you make that decision?

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QUESTION 2: Is your system set up to offer what the household needs?

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QUESTION 3: How can you take action to make sure your system can respond to what the household needs?

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In the BACKGROUND section, you will learn about the household. In the AFTER TWO MONTHS IN RRH section you will learn how the household is doing.

SCENARIO 3: ANGELINA

BACKGROUND: Angelina is a single mother with three kids ranging in age from 1-4. She served active duty in the Army for two years when she was 18 and 19 and thinks she was honorably discharged. She became homeless when the father of her kids went to prison after repeated DV incidents. They have no contact and don't receive child support from him. Angelina has heard she can get some benefits from the VA but is so busy it's hard for her to figure out how to apply. Angelina has food stamps for her and the kids and her mom helps her out with diapers when she can. She feels depressed and overwhelmed most days. Angelina has no rental or credit history.

AFTER A FEW MONTHS: Angelina's SSVF CM is helping her apply for VA benefits but it is taking a long time. The kids were in day care a few hours a week but Angelina says they don't like it so is keeping them home more and more. Angelina heard that the father of her kids should be released from prison anytime and Angelina is increasingly anxious about him being around. She knows her depression is serious and can't seem to figure out what to do about it. She feels better now that she and the girls are living in a house, but it seems like she can't catch a break.

QUESTION 1: Does this household need more assistance? If so, what assistance and/or services do they need? Why did you make that decision?

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QUESTION 2: Is your system set up to offer what the household needs?

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QUESTION 3: How can you take action to make sure your system can respond to what the household needs?

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