

A Roof is Not a Home

Methods for Maintaining Scattered Housing First for Individuals Facing Barriers Beyond Housing

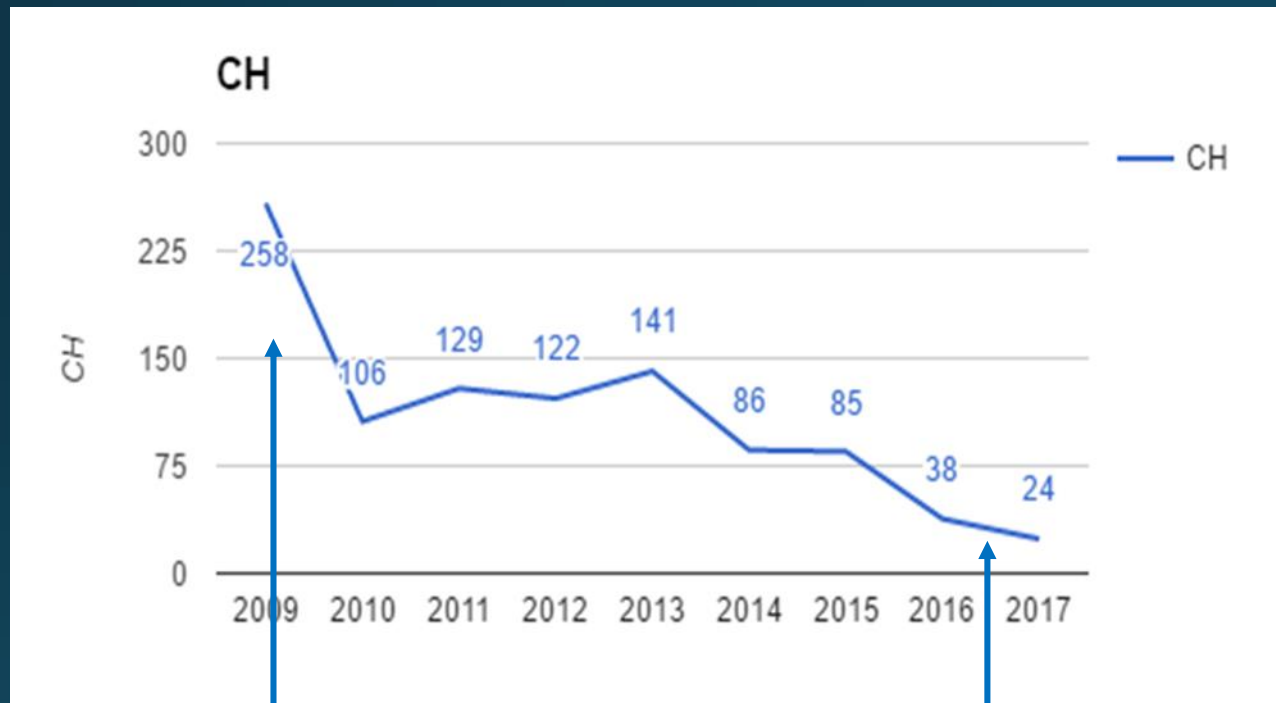
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“However, for many homeless individuals with mental illness, housing alone—even good quality housing—is not sufficient. Our findings emphasize the complex individual and structural challenges that often necessitate high-quality support that can follow participants over time.

High-quality support services are collaborative, individualized, persist across time and place, and offer creative opportunities to promote the development of positive personal and social identities.”

Western New York CoC



462 PSH beds

911 PSH beds

94% rate of success

Collaboration and the development of creative solutions to meet the needs of individuals after they are housed through PSH in lieu of discharge from the program.

Landlord Relationships

Purpose for partnership

Recognize what the landlord's motivation is in the partnership and foster it

Solution-focused

Keep a solution-focused dialogue with the landlord to ensure they feel any barriers that exist may have resolution

Financial security

Ensure the financial security for the landlord relationship by building your budget to cover the cost of damages and invoicing clients with payees for any tenant-caused damage

“Low-demand” is not “no-demand”

Empower clients by teaching them leasing obligations like house guest rules, noise ordinances, and reporting maintenance requests

Honesty

Being honest with the landlord about any potential problems or needed maintenance requests will keep an open and trusting relationship

Housing instability

Recognize the early signs for any housing instability and try proactive solutions to address the problems



