You Have A Voice
Homeless Service Providers & Schools
Building Relationships
Presenters

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Topics for Today’s Presentation

• Why you have a Voice & What your Voice can Influence?
• Challenges for our Families and Youth with Coordinated Entry
• Collaboration amongst Homeless Service Providers and Schools
• Evictions 101 – Educating Families and Youth
You Have a Voice

- Homeless School Social Workers & Liaisons Perspective
- What is important to our families and youth
- Influence on Policy & Legislature
- Equal Access to Community Services
- HUD Requirements for Service Providers
Georgia School Year 2014/2015
39,113 Identified as McKinney Vento Eligible

107 Homeless Students Each Day
Throughout the Entire Year
Coordinated Entry: The Basics


- § 578.7 Responsibilities of the Continuum of Care.
  - (a) The Continuum of Care must:
    - …” establish and operate either a centralized or coordinated assessment system that provides an initial, comprehensive assessment of the needs of individuals and families for housing and services…”

Coordinated Entry: What is It?

• Coordinated entry processes:
  • Are a “no wrong door” approach to seeking homeless assistance services; should be easily accessible no matter where or how people present for services
  • Utilize a standard assessment intake tool to determine individual client needs
  • Prioritize assistance to clients based on vulnerability and severity of service needs
Atlanta CoC Coordinated Entry

Coordinated Entry Point
- Referral to 24/7 shelter options
- Multiple ways to access
- Geographically accessible
- Well-advertised
- Real-time info about resources
- Connected to all providers/services
- Address immediate basic needs and create housing plan

Supportive Services
- Mainstream Services
- Shelters
- Outreach Teams
- Supportive Services
- Faith-Based Institutions
- Food Pantries
- MARTA
- Airport

Comprehensive Assessment Documentation/Paperwork
Housing Plan Case Management

Supportive Services
- Mainstream Services

Most Appropriate Housing Solution
- e.g. PSH, RRH, TH

Immediate Shelter

Assessment Bed
Interim Housing

System Navigation and Peer Support
Challenges of Coordinated Entry

• Limited resources (demand exceeds supply)
• Involves a systems change, a “change in the way business is done” among service providers
• Difference in homeless definition – ED (broader) vs. HUD (narrower)
  • Affects prioritization for services often through the use of a vulnerability assessment tool
• Others?
HUD Homeless Categories

- Category 1: Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
- Category 2: Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence
- Category 3: Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with Category 3 children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition
- Category 4: Any individual or family who: (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; (ii) Has no other residence; and (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing
Show Me The Money

- HUD Funding
- CoC Funding
- VA Funding
- Private Funding
A Real Life Look

- Scenario 1
- Scenario 2
- Scenario 3

What homeless category are they?
Collaboration- Service Providers and Liaison

- Requires effort from all to improve outcomes
- Multi-stake holders
  - Require time-rapport and trust building
  - Managing different objectives
The A,B,C’s of Collaboration

• Make yourself visible in the community
• Make the most appropriate referral
• Give the provider/stake holder what they need!
• Be consistent

Let’s get together!
Co-managing cases

• Communication is key
  • Communicate often providing important updates and include parent in conversations

• Always be positive
  • Confidentially and respect for parent

• Be a United Front
  • Be sure to clearly communicate to the parent what services each provider is offering
Filling in the Gaps

• What services do I often need for my parents/clients?
• Who can provide this service?
• How can I/we collaborate?
Who is my CoC Representative?

Where's My CoC
Evictions 101

Historically, eviction has never been as frequent as it is today.

We are facing an unprecedented rise in evictions.

• In 2013, 1 in 8 poor renting families nationwide was unable to pay all of their rent and a similar number feared eviction was imminent and the numbers are climbing.
• Rents have risen 7% in the past year, while incomes have inched just 1.8% higher -- making it that much harder for people to afford their housing payments.
• In Georgia, there was one eviction notice filed for every five rental households.
Evictions 101

• Having children triples the odds of a person receiving an eviction judgment.

• Many of the eviction cases have been for minor violations, often for behavior that was formerly tolerated. In many cases, evictions aren’t the fault of the tenant but the landlord going into default.

• Research shows that the, “….worst-kept properties often yielded biggest returns to investors. Tenants, fearful of being evicted or of having city officials call child protective services about living conditions, are wary of complaining too much about disrepair” so nothing is repaired and the problems are compounded.
Securing and Maintaining Housing: **Pre** and Post Eviction

- Housing Search & Geo Mapping
- Comprehensive Housing Assessment
- Identification and Connection to Community Resources
- Case Management and Social Supports
- Housing Stability Plans
Securing and Maintaining Housing:
Pre and Post Eviction

- Stolen vs. Storage
  - Prevention Assistance
- Coordinated Entry Process
- Family Reunification
- Trauma
- Starting Over
Questions
Thank You

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