

Mental Health Task Force 2020 Karen Avery Forum

Speaker/Breakout Session Notes Summary

What's Working in Milwaukee

1. Bridge/Autumn West/Safe Haven- Vouchers
2. Person centered case management in a timely manner
3. Partnerships created with plenty of collaboration.
4. Huge investments and focus on prevention work
5. Making sure there is shelter space available
6. Tax credits may be available;
7. Partnerships with downtown business development
8. Collaboration
9. Credit score education to clients
10. Investment from Milwaukee County in Chronic Homelessness and Prevention. Collaboration between agencies working to end homelessness.
11. WCS Keys to Independence program - allows for permanent housing/support of case managers and peer support
12. Due to Tax Credits there are more opportunities for affordable housing
13. Other community-based apartment programs have peer supports in-house during the day
14. Homeless advocates are committed to helping and working with people with disabilities
15. 2-1-1 is working well
16. Coordinated entry referral can offer additional resources
17. Housing First Initiative
18. Peer run programs, peer support relationships to assist others
19. Programs to allow individuals to live with family members in safe housing

What Are the Barriers:

1. The lack of Landlord Engagement and education
2. Subleases occurring with Management companies causing people to make multiple moves
3. Past evictions, history of violence/ drug charges, expectations can get in the way
4. Affordable housing and lack of available units for those that are not able to work/mental health challenges
5. COVID 19 and the potential Eviction and Homeless crisis it brings with it
6. Lack of Information and Resources regarding Housing
7. The necessity for a Housing Tool Kit
8. Systems are complex and overwhelmed; lack of getting assistance in a timely manner/very frustrating
9. The need for more mobile services, meeting people in their homes.
10. Many evictions will be taking place at the end of the year (assistance to find housing will be needed at that time)
11. Housing needs to not just include shelter. People would benefit from a more holistic approach
12. Sober living is in triggering neighborhoods which isn't helpful
13. Low income levels, lack of safe housing, lack of permanence or stability, worries about public and personal physical health
14. Landlords require 3X monthly rent; credit scores, even when voucher included
15. educating individuals on credit scores, and obtaining this information, some have never checked their credit score
16. Sober living is in triggering neighborhoods which isn't helpful

MHTF – Opportunities to Advance Change

1. Continuing to support the Housing First Initiative
2. Watching for COVID related impacts on housing and access to care
3. Easily access to resources of available housing
4. Assistance in navigating Section 8 opportunities
5. Promoting integration of housing and healthcare as a wholistic approach
6. Advocate for Peer Support to assist in people maintain their housing when evictions occur
7. Continuing collaborations and partnerships; educating landlords; advocacy for clients
8. Improve collaborations; prioritization, idea sharing, brainstorming within community;
9. Advancing legal education to landlords ensure they are abiding by fair housing laws
10. Advocacy for continued and increased prevention for Homeless Prevention, Eviction Prevention, and HACM prioritization of homeless on waitlist