Presenters

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Session Objectives

1. Recognize the importance of housing as it relates to service needs in your area while finding ways to fund and/or foster housing-related services.

2. Distinguish your jurisdictions housing continuum, how to fill gaps, and understand where it intersects with outcomes along the HIV Care Continuum.

3. Explore how to structure a successful program to ensure clients achieve increased housing stability, earned income, and viral suppression/engagement in care.
About KCHD & Our TGA

- Ryan White Part A Recipient & HOPWA Grantee (formula and competitive HOPWA awards)
- Approximately 2,700 Ryan White Clients Annually
- Approximately 600 served in RW & Non-RW Housing Programs
- Intensive efforts to expand HIV Housing Program in the past 3.5 years
Our philosophy...

Housing is a necessary structural intervention to end the epidemic.
How did we get here?

Began in 2012...

- Planning Council & Recipient begin to prioritize housing as a service gap for PLWH
- Stronger engagement in HUD funded programs
- Pursuit and acquisition of additional funding sources

Brings us to 2020...

- Leveraging data
- Fostering collaborative partnerships
- Addressing social determinant of health intersections for PLWH
Initial Housing Continuum

Figure 2: KCHD Housing Continuum v1
KANSAS CITY, MO Housing Continuum
KCHD Housing Program
v. August 2019

Figure 3: KCHD Housing Continuum v2
Building Systematic, Structural Interventions to Move Clients Along Housing Continuum

- SPNS Data Integration
- SPNS KC Life 360
- Transitional Off-Site
- HUD/DOJ HOPWA/VAWA

- HOPWA Transitional Shelter
- Ryan White Transitional Shelter
- Shelter Plus Care
- HOPWA TBRA
- HOPWA STRMU

- Homeless to Subsidy
- Affordable
- Market
Data & Service Integration

On-going efforts to integrate data into the shared client level database (SCOUT) has provided tremendous benefits

Providers better understand the “data story” and journey of homeless and housing unstable clients

Intensive cross training program developed in 2018

Figure 4: KCHD Database Integration
Kansas City recognized the role data plays in quantifying the importance and benefit of housing services. Before we could address needs – we had to understand where our clients were in regard to the HIV Care Continuum.
SDOH Influence on the HCC

Housing Instability
Economic mobility
Stigma
Substance Use
Violence
Behavioral Health
Trauma
Marginalization
Poverty

Bar before the Bars

Diagnosed Linked to Care Retained in Care Rx ART Virally Suppressed
Using Data to Advocate for Housing

KC-TGA Housing Voucher Programs HIV Care Continuum CY 2019

Chart 1: HIV Care Continuum for housing voucher clients
Expanding Transitional Housing

Scattered Site Units

# of Units
On-site Support

22 – Unit Building with Common Areas
Advancing Services while Transitionally Housed

• Applying for Permanent Housing
• Life skills (cooking, cleaning, shopping, hygiene)
• Conflict resolution
• Budgeting
• Debt Planning – Credit repair
• Banking – checking /savings
• Transportation
• Employment
• Education
• Volunteering
KC Life 360

- HRSA funded SPNS grant
- Addresses intersection of living with HIV, experiencing housing instability, and unemployment/underemployment
- Partnered with Catholic Charities for employment support services
- Partnered with reStart for transitional housing services
- Multi-site research component
Cross-Sectoral Partnerships

KCHD

Eligibility
Initial intake
Triaging services

Catholic Charities

Employment Support
Work Force Development Class
Acquiring network of Employers

reStart Inc.

Transitional Housing
Housing Case Management
Housing Support Services

*Cornerstone of Success: Colocation across project partners*
Employment Support Specialist

Key Activities

- **Employability Assessment** – Define strengths and weaknesses
- **Employment Action Plan** – Develop task and steps needed to gain employment (30-60-90 day intervals)
- Refer client to appropriate agency to receive employment services based on **Employability Assessment & Employment Action Plan**
- Monitor with client accomplishment of tasks and steps
- Provides weekly updates of jobs via **Job Bank**
Meeting the needs of “hidden homeless” was a challenge (e.g. couch surfing, non-chronically homeless)

KCHD learned from Family Health Centers of San Diego & Positive Impact Health Centers of Atlanta

Launched Gap Lodging Program in July 2019

Incorporated Gap Lodging component into formula HOPWA spring 2020
Gap Lodging Program Outcomes

Viral Load Suppression:
- 10 virally suppressed; 100% maintained
- 7 not virally suppressed; 43% achieved suppression
- 4 not virally suppressed; 2 no updated lab data; 1 showed VL decrease; 1 showed VL increase

Gap Lodging Length of Stay:
- 57 Days = Average
- 14 days = Shortest
- 114 Days = Longest

Data is preliminary and not intended for publication
Client Success Story #1

“I’m so happy I just did not think I would ever get a place that was all mine, that was not my car.”

Newly Diagnosed 20 year old MSM
Underemployed working in food service
Living in Car after turbulent situation with mother
Housed with Gap Lodging → Permanent Housing Voucher (Youth Program)
Currently completing GED
Wanting to go to college for teaching career
Last Medical Appointment: April 2020
Most Recent Viral Load: Undetectable

Funding Sources: SPNS + Other HUD CoC Funds + RW Part A
Client Success Story #2

“I’m so thankful for the opportunity to be out of the winter weather and in a safe place.”

54 year old cis male
Frequent hospital visits
Living in homeless camp under freeway viaduct
Housed with Gap Lodging → Permanent Housing Voucher (DMH)
Connecting with Vocational Rehab to start volunteering or working part-time
Last Medical Appointment: March 2020
Most Recent Viral Load: 53,000 (continuously decreasing)

Funding Sources: SPNS + Other HUD CoC Funds + RW Part A
Client Success Story #3

“I’m so happy now that I have officially changed my name. I feel like I can start looking for employment now.”

Transgender woman
Gained employment often; Difficultly maintaining employment
Legally changed name & secured new ID
HOPWA VAWA Voucher
Working toward CNA credentials
Last Medical Appointment: January 2020
Most Recent Viral Load: Undetectable

Funding Sources: SPNS + HUD HOPWA VAWA+ RW Part A
KC Life 360 Preliminary Outcomes

113 clients served

58% gained employment or increased income with SSI/SSDI

65% received housing assistance

87% engaged in medical care

86% achieved or maintained viral load suppression

Data based on most recent quarterly aggregate report
Sustainability for Kansas City

• HOPWA Formula Funds:
  • Maintain Gap Lodging program; allows to expand scope of those served
  • Maintain Employment Support Specialist position at KCHD

• Continued Leveraging of Part A and HUD funded programs for transitional and permanent housing supports

• Exploring CoC funding and MOUs with referral networks related to employment and earned income supports

• Incorporating lessons learned (bike innovation, use of cell phones, etc.) regarding eligible expenses and client benefit

• Intervention manual, website being developed, & other publication/dissemination efforts
Recommendations for Replication

• Pursue SPNS funding opportunities; They innovate and invigorate programs and services
• Don’t be timid about restructuring how current funds are utilized (HOPWA, CoC, etc.)
• Transparency with Planning Councils and other decision-making groups is key
• Multidisciplinary teams and cross-sectoral partnerships are invaluable for improved service delivery
• Dedicated staffing to triage across services is important
• Dedicated staffing for evaluation activities is also essential
• Co-location benefits clients and system-level interventions
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