

Extended Housing's P.A.T.H. Program

Leah Houser, Homeless Outreach Coordinator
Sandra Langenderfer, Director of Housing Services

Mission

- Extended Housing's mission is to support individuals with severe and persistent mental illness to live as independently as possible by creating, developing and sustaining safe decent affordable housing options.




Extended Housing

- Voucher programs
 - CoC Programs (Shelter Plus Care)
 - HOME TBRA
 - Locally funded voucher programs
 - Extended Housing owned properties
- Housing Loan Program
 - One time payment of rental assistance or security deposit
- Residential Care Facility (Licensed as Class One with OhioMHAS)

P.A.T.H.

- Outreach to homeless individuals within the community
 - Severely mentally ill and not linked with mental health services
 - Identify those who are homeless and to quickly link them to resources and housing
- Go to where the people are

Engagement

- Making sure supplies are available
 - Meeting basic needs
- Meeting clients where they are at
- Reinforcing their goals

Outreach Activities

- Cookout
- Hot chocolate
- Farmer's market
- Resource games
- Breakfast for the homeless





On-going services

- Case management
- Supplies and housing assistance
- Advocacy
 - Acting quickly to gain trust
 - Following through, never guaranteeing anything
 - Open lines of communication

Community Partners

- Lake County ADAMHS Board's Compass Line
- Lake County ADAMHS Board's Transportation Line
- Mental Health providers
- Emergency shelters
- Churches
- Community Action Partner agency

Trainings

- Stay up to date on trainings
 - Local and statewide trends
 - Mental illness and substance use
 - Cultural competency
 - Outreach strategies
 - On-going trainings with local community agencies
 - Crisis and emergency situations
 - Fair Housing

Homeless Advisory Council

- Began July, 2009
- The Councils' mission is to improve outreach and referral services to the homeless people of Lake County through the discussion of current needs and the sharing of ideas about how to address them.
- Outreach Activities
- Money raised: \$2,816.00
 - Purchase supplies



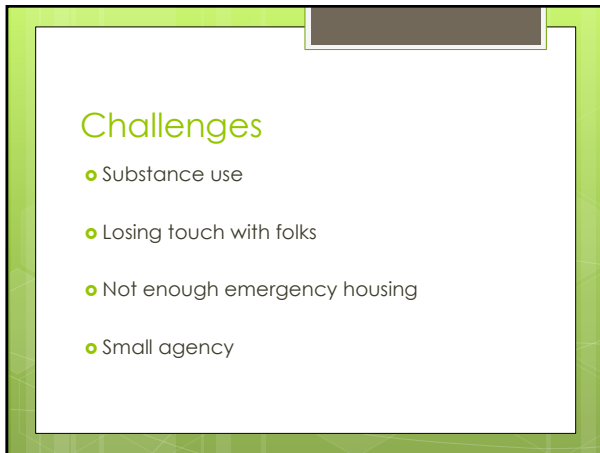
Successes

- Celebrate the small achievements!
 - Acknowledgements encourage consumers and staff
 - Keeps consumers engaged
 - Spreads positivity
 - Examples
- 28% of those currently housed in EHI Programs are past PATH consumers



Challenges

HMIS



Challenges

- Substance use
- Losing touch with folks
- Not enough emergency housing
- Small agency



Staffing

- Hours
- Walk-in hours every Monday
- All office staff are trained in meeting with homeless folks
- New staff members' orientation includes meeting with outside organizations
- Reinforcing team mentality

Community

- Local CoC
 - PIT Count Lead
 - PSH for the county
- Community Partners
 - Churches
 - CODE Blue
 - Schools
 - Library
 - Social Service Agencies
 - Staff well known in the community and involved



Continuous Quality Improvement

- Team Meetings
- One-on-one meetings
- As needed work-flow meetings
- Tweaking processes
- Open communication

A home.
A hand.
A fresh start.

