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THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



FLEXIBLE RESOURCES, DATA-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS:
USING HMIS AND HEARTH TO END HOMELESSNESS

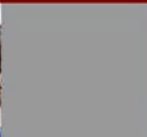
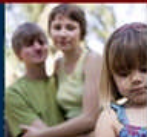
Elements of a Continuum of Care





Presenters

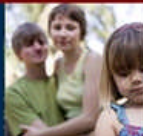
- Leslie Leitch, Cloudburst Consulting Group
- Julia Pierson, Cloudburst Consulting Group
- Patrick Taylor, Cloudburst Consulting Group





Learning Objectives

- Review the core purpose of a homeless Continuum of Care
- Review the functional elements of a Continuum of Care system
- Understand how to integrate these elements into a community's Continuum of Care
- Prepare for Session J103: System Design and Planning





Continuum of Care

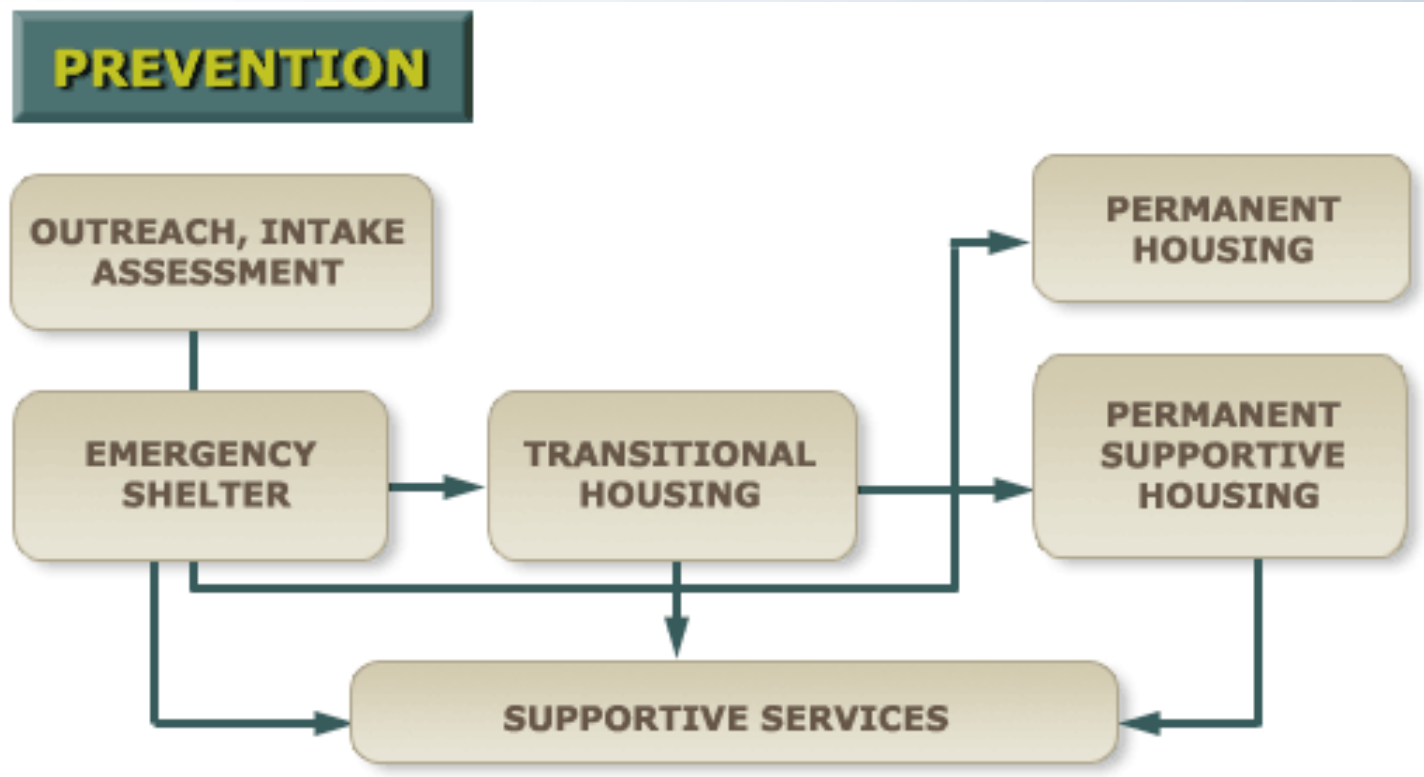
- A collaborative funding and planning approach that helps communities plan for and provide, as necessary, a full range of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing and other services to address the various needs of homeless persons.

