

Thru Partnerships and
Collaborations
Sharon Hess, SICH

“Together We Can Survive and
Thrive”

It all starts with an IDEA among friends.....

Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless

- We are successfully housing felons leaving Halfway Houses in recovery for substance abuse-**not enough SICH housing for singles**
- We like working with the H-Group

The H Group

- We need more housing for our felons leaving Halfway House who are in recovery for substance abuse
- We like working with SICH-
no NIMBY, CM too

First Steps

- Set reasonably attainable goals-market study
- Compare missions to see goals are compatible
- Discern what “gifts” you can each contribute to this goal

-SICH-Affordable Housing with life skills training (Case Management on call)

-H Group-Affordable housing tenant for tenants who will need CM. Still required to attend SA and MH group, many on probation or parole (leverage)

Training-CSH Institute

SICH ED (Sharon Hess) and H Group SA Director (Wendy Bailie) signed up for first Institute to train development teams to provide supportive housing in Illinois

Benefits to Collaboration:

- Cost-\$600- Each agency paid half (Later returned after successful completion of training) Shared costs of travel and expenses
- Time to work out the details with help from CSH

SICH/H Group named their idea
Phoenix Project and began to
assemble a development team:

- Architect-Architecniques in Herrin (Wendy used them before successfully)
- Consultant-List from CSH (Sharon knew Fred from SHPA meetings; Fred Spannaus uses Linda Green for fiscal development)
- Lawyer-Fred's choice of Chicago Legal firm (experienced in IHDA); SICH-Pro Bono attorney in Carbondale to do some work

Phoenix Team Continued:

- Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless- Owner-Developer, Supportive Services, Property Manager (17 years experience)
- The h Group-Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- DMH and Williamson County Public Housing Authority- Operating subsidies
- Local Contractor- Fager McGhee- Chosen by bid

Finding a Site- Still a Collaboration

- Wendy and Sharon looked at 6 sites in Marion and Herrin over three years with the help of:
- CSH Advisors
- Phoenix Consultant, Architect
- Marion and Herrin Mayors
- H Group Executive Director, Developmental Disability Director, Member of the Board
- Real Estate Companies

Partners in Handling
NIMBY-
Not in My Back Yard Syndrome

Our Plan

- We talked to Mayors, County Board Member, Public Housing Authority Director, SIRRG (Reentry Group) and asked for their support
- Letters of Support
- Avoided zoning change by annexing into city with multi-family R-4 rating (mayor's idea)

Mitigating factors to determine success or failure

- + SICH experience in supportive housing in Marion and Herrin for 12 years
- + The h Group's 30 year experience housing felons with few incidents, housing supported by Mayor
- + Housing felons in recovery for substance abuse for 4 years
- Housing felons in recovery for substance abuse at all

Subsidies Needed to Support Operations

Choices made through collaboration:

- Wendy called to research DMH subsidies for four apartments
- Sharon researches RHSP and local tenant-based Section 8 subsidies to change to Phoenix project-based

Results of collaboration and partnerships

- Approval for DMH Project-based subsidies for Phoenix 1 bedroom apartments
- Request made to Williamson County Public Housing Director to project base 4 remaining apartments pending



Who will live in the Phoenix Apartments?

Joe is a 30 year old male who has a long standing methamphetamine abuse problem that ultimately led to his incarceration for drug possession for a 5 year term in federal prison. After his release from prison, Joe was referred to the H Group for Halfway House services, which included drug treatment.

Joe has actively participated in treatment and has developed a new support system through his church and AA attendance. Joe found a job and is making minimum wage, and uses a bike to get to and from work as he has no car. Due to his drug use and long incarceration, Joe is estranged from his family. He has no home when he finishes his stay in the Halfway house.

He cannot find decent, affordable housing that is close to work and the treatment facility where he plans on continuing to participate in outpatient treatment to help maintain his abstinence. He also wants to go to the local Community College to gain some skills that would help him attain a better paying job.

Joe could benefit from a supportive housing environment where he could have a decent place to live that he can afford and have the support of treatment.

Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless

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The Phoenix Project

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