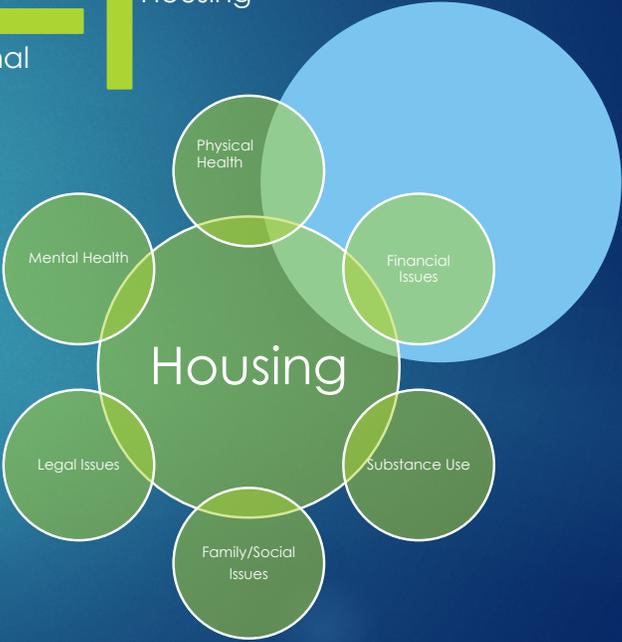




Two Steps Forward and One Step Back: The Role of Transitional Housing in Housing First Programs

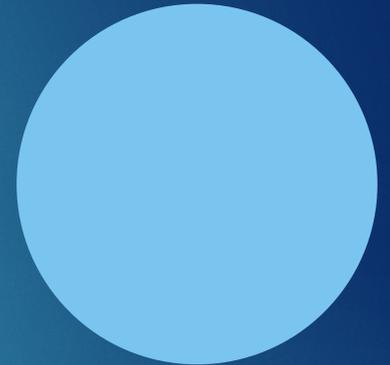
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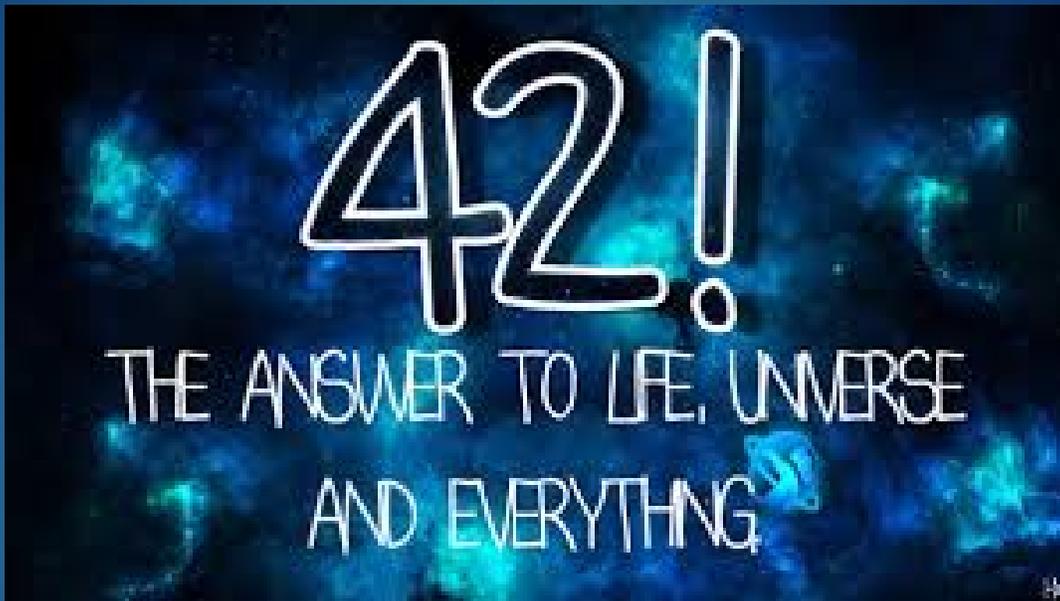
But what to do if a client loses housing and.....

