

Residents as educators on the mental and physical
health crisis within the chronically homeless population.

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Background

- Dissertation, prolonged engagement, relationship building through pilot studies
- Arrival to this topic
- Voices of residents
- Accelerated aging and health outcomes of the chronically homeless

Learning Goals

- To discuss the engagement process working with a multitude of community partners from the perspective of HF residents.
- To understand the importance of HF residents in educating community practitioners, social workers, and front line workers on client's health needs as they transition into housing.
- To challenge traditional modalities in HF program design that seeks to keep people housed by utilizing art as activism (i.e., Pop Up Porches).
- To hear from the perspective of those who have experienced chronic homelessness and now are HF residents regarding challenges and accomplishments now that they are indoors.

Objectives

- Encourage collaborative conversation with other HF professionals that promote the welfare of the chronically homeless population.
- Recognize strengths and differences across HF client systems.
- Use critical reflection; discuss possible actions, which promote the well being of HF residents.
- Discover, appraise, and discuss changing demographics and needs of the chronically homeless population.
- Engage in brainstorming of possible programmatic needs that draw from the arts and sciences, and empower residents to advocate for themselves and others.

The educators



Pop Up Porch Event

- <https://www.searchencrypt.com/videos?eq=5eCmPoRpvqXz9uLS7GsLOrIJT7LYEa6rDlthVvjyOBc%3D>

First Theme

- Clinicians need to:
- Listen
- Trust me
- Accept me

Second Theme

- Housing offered:
- Security
- A place of my own
- Community integration
- Time for interests

Third Theme

- Issues with homelessness:
- There is nothing free on the streets: "What you got? Can I get some?"
- Disregard and criminalization of homeless
- Women are associated with solicitation/prostitution
- Stereotyping by law enforcement

Fourth Theme

- What worked:
- Contact with people who can help (shelter staff, outreach, medical providers)
- Right place, right time
- Required personal responsibility and persistence

Fifth Theme

- What helped:
- Spirituality/God
- Witnessing poor outcomes in older homeless
- Understanding staff- concern, empathy, listen, advocate
- ***Importance of relationships***

Sixth Theme

- Success:
- Moving past homeless identity
- Personal empowerment

Narratives

- Under the Bridge stories from the street
- Community Engagement
- Audience participation in analysis

Discussion Questions

- What do you believe the role a client has in contributing to their recovery from chronic homelessness?
- What experiences have you encountered working with the chronically homeless population?
- What has been disturbing to you as a front line worker?
- What has been encouraging to you as a front line worker?