HUD also refers to the group of community stakeholders involved in the decision making processes as the “Continuum of Care.” (*Source: 2009 CoC NOFA*)





Continuum of Care





Purpose of the CoC

1. Promote community wide commitment to ending homelessness
2. Provide funding to quickly re-house homeless people while minimizing trauma and dislocation
3. Help people access mainstream services
4. Optimize self-sufficiency





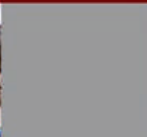
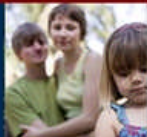
“Continuum of Care Program”

- In HEARTH – HUD’s existing homeless programs will be consolidated into a single “Continuum of Care Program” with the same eligible activities as all of the programs combined.





Your Community's CoC





Why is a CoC Important?

- Assess capacity and identify gaps
- Develop proactive solutions rather than reactive stop-gaps
- Identify common goals for which to advocate
- Increase community “buy-in” and access to mainstream resources
- Increase competitive advantage for receiving funds
- Comprehensive and collaborative process





Fundamental Strategies in Designing a Continuum

- Do not work in isolation
- Expand your collaborative
- Base on needs of subpopulations and community
- Keep as a dynamic system
- Accessible to providers and users
- Develop a long-range plan
- Set strategic priorities that are measurable





CoC Geographic Coverage

- Defining the CoC's geographic coverage
 - City
 - City and surrounding County
 - Regional
 - Rural
 - State





Organizing a CoC

- Organizational structure
 - Coalition
 - Government agency
 - Non-profit organization
- Identifying a lead organization
 - Leadership
 - Access to resources
 - Visibility
 - Credibility
 - Capacity





Organizing a CoC (cont'd)

- Complex
 - Individual needs
 - Community Resources
- Focus on
 - Subpopulation
 - Community
 - Geography





CoC Planning and Membership

- Can include representatives from
 - Persons who are/have been homeless
 - State and local government agencies
 - Public housing agencies
 - School systems
 - Law enforcement
 - Workforce investment act boards
 - Faith based organizations
 - Funders
 - Advocacy groups
 - Business and civic leaders
 - Hospitals and medical representatives
 - Housing developers
 - Nonprofit service organizations
 - Educational institutions





Creating a Common Vision

- Define the purpose of the CoC
 - Mission statement
 - Guiding principles
- Establish Performance Goals
 - Determine the outcomes to be achieved





Planning Cycle

- Annual planning process
- Collect data and inventory system capacity
- Identify and prioritize gaps
- Develop short- and long-term strategies
- Implement





HMIS – Homeless Management Information System

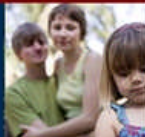
- Collects and analyzes data
 - Characteristics and service needs of homeless persons
 - Demand for and use of housing and services
 - Reports on outcomes of interventions





Monitoring and Measuring

- Is the CoC system meeting its goals and objectives?
- Are the providers within the CoC meeting their goals and objectives?
- What are the outcomes for people using the homeless service system?
- Are the providers within this CoC working together to provide a seamless system of care for people who are homeless?





Subpopulations

- Can include households with or without children
- Youth
- Veterans
- People with drug or alcohol addictions
- People with mental illness
- Victims of domestic violence
- People living with HIV/AIDS
- Chronically homeless





Prevention

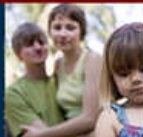
- Assisting individuals and households at imminent risk of becoming homeless to maintain their housing by providing stabilization services and/or short-term emergency financial assistance
- Examples
 - One-time or limited emergency rental assistance to prevent eviction
 - Financial counseling to handle housing crises
 - Landlord-tenant mediation
 - Legal services





Outreach and Intake Assessment

- Services target the most vulnerable of the homeless population who are often unable or unwilling to accept emergency shelter services
- Examples
 - Street outreach to people residing in parks, campgrounds, and places not fit for human habitation
 - Mobile health care
 - Street outreach
 - Hotlines





Emergency Services

- First stop; often the point of entry into the homeless system
- Examples
 - Congregate building for households with children
 - Congregate building for homeless single adults
 - Hotel and motel vouchers
 - Short-stay apartments
 - Soup kitchens or drop-in day centers





Transitional Services

- Interim placement for persons or households who are not ready for or who do not have access to permanent housing; Opportunity for clients to gain the personal and financial stability needed to transition to and maintain permanent housing.
- Example:
 - 24-month housing program with supportive services provided on-site, including recovery services, life skills training, and mental health counseling for individuals fleeing domestic violence