- ▶ Trying to maintain sobriety
- ▶ Medical vulnerability
- ▶ Exiting sex trade/gang involvement
- ▶ Pregnant/children in custody
- ▶ High-risk domestic violence
- ▶ No-fault evictions
- ▶ Court conditions
- ▶ -40 degree weather



- ▶ We try to find the balance between limiting the natural consequences of a client's actions and sitting back and watching as a client's life flies off the rails





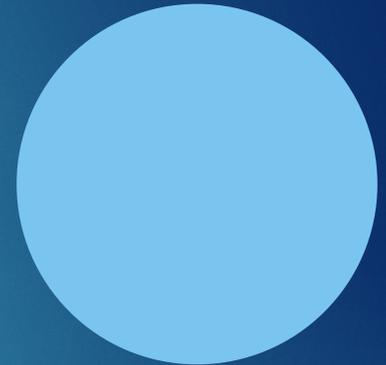
What we tried....



- ▶ One Transitional Housing Unit
 - ▶ Masterlease (clients sub-let from us as 'occupants' rather than 'tenants')
 - ▶ Duplex – 2 clients up, 2 clients down
 - ▶ Furnished
 - ▶ No damage deposit or reference checks or ID required
 - ▶ Able to house clients immediately (without waiting for welfare/assistance)
 - ▶ Locks on bedrooms to ensure privacy
 - ▶ Harm Reduction
 - ▶ No guests

Who....

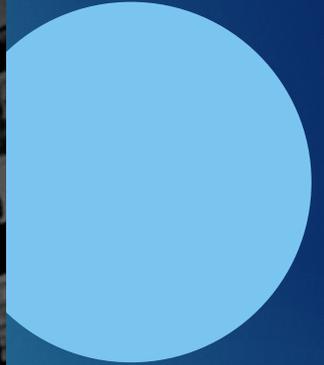
- ▶ Average of 6 units with our program
- ▶ Untreated mental health
- ▶ Axis II
- ▶ Untreated physical health
- ▶ Outstanding warrants/criminal involvement
- ▶ Sex trade work
- ▶ Cognitive disability
- ▶ No income
- ▶ Significant substance use





What we learned....

- ▶ Mixed gender housing leads to canoodling
- ▶ Putting two behaviorally challenged clients in one unit can lead to civil war
- ▶ Clients bring their prejudices with them into housing
- ▶ A clean house is not always a good thing
- ▶ "No guests" means different things to different people
- ▶ No matter how many non-smoking signs you post, no one will listen
- ▶ You can climb on top of a shopping cart and jump into a second story window
- ▶ If you have clients living next to the transitional unit evicted clients will just move next door
- ▶ No matter how much you claim to hate your roommate, you will still let them in after they get evicted
- ▶ You probably don't want to know what is behind that poster



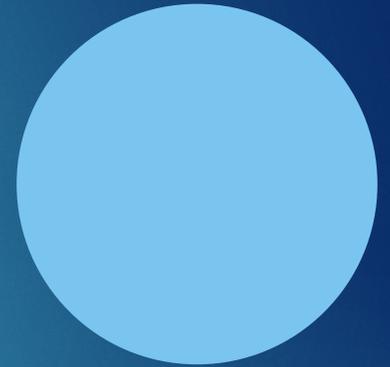
Where we go from here....



- ▶ Increase our # of transitional units
- ▶ Make them SINGLE OCCUPANCY
- ▶ Make them SMALL and EASY TO CLEAN
- ▶ Make sure they are SMOKING
- ▶ Make sure they are NOT located next to existing client rentals
- ▶ Make sure you CANNOT climb in the window
- ▶ Make sure the walls are SOLID
- ▶ Make sure cleaning costs are built into the budget BEFORE you house

Thank you

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