

Supportive Housing and Justice Involved Populations

Harnessing evidence-based practices to
restore lives and communities

Overview

- Why should we pursue this?
- A description of supportive housing for justice populations
- Common questions
- What's happening in Ohio and what have we learned?
- Considerations as you think about investments in this work

Why Focus on Housing for Justice Populations?

Stable housing decreases incarceration costs

Incarceration devastating communities of color

People with mental illness incarcerated more often and stay longer

Supp. Housing works!
reduced jail/prison stays +
increased wellbeing

Aidala 2013, Basu 2012, Culhane 2002, Flaming 2009, U TennSW 2012, Hall, 2008, Larimer 2009, Latham 2008, Modello 2007, NYC DoH 2013, and others

What is Supportive Housing?

- Non time-limited housing that is affordable (tenant pays 30% of income toward rent/utilities)
- Intensive, but voluntary services

What do
you already
know?
About
Housing
First and
Harm
Reduction?



Why Harm Reduction

Respond to rising fatalities from overdoses

Keep people engaged if they relapse or aren't abstinent

Reach vulnerable people

From Harm Reduction Coalition 2016 Webinar

From Harm Reduction Coalition

Harm Reduction is...

- A set of practical strategies to reduce negative consequences of drug use and sexual risk.
- Incorporates a spectrum of strategies including *safer techniques, managed use, and abstinence.*
- Meets people “where they're at” but doesn't leave them there.

THIS!

Harm Reduction is not...

- **For or against drug use**
- **A consent to use**
- **Don't ask, don't tell**
- **Anything goes**
- **Anti-abstinence**



How do we address criminal backgrounds in housing



- Partnerships with landlords
- Contingency funds/risk mitigation
- Advocacy with local housing authorities, LIHTC owners, and utilization of appeals.

Managing criminogenic risk

- Cognizant of different risk levels when grouping individuals or using a single site
- Targeting behaviors or risk factors most likely to result in future criminal activity
- Training for staff – reducing criminogenic risks, working with sex offenders, safety protocols, engagement

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, smiling warmly while holding a baby. In the foreground, the head and shoulders of a young child with dark hair are visible. The background shows a patterned rug with a circular emblem. The overall scene is intimate and positive.

Partnering with Probation and Parole

- We are not deputy sheriffs
- We can and do partner with APA
- We do have difficult conversations, but we have a foundation of trust with the tenants.

What do we know about other housing models, especially those focused on treatment?

- Only a few rigorous evaluations examine reentry/homelessness.
- For “completers” of CBCFs, halfway house, recovery housing + Motivational Interviewing, and transitional housing programs, there are successful outcomes (reduced recidivism, increased employment) for targeted groups. However, many are unable to complete (25%-75% depending on study and fidelity to model).
- Strong benefits were found (reduced recidivism/public costs, and increased participation on voluntary services) of permanent supportive housing for:
 - individuals with frequent jail/shelter stays,
 - and those exiting prison with serious mental illness.
- New exploration of rapid rehousing and affordable housing (NYCHA pilot, CTP, e.g.) for reentry population is promising.

What do we know about the range of housing needs for returning citizens?

Most return to family and friends

Many ordered into supervised settings

Others exit initial placement and go to treatment

A few enter homelessness directly (2%-4%)

A small subset uses lots of jail and shelter

Another group interrupts long-term homeless stays with prison

Ohio as an Example

State and local investments in a full range of housing interventions (CSH designed and manages):

Funder	Target Population	Units or households
(Returning Home Ohio) Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections	Exiting state prison homeless with serious mental illness or HIV	220 statewide
(Community Transition Program) Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services	Exiting state prison, homeless, participated in recovery services while incarcerated	200 supportive housing 200 rapid rehousing 20 recovery housing
(FUSE) Franklin County	Most frequently incarcerated, (original list was matched against shelter utilizers)	40 units



CSH's Role

- Design and manage the housing programs through contracts with state and local government.
- Subcontract for direct services and rental assistance payments
- Monthly and annual monitoring of contractors
- Quarterly training
- Data analysis and reporting

Returning Home Ohio

- 803 people served since 2007
- Urban Institute's eval of RHO released in 2012
- RHO participants were 40% less likely to be rearrested and 61% less likely to be reincarcerated
- 290% increase in behavioral health service utilization

RHO quick facts

- Recidivism to state prison remains at 5% for those exiting (typical recidivism is 30%-50%)
- Scattered site model
- Serves a range of risk levels including sex offenders and those with histories of violence
- Average length of subsidy is 15 months
- Half are on supervision when they move in
- All participate in case management and half receive clinical services.

Community Transition Program



Launched in 2017; PSH, RRH and Recovery Housing;

769 people housed, 226 reunifications

95% did not recidivate to prison

83% stably housed after 12 months, including short term subsidies; high rate of service participation (61%)

More than half obtained reportable employment (55%)

FUSE

- New in 2019 – Franklin County Office of Justice Programs (CSH and Integrated Services for BH)
- Targets most frequent jail stayers, matched against HMIS
- Funding source = state prison diversion funds
- Random assignment, control trial with Notre Dame Lab for Economic Opportunity: so far jail days per person = 12.5 for housed group and 57.5 for control group
- Adding a Drug Court focused rapid rehousing component in 2020.

Potential sources of funding

- Community supervision funds – halfway house or other community-based step down programs
- Criminal justice reform or diversion investments
- Set-asides, pilots, or partnerships with housing authorities (note guidance to PHAs in previous administration)

Questions and Discussion

- What do you think?
- What didn't we talk about?

THANK YOU!



stay connected



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