Activities of Daily Living Skills

Monitor

Hygiene , laundry, cooking, cleaning, safety

Frequent visits

Small weekly clean ups are more manageable and proactive than monthly overhauls

Do it for, do it with, teach to do

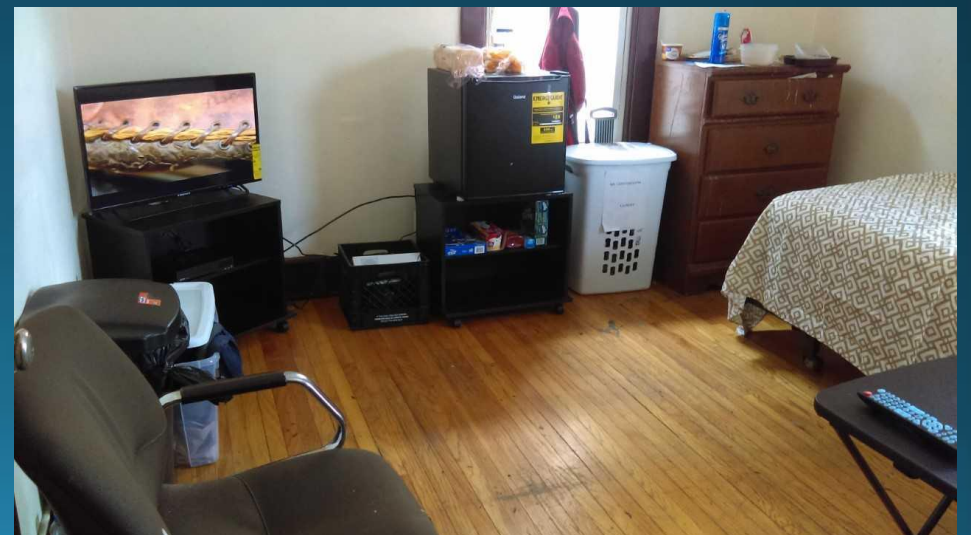
Start slow, gain trust and motivation, then begin to develop autonomy

Progress

Track how often cleans need to occur, look for patterns, develop system to track baseline and measure successes

Long-term solutions

Recognize when a client may not have the capacity to keep their home clean and develop solutions such as an APS hired cleaner



Relocations



Location, location, location

Living in the city, out of the city, along a bus route, or near other service providers are all factors that need to be discussed with the client when planning a first time apartment or when relocating an individual.

Neighbors

Some clients benefit from having many neighbors who may provide a sense of security and friendship. Others prefer quiet neighborhoods with less neighbors and more privacy.

Too big, too small

Too big of an apartment can overwhelm a client, too small can limit their autonomy. Working towards finding the appropriate sized home ranging from rooming houses to two bedrooms is a necessary part of client engagement.

Single Site vs Scattered Site

Recognizing the severity of mental health and substance use at the time of admission to a PSH program can fluctuate leading to client enrollment that is either too supportive or not supportive enough.

Criminal Justice System

90 Days

The 90 Day HUD regulation provides the platform to advocate for release and linkage to programming.

Good cop, bad cop

Mandating treatment does not empower, provide choice, limits collaboration, and decreases trust between clients and programs, however, when mandated through the criminal justice system a client-centered approach can be taken in which the program can provide support and advocacy.

Treatment courts

Treatment courts including drug and mental health court, veteran court, and opiate courts all provide an innovative intervention to prevent incarceration and keep clients housed independently in programs.

Community Policing

Including local police districts in your collaboration. Community policing address barriers before they become long-term. Police officers are eager to understand our population and partnering with you provides a resource for them to contact.

Higher Level of Care Referrals

Often it is the PSH role to pursue a higher level of care for their clients who cannot live independently

Higher level of care referrals are only appropriate when:

- All proactive interventions have been tried and found to be unsuccessful

- All potential treatment linkages pursued and were not appropriate

- Client's housing, safety, ADLs, and overall well-being are decreasing

Documentation is key to successful higher level of care linkages

“A theme that has received little attention in the literature is the need for meaningful activity. Despite the benefits of Housing First, many participants continued to feel marginalized from community and often described lives devoid of meaningful activity.”

What is AMP?

ENGAGE.
PRINT.
ENERGIZE.



Choice

Maybe some folks want to print, design, or sell. We attempt to give options.



Empower

If our program is not making people feel better about themselves and their skills, we are failing.



Employment 1st

Anyone can work. Even people experiencing homelessness. We let people work!



Educate

We teach 'hard' job skills with those more subtle 'soft' skills. They both matter.



Transition

The ultimate goal is making linkages to outside work that matters.

A Social Enterprise of the Matt Urban Center
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Hope Works

Employment First

Employment is not a privilege, it is a human right. Everyone is capable of pursuing employment and meaningfully contributing to their community, regardless of their past experiences and present struggles.

Transitional Jobs

A practical workforce development strategy that uses time-limited opportunities which combine real work, skill building, and other supportive services in order to transition individuals into the labor market.

Collaboration

Power with, not power over. Key staff, partners, and participants exert shared control over program planning and evaluation.

Empowerment

Prioritize and maximize growth. Services are intentionally geared towards highlighting participant assets, strengths, and creating capacity for increased self-actualization.