



Team-Based Approaches for Participants with Opioid Use Disorder

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Introductions

- Kate Gleason-Bachman, RN Service Coordinator
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Pathways to Housing PA

- Established in 2008, the mission of Pathways to Housing PA is to transform individual lives by ending homelessness and supporting recovery for people with disabilities.
- In 2016 Pathways to Housing PA began a new initiative to house and support people with long-term opioid addiction.
- 100% of participants retained housing after one year.
- As of November 2017, about 50% of participants were participating in medication assisted treatment (MAT).

Objectives

- Review common challenges for Housing First providers working with participants with opioid use disorder
- Discuss team-based strategies for addressing these concerns through the use of case studies
- Provide opportunity for questions and discussion

Common Challenges

1. “Failed” attempts at treatment and sobriety
2. Lack of trust and relationship with team/team splitting
3. Setting goals beyond addiction and immediate needs

Team-Based Solutions

“Failed” attempts at treatment →

- 1) Defining success
- 2) Supporting participant goals
- 3) Taking advantage of opportunities for learning, growth, and supporting additional attempts

Team-Based Solutions

Team splitting/lack of trust →

- 1) Relationship building
- 2) Be an expert in your role
- 3) Team communication

Team-Based Solutions

Setting goals beyond addiction and immediate needs →

- 1) Co-visits
- 2) Start with participant goals

Case Study One

- 63 year old male with a 25 year heroin use history, homeless for 4 years
- History of myocardial infarctions, significant cardiac disease, hepatitis C, depression, anxiety, panic disorder
- Moved in May 2017
- Made multiple plans to enter treatment and needed cardiac clearance to do so

Case Study Two

- 33 year old male with an 8 year history of heroin use
- Homeless on and off for 13 years
- History of HIV, hepatitis C, asthma, depression, PTSD, panic disorder
- Moved into Pathways housing 3/2017
- Has had difficulty remaining in housing and treatment

Case Study Three

- 49 year old female with a 10 year history of heroin use, homeless for three years, born out of state and no ID.
- History of Hepatitis C, anxiety, PTSD, domestic violence, abscess of left hand.
- Moved into Pathways housing 12/2016.
- Had a significant medical issue in fall of 2017 when her hand developed a large abscess.

Review of Strategies

- Look for opportunities to support participants towards goals.
- Be an expert in your role and refer to other experts on the team.
- Keep team communication open and frequent.
- Co-visits in challenging or complex situations
- Use participant input to define goals and success
- Build trust over time

Questions?

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