Supportive Services

- Supportive services are those services needed for a person to move towards self-sufficiency and independent living
- Examples:
 - Job readiness and job skills training
 - Benefits counseling
 - Housing search and placement services
 - Substance abuse, mental health, and health care services
 - Family reunification services





Permanent Supportive Housing

- Combines housing assistance and supportive services; supportive services can be provided onsite or through partnering agencies, depending on individual and community needs
- Example:
 - The use of tenant-based rental assistance to lease one-bedroom units in scattered sites for veterans who are homeless and have co-occurring substance use and mental illnesses





Permanent Housing

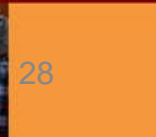
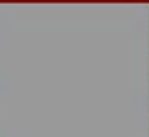
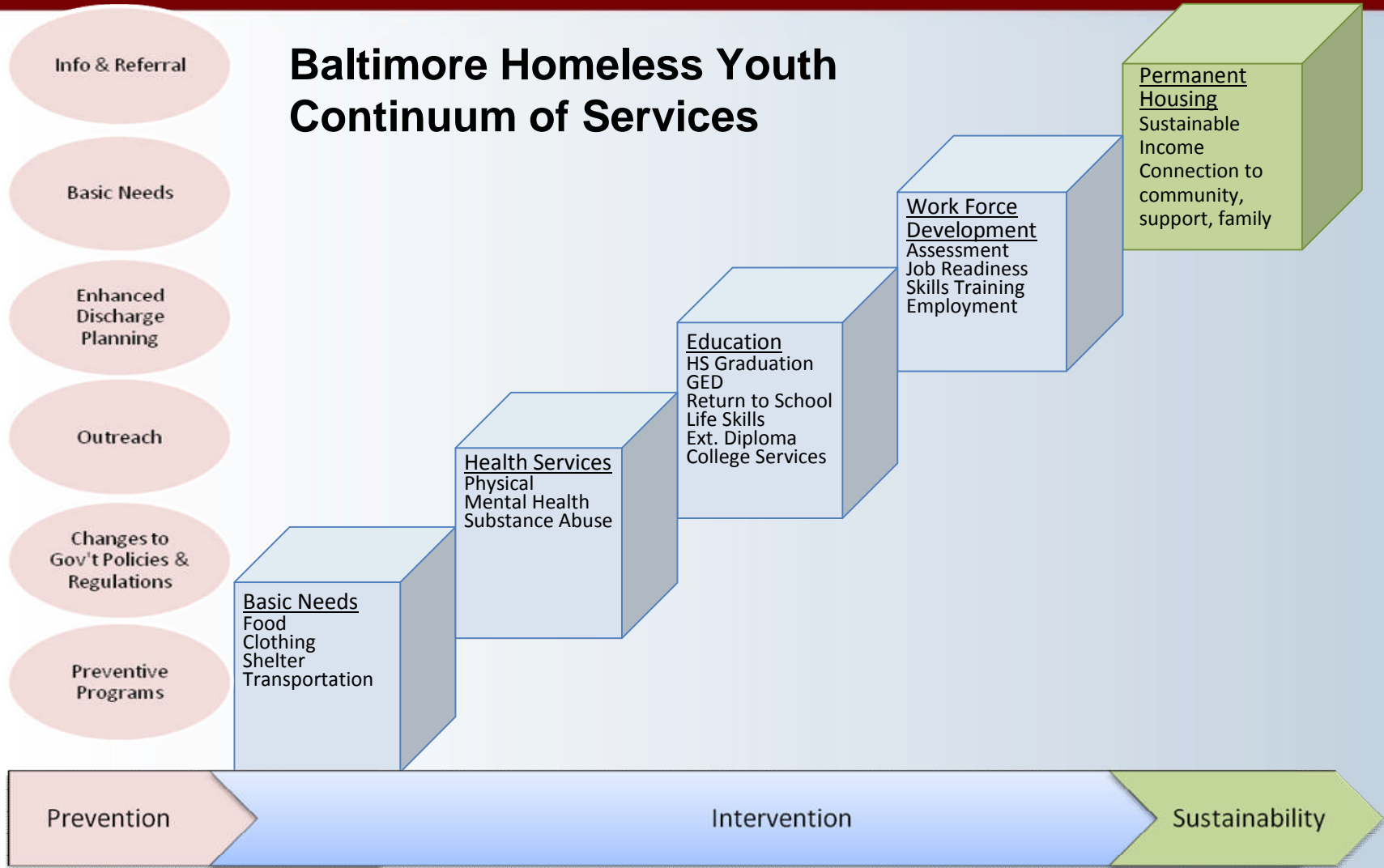
- Permanent affordable housing is long-term, safe, decent, and affordable housing for individuals and households
- Examples:
 - Rehabilitation of existing rental housing into affordable housing units
 - Housing vouchers
 - Mainstream Housing; rental and homeownership
 - Tenant Based Rental Subsidies
 - Project Based Subsidies
 - Reunification with families





