



## Background/Agency Information

- WSOS Community Action Commission, Fremont Ohio
- Region 2 – Wood, Sandusky, Ottawa, Seneca Counties

## Housing Programs

- Transitional Housing (TH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP), Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
- All scattered site (transition in place)
- All operating under the HF philosophy

## Housing First

- Centers on providing homeless people with housing quickly and then providing services as needed.
- Focus on helping individuals and families quickly access and sustain permanent housing.
- Critical elements:
  - A variety of services are delivered primarily *following* a housing placement to promote housing stability and individual well-being
  - Services are time-limited or long-term depending upon individual need
  - Housing is not contingent on compliance with services – instead, participants must comply with a standard lease agreement and are provided with the services and supports that are necessary to help them do so successfully.

## Transition to HF

- Started in 2009 – fully transitioned by 2012
- SSVF made HF mandatory in 2013 award
- Changes for us included:
  - Background Checks
  - Two HV per month
  - “Screening Out” if committee didn’t select you
  - Substance Abuse mandates (meetings, etc.)
  - Past program stays

## Resistance/Challenges to HF

- Staff – highest resistance
- As new staff were involved easier process
- Revising Documents: removed intake requirements, changed participation agreement, revised policies & procedures

## Document Revision

- Disclosure Statement revised to include the following reasons for denial or termination:
  - Eligibility does not meet HUD Guidelines
  - Application is incomplete
  - Falsifying information at intake
  - Funds are not available
  - Unable to live independently
  - Threatening Family Advocate during application process

## Document Revision

- Participation Agreement Changes
  - Revised "must" to "encouraged"
  - Revised exit to include only:
    - Threatening Behavior
    - Noncompliance with lease
    - Not providing income verifications annually.

## Document Revision

- Policies & Procedures – added HF section:
  - Not screened on criminal history, past evictions, employment or mental health
  - Background Check is conducted for safety concerns only (home visits) doesn't exclude from enrollment

## Program Eligibility

- Pre Housing First:
  - Transitional Housing = Proof of Homelessness, Background Check, Past Landlord Check, Committee Approval,
- Post Housing First:
  - Transitional Housing = Proof of Homelessness, Intake appointment

## Benefits of HF

- Less "screening", more "housing"
- Quicker enrollments
- Fill Units – from Landlord Perspective
- Fill Units – from Participant Perspective

## Resources:

- National Alliance To End Homelessness – Housing First [http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/housing\\_first](http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/housing_first)
- WSOS Community Action Commission [www.wsos.org](http://www.wsos.org)

## Questions?

For more information contact:

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