Forging New Partnerships: Housing & Healthcare

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HOUSING ACTION ILLINOIS HOUSING MATTERS! CONFERENCE 2019
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PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS ARE PEOPLE FIRST
OUR Vision
the end of homelessness

OUR Mission
to transition people from housing crisis
to housing stability
OUR History and Background

- Started in 1992 in the communities of Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park as a grassroots organization.
- Formal shift from a shelter “crisis response” to a housing focus in 2009.
- Changed name to Housing Forward in 2015.
- FY18 budget $7m
  - Largest provider of scattered-site supportive housing in Suburban Cook County.
  - Leading change with Coordinated Entry (regional) and the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition (locally)
OUR Values

- Client-centered services delivered with dignity and respect
- Collaborative relationships
- Open communication and information sharing
- Community support
- Integrity, passion, perseverance and the pursuit of excellence in our work
SERVICE AREA

20+ communities in West Suburban Cook County
Supportive Housing

In 2018, 378 housed; 216 PSH units, 58 rental units

Shift in Housing Type, Metric = Nights of Housing

Units by Housing Type

Other Permanent Housing (IHDA)
Transitional/VA
Rapid Re-housing
Permanent Supportive Housing - HF only
Permanent Supportive Housing - Partners
Healthcare @Housing Forward:

A TIMELINE

- Medical Clinic @ PADS Shelter
- WCHIP Partnership Funded
- WCHANCE Partnership Funded
- 2011 ODH Supportive Housing Funded
- WIN Funded
- WIN II Funded
- 2019 McNeal Partnership Established
Programs & Services

- Housing: 898 persons
- Support: 378 persons
- Outreach: 383 persons
- Shelter: 231 persons
- Emergency Aid: 522 persons
- Employment: 94 persons
Health and Housing INITIATIVE

- **PRIORITY POPULATIONS:**
  - Persons with complex health conditions
  - co-occurring mental illness
  - justice-involved

- **Address housing broadly** as a preventive approach to stable health.
- **Engage high-cost, super-utilizers** as needed, but not as primary focus
- **Focus on meeting long term housing needs**

- Literally homeless
- And Vulnerability assessment
- Disabled
- And verified
- Chronicity of homelessness
- And verified
- County Care Member
- And verified
- Coordinated Entry (CE)
Who are super-utilizers?

“The term “super-utilizer” describes individuals whose complex physical, behavioral, and social needs are not well met through the current fragmented health care system. As a result, these individuals often bounce from emergency department to emergency department, from inpatient admission to readmission or institutionalization – all costly, chaotic, and ineffective ways to provide care and improve patient outcomes.”

Source: Hasselman, Diane; Center for Health Care Strategies, October 2013. “Super-U-lizer Summit: Common Themes from Innovative Complex Care Management Programs”
HOUSING + HEALTH Initiatives

**WIN** ('15,'17)
- PROGRAM MODEL - Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- FUNDER - HUD/CoC funded (federal), IDHS (state), CCH (local)

**IHDA** ('18)
- PROGRAM MODEL – Long-term Rental Assistance (no services)
- FUNDER – IHDA (state), CCH (security deposits)
- PARTNERS – BEDS, SS PADS, Cook County Health

**SOJOURNER HOUSE**
- PROGRAM MODEL – Interim Housing
- FUNDER – Village of Oak Park, Oak Park Township, Community Mental Health Board, Foundations (local)
- PARTNERS – OPHA, MacNeal/Loyola

**FLEXIBLE HOUSING POOL**
- PROGRAM MODEL – Housing Subsidy + Tenancy Services
- FUNDER – public/private partnership
- PARTNERS – Center for Health and Housing, Cook County Health

NEW in 2019
Healthcare@Housing Forward

WIN Supportive Housing
HUD Funded
Center For Housing And Health Better Health Through Housing
HF - Housing Partner
2 Participants

WIN Supportive Housing II
HUD Funded
Cook County Health System
High Utilizers
County Care Members
Additional Partners
Beds Plus
South Suburban Pads
33 Units
Healthcare@Housing Forward

Illinois Housing Development Authority

Cook County Health System

State Housing Program
No HUD Requirements
Income Based/Long-term
County Care Members

Additional Housing Partners
Beds Plus/South Suburban Pads
31 Units

Sojourner House
HF + New Medical Partners
Loyola Health/McNeal Hospital
Transition/Respite Model
3 Secured Units
90 day cap

Oak Park Housing Authority,
5 Units/Family Coach House
Healthcare@Housing Forward

Flexible Housing Pool

Goal – 750 housed

HF – Case management Partner

2 case managers/20 households each

Teamed with Multiple Partners
Linda’s Story

Linda was 50 and had been living in an unattached garage for 4 years when her chronic lung condition sent her to the emergency room. The hospital social worker connected with Housing Forward’s Street Outreach & Engagement team to see if Housing Forward could help her.

Our Street Outreach Specialist, Jennifer, went to the garage where she was staying to discuss her situation. She learned Linda was living in the garage of her boyfriend’s mother, and they were opposed to their relationship and didn’t know she was living in there. There wasn’t heat other than from a portable heater, she was cooking on a hotplate and mostly food from a can, and she needed oxygen in which to breathe because of her lung condition. She had also been sleeping on cinder blocks layered with blankets for warmth and comfort.

That was in December and by February, with the help of the Housing team at Housing Forward, Linda moved into her own apartment. She recently went back to her doctor and because of her new living conditions her health has improved enough that she no longer needs the oxygen machine and her blood pressure is now under control as well. Her next goal is to get a membership at the local YMCA to renew her love of swimming.

Her case worker, Tiffani, says “Linda is always smiling, regardless of what she is going through. She is so thoughtful, too. She has the use of her boyfriend’s car one day of the week and offered other Housing Forward clients a ride to our housing tenant meeting when they were unable to come on their own. She is so grateful to Housing Forward for how her life has changed.”
Medical Partners:
Thank you!