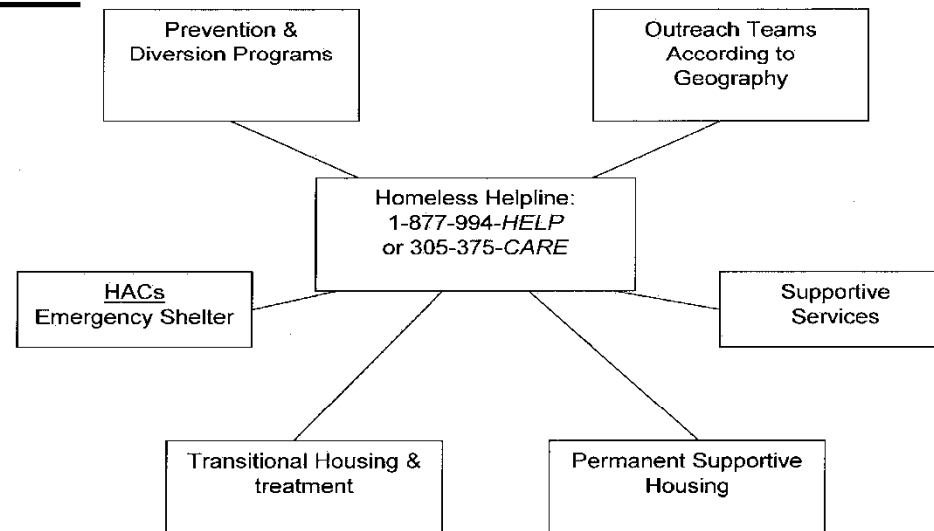
Continuum of Care Examples



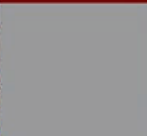




Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust Continuum of Care

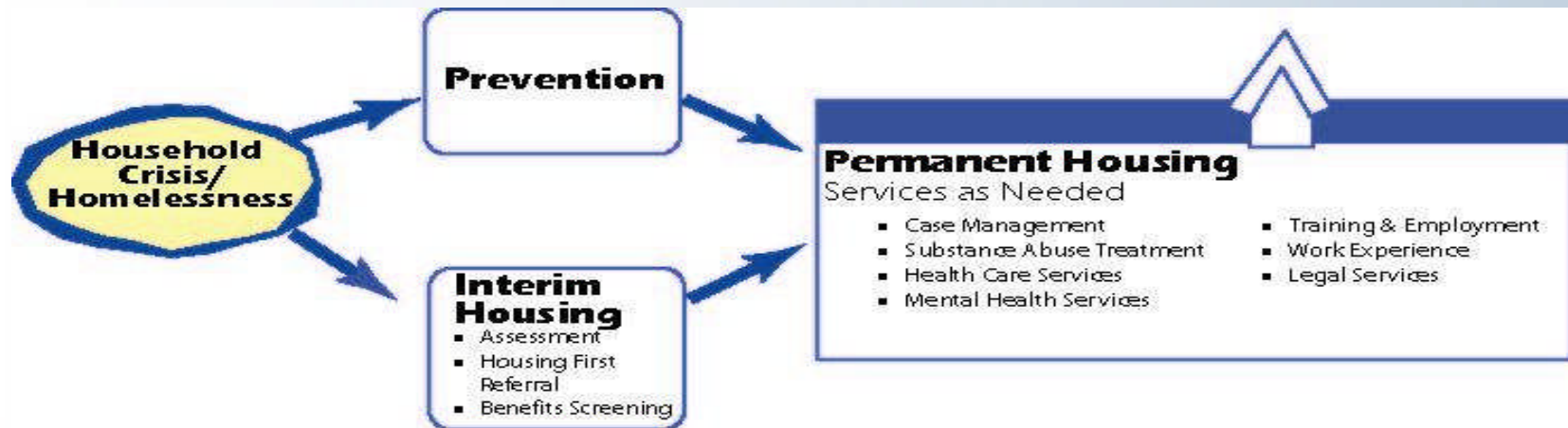


Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust





Chicago Continuum of Care







Your Community's CoC

Would you change anything?





Community Resources

- www.hudhre.info – Continuums of Care section
 - Continuum of Care Guidebook, May 2010
 - Building Effective Coalitions, June 2009





Questions and Discussion

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