

Austin/Travis County Corporation for Supportive Housing Texas Re-entry Initiative October 30th, 2009

Summary of Data Work Group Key Findings and Recommendations

Goal 2: Determine scope of the issue related to the need for permanent supportive housing for a re-entry population.

Process

- Participants from key criminal justice, human service and housing stakeholders
- Focused on data from calendar year 2008
- Identified total served in programs who met definition and then conducted data matching to unduplicated individuals
- Created a conservative estimate of need

Definition of Target Population for Data Collection

- 1) Persons being released from a correctional setting OR currently involved in a criminal justice program; and
- 2) Has a disability (including mental illness, chemical dependency, physical, or developmental and intellectual disabilities); and
- 3) Is or will be homeless at release or during program participation; and
- 4) Are in, or returning to, Travis County.

Data Sources

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|--|-------------------------------|
| Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCMHMR) | Project ANEW |
| Commitment to Change | Project Recovery |
| Community Court Frequent Users | TDC J – TCOOMI |
| Crime Prevention Institute | Travis County Adult Probation |
| ECHO HMIS | Travis County Jail |
| Integrated Care Collaboration (ICC) | |

Key Data Findings

1. Conservatively identified 1,100 individuals who met the definition of homeless, involved with the criminal justice system and had a disability in 2008 and are in, or returning to, Travis County.
2. Travis County Jail identified 814 individuals who met the target population definition in 2008:
 - a. Of those 814, forty-five individuals (5%), accounted for 611 arrests—25% of all arrests.
 - b. Based solely on the average cost for a jail bed (excluding the additional costs this population requires for booking, medication, counseling, etc.), a conservative estimate of the costs of the 814 is:

PROJECT SUPPORTED BY:



54,774 Jail bed days (150.07 years) X \$48 per day = \$2,629,152
2,587 arrests x \$175 per arrest = \$ 452,725
Total jail costs for the 814: \$3,081,877

- c. Of the Travis County Jail 814 population:
- i. 145 (19%) had 4 or more psychiatric hospitalizations in the past 180 days or 6 in the past two years;
 - ii. 284 (35%) were assessed as not having the ability to attend to their basic needs in the past 90 days; and
 - iii. 668 (82%) were assessed with serious income stability problems (i.e., employment, etc).

The Travis County Jail identified 814 individuals in 2008 with mental illness and who were homeless.

Estimated Jail Costs:

54,774 jail bed days x \$48/day = \$2,629,152
2,587 total bookings x \$175/booking: 452,725

Total Estimated Jail Costs for the 814: \$3,081,877

3. Based on a chart review, Community Court reports that approximately 44% of their frequent user population has both severe persistent mental illness and chemical dependency and could benefit from supportive housing.
4. Criminal justice and/or re-entry programs have limited access to housing programs/vouchers.
5. Criminal justice programs stated they do not effectively identify people with physical, developmental and/or intellectual disabilities.
6. Not all criminal justice/reentry programs assess housing stability.
7. Project ANEW demonstrated that housing and income stability are connected and that both aspects need to be addressed.
8. There is a lack of MOU's between partners making data matching difficult.

Recommendations

1. A supportive housing re-entry pilot strategy should serve a target population with the following characteristics:
 - Co-occurring disorders;
 - Functional impairment;
 - High rate of hospitalization;
 - High need for income stability services;
 - Mostly male (but concern about needs for women with children); and
 - Either exiting incarceration or supervised.
2. A supportive housing re-entry pilot strategy should include at least 100 units of housing which would include different types of housing along the housing continuum including:
 - Housing First for the chronically homeless and service resistant;
 - Housing ready and/or long term transitional for those who could work if they become stable;
 - Permanent Supportive Housing for those who will need permanent housing and services; and
 - Housing with links to:
 - Correctional settings;
 - Mental health and substance abuse services;
 - Legal advocacy; and
 - Services that connect to income stability (SSI, SSDI, employment readiness, and jobs).

3. The following are additional Process Recommendations related to gathering data, building partnerships, and maximizing existing programs:
- Gathering Data Recommendations:
 - Create an agreed upon definition for housing stability and consistently collect housing stability data across all sections of the criminal justice system to identify the need for supportive housing.
 - Create an assessment team that develops and uses one assessment tool and shares the data across systems.
 - Recommend TDCJ's new Rehabilitation and Reentry Division collect TCOOMI data on their continuity of care population to help identify housing stability for persons being released without supervision.
 - Develop MOU's between outside organizations to better share data and educate entities on HIPAA restrictions and opportunities for data sharing.
 - Further explore the numbers, characteristics, and housing needs of frequent juvenile offenders.
 - Building Partnerships Recommendations:
 - Create a formal partnership between ECHO and the Travis County Jail to improve data collection and to coordinate reentry services for the homeless.
 - Integrate data and the data managers into the proposed ECHO Housing Planning for Special Populations Committee.
 - Maximizing Existing Programs Recommendations:
 - Explore ways to expand the eligibility for or the scope of Project Recovery.
 - Consider strategies to better connect Community Court frequent users to the Project Recovery program.
 - Target medical and other special needs detainees for reentry planning.

For additional information about the Austin/Travis County CSH Texas Re-entry Initiative or to volunteer to work on this project, contact:

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