THE HEARTH ACT:
SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES
5 YEARS LATER

Jennifer Hill, Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County

Fred Spannaus, Spannaus Consulting

Kevin Nowlan, Center for Prevention of Abuse

Lindsey Bishop-Gilmore, CSH

Oct. 3, 2014
THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO HEARTH: AMERICAN APPROACHES TO HOMELESSNESS
PRE-1987:

*No specific programs targeting homelessness*

- Depression: The New Deal
- 1960’s: War on Poverty
1987:

**McKinney-Vento Act**

Support for local projects in national competitions
1994:
The “Continuum of Care” approach
CONTINUUM OF CARE APPROACH

Outreach > Shelter > Transitional housing > Permanent housing
COMMUNITY APPLICATION

- Formation of local CoC networks
- One HUD application per community
  - Community analysis
  - Multiple project applications
  - Prioritization through review and ranking process
Set national priorities

1. End chronic homelessness

2. Funding follows performance
1. Create new beds targeted for chronically homeless persons
2. Keep people in permanent housing
3. Move people from transitional housing directly to permanent housing
4. Get people employed
5. Reduce number of homeless families
1) A new approach: *Housing First*

2) Data-driven decisions
Institutionalized "Housing First" and data-driven decision-making into federal programs and policies
Immediate access to permanent affordable or permanent supportive housing

No clinical prerequisites (e.g., sobriety, “housing readiness”)
Q: What’s the answer to homelessness?

A: (OLD): Shelters

A: (NEW): Homes!
End chronic homelessness in 5 years
  • Revised to Dec. 2016

End Veteran homelessness in 5 years
  • Dec. 2015

End family/children homelessness in 10 years
  • By 2020

“Set a path to end all homelessness”
PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- Length of homelessness (20 days)
- Recidivism (<5% in 24 months)
- Reduce new entries
THE EVOLUTION

- **Step 1:** Individual agencies & projects
- **Step 2:** Coordinated system (HUD-funded projects)
- **Step 3:** Nationwide priorities (HUD-funded projects)
- **Step 4:** Unified system (all homelessness prevention, housing and service providers)
WHAT’S NEXT?

- Self-assessment
- Real-time monitoring
- Systems mapping
- Performance contracting
HEARTH & OPENING DOORS: OVERVIEW
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEARTH THEMES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. CoC Governance and Administration</td>
<td>2. Coordinated Assessment System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Project and System Performance</td>
<td>4. System Coordination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY CoC (IL-511)
ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

- Cook County Continuum of Care (IL-511)
  - Planning and Coordination
  - Outcome and Data Driven
- Alliance: nonprofit CoC lead and HMIS lead
- Three regional councils- north, west, and south

ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS
IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY
Overview:
- 1,242 homeless persons
- 1,091 sheltered
- 151 unsheltered
- 9% - chronically homeless (109)
- 10% - veterans (121)
- 44% - in families with children (549 persons)

Regions:
- North: 254 sheltered, 49 unsheltered
- West: 137 sheltered, 50 unsheltered
- South: 353 sheltered, 52 unsheltered
Learning to measure...
- Length of homelessness: what’s an episode?
- Fewer newly homeless
- Fewer repeats of homelessness
- Fewer # homeless overall
- Improve jobs & income
HOW LONG ARE PEOPLE HOMELESS?

Source: Data Dashboard, Feb. 2014. Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County
Fill the unmet need for permanent housing
- Permanent supportive housing: 1,307 beds by 2018 (+82/yr)
- Rapid re-housing: 275 households by 2018 (+42/yr)
- Deeper income targeting of affordable housing

Right-size & improve targeting of all housing & service interventions
- Chronic/vulnerable housing placements: 18/month (216/yr)
- Expand access to street outreach, employment, healthcare

Decrease homelessness
- Overall: count only 700 persons in 2018 (-120/yr, 40% decline)
- Chronic: virtual zero (e.g., <30) by Jan. 2017 count
- Veteran: virtual zero (e.g., <30) by Jan. 2016 count
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

PSH beds

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200
2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

222 197 238 409 549 625 801 979
HOMELESSNESS IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY

Source: January Point-in-Time Homeless Counts. [www.OneCPD.info](http://www.OneCPD.info)
CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

2007: 237
2008: 256
2009: 275
2010: 231
2011: 228
2012: 179
2013: 109
2014: 97

Chronic
**DO’s**
- Screen in
- System level
- Match to a person’s level of need
- Targeting programs
- Progressive engagement (start with a little)

**DO NOT’s**
- Screen out
- Program level
- Judge a person’s suitability for program
- Assess eligibility only (no targeting beyond that)
FOCUS ON CHRONIC & VULNERABLE

- 100,000 Homes
- Next, it’s Zero:2016.
- By-name registry of most vulnerable homeless
- Housing placement team
- Street outreach
- Track monthly placements — current goal 18
- VA and Housing Authority as partners
  - VASH vouchers, homeless preference, FLOW vouchers

Image: Linda Kaufman, Community Solutions
HEART OF ILLINOIS HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE (IL-507)
Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Fulton

Mix of Rural and Urban

Majority of services provided in urban locations
IMPACT OF HEARTH ON OUR CoC

- Governance
- Administration of the CoC
- HMIS
GOVERNANCE

- By-laws pre-HEARTH
- Mirror HEARTH and ESG Regulations
- Start from Scratch
GOVERNANCE

Two Major Changes

1. Governing Board of non-funded providers

2. Voting
More responsibilities placed on CoC

- NOFA
- City/State ESG
- HIC/PIT
- AHAR
- DHS HP
- Cities/State Consolidated plans
- Marketing
- Web Site
- Etc.
Group of Volunteers
- CoC planning money
- VISTA
- Leveraging money
- Who employs the staff?
- 501(c)3
- UFA
For us or against us?

3 Issues

- Non-funded providers
- Minimal data
- Quality of data
Non-funded providers
- Refusal to participate
- Free HMIS licenses
- Free computers
- CoC staff to enter data
Minimal data

- Providers enter minimal amount of data
- Multiple databases
Quality

- Poor data quality
- Reports shared with ED’s
- Reports shared with CoC Board
Result

- Incomplete picture
- Strategic plan
DISCUSSION...

- How to get provider buy-in of coordinated assessment?
- How is your system changing already?
- What outcomes are changing already?
- What are you learning from your data?
- Role of the Continuum – is yours changing?
- Role of shelter in a Housing First world
- Biggest challenge you anticipate?
- ESG and CoC – a consultative relationship?
- In your CoC’s scale & geography, how are these changes playing out?
CONTACT INFO

- Jennifer Hill, Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County
  jennifer@suburbancook.org
  708.236.3261

- Fred Spannaus, Spannaus Consulting
  spannaus@ameritech.net
  217.425.2635

- Kevin Nowlan, Center for Prevention of Abuse
  knowlan@centerforpreventionofabuse.org
  309.601.0551

- Lindsey Bishop-Gilmore, CSH
  Lindsey.bishop@csh.org
  312.332.6690