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Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Newsletter



Partner Organizations:



Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association



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100ideas.org

100ideas.org...*Innovative Ideas for Florida's Future*

The overarching principle of 100ideas.org is that those who aspire to lead this state must accept responsibility for its future. The vision is to not only see Florida as it is today, but to envision it as it should be tomorrow and have a plan to turn the vision into reality.

www.100ideas.org is an interactive site, run on real time so that people can submit ideas, see ideas others

have sent and comment on them, or even schedule an "Idearaiser". It also serves as a virtual town hall, that hosts live chats about specific policy issues with key policymakers.

Visit this website to read news articles, press releases, recent speeches on innovative ideas on shaping Florida's future and more importantly, find answers on how you can raise an idea or host an idearaiser to advance supportive housing in the state of Florida.

Outcomes for Permanent Housing Programs for the Homeless

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, over 600,000 adults are homeless in an average week. Since the passage of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1990, however, the problem of chronic homelessness has been systemically attacked on many fronts. Permanent housing in which there is no limit on length of stay, is a significant component in HUD's overall effort to combat homelessness. Combined with supportive services, permanent housing offers homeless people, especially those with disabilities a chance to live independently and safely in their own homes.

Yet despite what the term permanence implies, 12 percent of participants in these HUD funded programs left permanent housing in 2004 within the first six months of residency and 25 percent left within two years. This prompted questions regarding the real meaning of "permanent housing" and what happens to the "leavers." The following statistics on the paths taken by the leavers suggest that many of them moved on to potentially positive living solutions:

(continued on page 3)

A Message From The President

The Florida Supportive Housing Coalition is continuing its advocacy efforts in order to maximize the production of supportive housing in Florida as well as increase the amount of housing affordable to the many populations we serve.



Shannon Nazworth

Last month several board members attended public sessions to discuss how to facilitate the production of supportive housing in Florida. Following are some highlights of the recommendations FLSHC has made to Florida Housing Finance Corporation regarding several of their funding applications.

1. Prioritize the production of housing units affordable to extremely low income households.
2. Prioritize the preservation of apartment communities that have rental assistance tied to them.
3. Provide operating reserves for developments targeted to special needs populations so that the rents can be affordable while the housing is maintained at a high quality.

Florida Housing Finance Corporation welcomes input from the community on how they should use their resources and improve the provision of affordable housing throughout the state. If you are interested in providing comments, please view their website at www.floridahousing.org.



Ann Denton, M.Ed from Texas will conduct a training on

supportive housing on August 28-29 at the Tampa Airport Marriott. Ms. Denton has over 20 years experience working with and for people with disabilities. In that work, Ms. Denton has focused on the housing needs of people with disabilities, particularly people with serious mental illness. She has worked with communities and state agencies throughout the country on Continuum of Care planning and creating housing for people who are homeless. She has provided leadership in the area of targeting

Training Event

resources to people who are most in need, especially people making at or less than 30% of the household median area income, and targeting resources to people who are homeless.

The first day will discuss funding streams and how to address housing needs in the Continuum of Care. The second day will be devoted to one on one consultations/conversation with up to 4 communities. For further details contact Tom Pierce, Executive Director, Office on Homelessness, Department of Children and Families, 1317 Winewood Blvd., Tallahassee, FL (850) 922-9850 phone, (850) 487-1361 fax.

Florida Housing Partnership Accepting Concept Papers

Mission/Goals of Florida Housing Partnership

Florida Housing Partnership will create permanently affordable rental housing for Floridians through partnerships with local organizations, public agencies and the private sector. The intent is to lend development expertise to organizations that will then own and operate the property.

The Need/The Opportunity

Although Florida has the largest housing trust fund in the nation, the State's affordable housing efforts have been dominated by private developers, resulting in a concentration of resources at the higher end of the income range and the development of many large scale suburban complexes that met the need of both housing developers and the state to produce as many units as possible with available resources.

Although the tide is now beginning to turn with the recognition that the housing needs of very low income, extremely low income and special needs populations must be met as well, there is a lack of development capacity in the non-profit sector within the state.

The proposed statewide development entity will assemble and lend development expertise and resources to local non-profits in order to increase the State's capacity to develop and operate mission-driven affordable housing.

Organizations that could benefit from such a partnership include: service providers, including mental health centers, neighborhood revitalization and community development organizations; faith based organizations; housing authorities, and employers.

Who Is Involved/Current Status

Maria Pellerin Barcus, former President and CEO of Carrfour Supportive Housing and Founder of Florida Supportive Housing Coalition is spearheading this initiative. Contact information: 5637 La Gorce Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33140 (305) 861-1252 Ph (305) 788-7343 Cell, mpbarcus@aol.com.

Ideal Project and Sponsor

The ideal project sponsor is a stable organization financially and in terms of leadership and personnel, committed to the project at all levels of the organization with the capacity and desire to provide start-up capital to launch the Partnership.

How to Submit a Project Concept

Organizations interested in exploring a joint venture with the Partnership should submit the following information by August 30, 2006.

- Sponsor organization
- Contact person, their position in the organization, contact information (email, telephone, and address)
- Project description-number of units, types of units, target population
- Site information and status of site control
- Funding commitments to date and target funding cycles

There is no cost or obligation created by submitting a project. Projects should be submitted to Maria Pellerin Barcus at the aforementioned address.

Outcomes for Permanent Housing *(continued from p.1)*

- 23% market-rate rentals
- 29% subsidized rentals
- 1% homeownership
- 20% moved in with family or friends
- 10% jail, prison, psychiatric hospital, or inpatient alcohol or drug treatment
- 3% transitional housing
- 3% emergency shelters
- 1% back to streets
- 10% unknown

Searching for greater insight into what these statistics mean in terms of policymaking, HUD sponsored an analysis of outcomes from a unique group that participated in Philadelphia's permanent housing program. Analysts reviewed the tenure of 943 mentally ill individuals, previously counted among the chronically homeless with disabilities, who resided in permanent housing from June 1, 2001 to June 15, 2004. A research team interviewed 100 participants who left permanent housing

between February 2003 and December 2004, as well as matched a sample of "stayers" who were living in permanent housing as of January 2005. Notably, more than half of the residents interviewed did not view their living arrangements as permanent.

Differing circumstances of leaving were reported among those who departed permanent housing. Sixty one percent were voluntary leavers, while Thirty nine percent left involuntarily. Most who left voluntarily were looking to improve their living situation and were able to tap into financial resources (housing subsidies, social security, food stamps).

In retrospect, leavers of permanent housing who left involuntarily, or who went to less favorable situations, had higher risk profiles than those leaving on their own accord. As a group, their illnesses were severe. They functioned less effectively, had a greater rate of substance abuse, and required a higher level of supportive services. Inpatient and emer-

gency psychiatric services were required at a relatively higher rate, suggesting that the illnesses of these individuals may have worsened.

The reviewers of the Philadelphia program concluded that while permanent housing programs belong in the arsenal to fight chronic homelessness, there is much more that can be done to improve these programs' outcomes. Among the more promising would be early warning signs of unfavorable departures. Effective tools are needed to ensure an initial assessment and ongoing monitoring of risk that will steer residents to supportive services.

This analysis is reported in a new HUD publication entitled "Predicting Staying In or Leaving Permanent Supportive Housing That Serves Homeless People with Serious Mental Illness. It can be downloaded at no cost from www.huduser.org/publications/homeless/permhsgstudy.html

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