



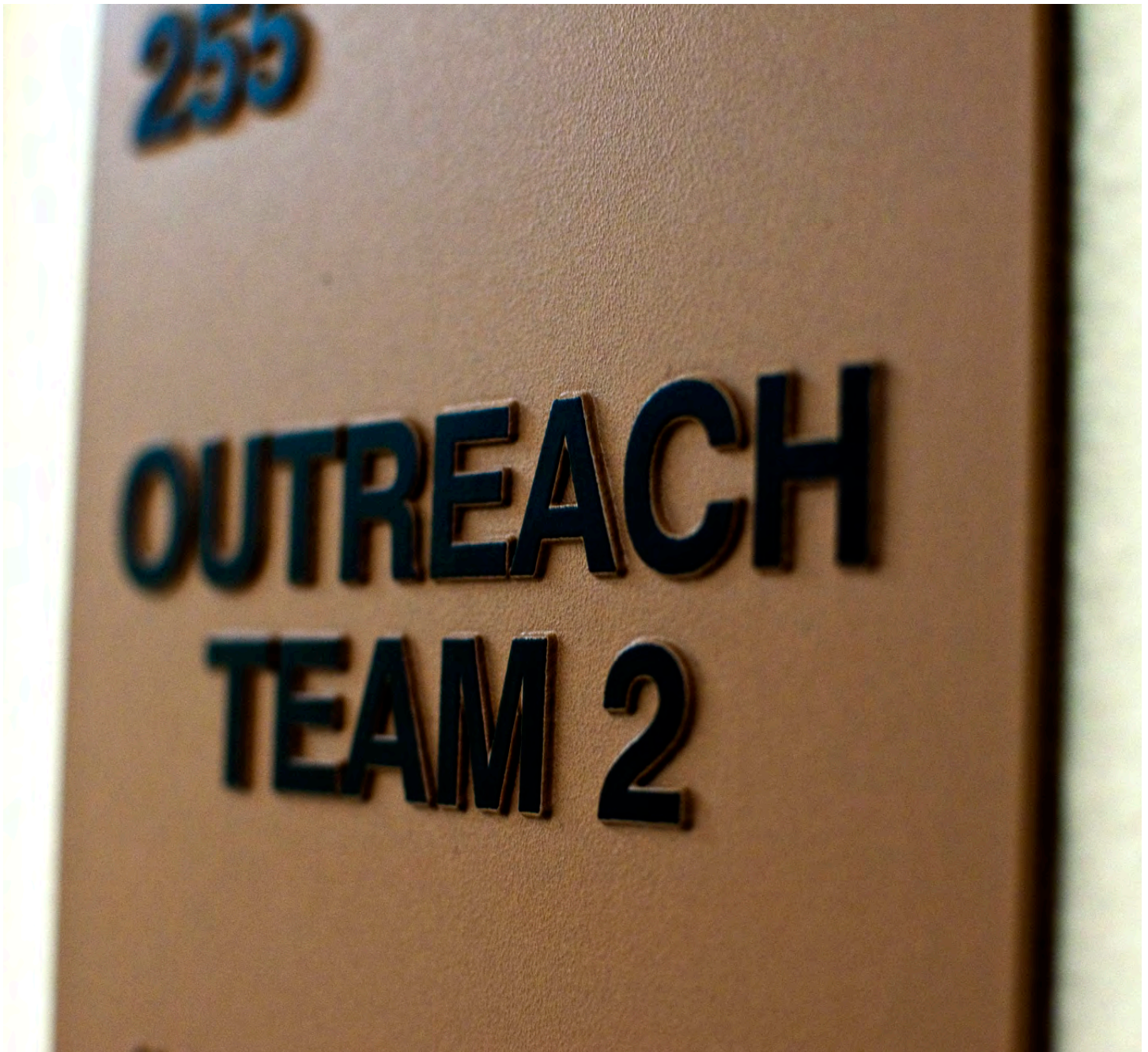
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov



PATH Projects for Assistance in
Transition from Homelessness

Technical Assistance Resource Page

Outreach



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Additional SAMHSA Resources

For more information about SAMHSA resources and programs, contact the SAMHSA Health Information Network at 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727).



Technical Assistance Resource Page

Outreach



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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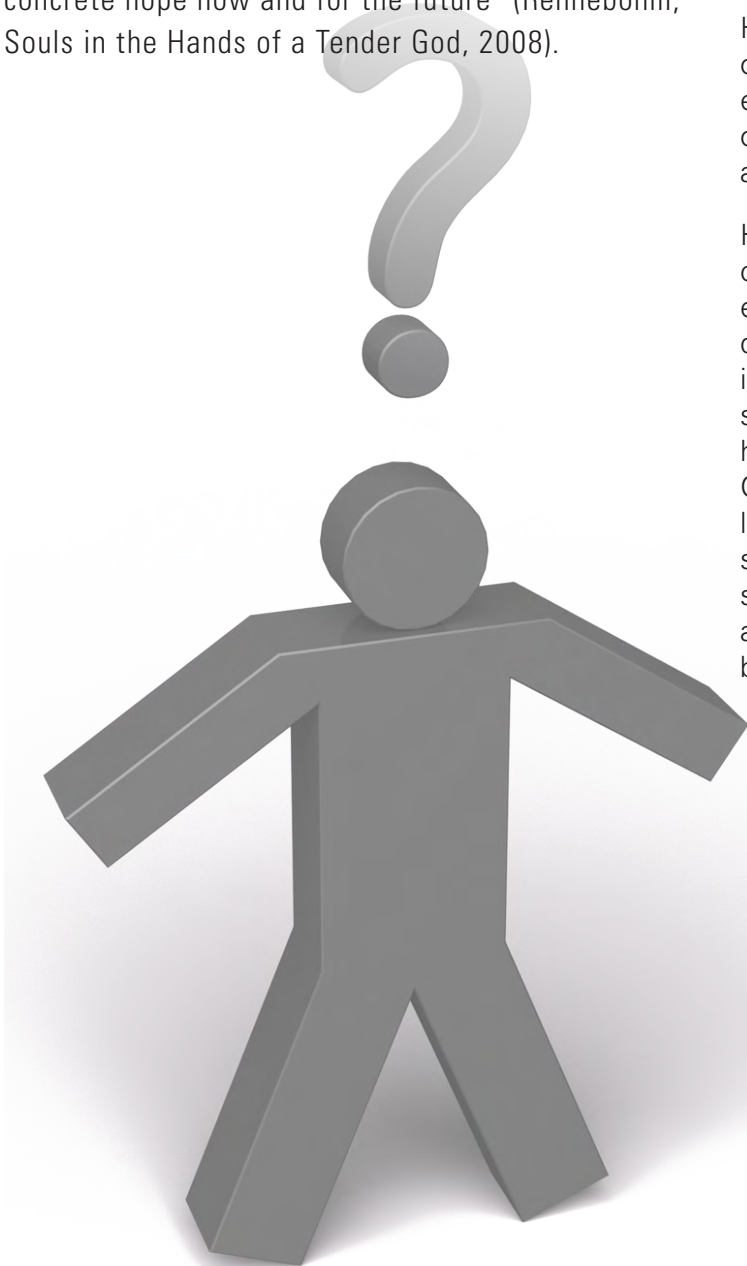
What Is Outreach?

“Proven practices of outreach, care and counseling; and a growing commitment to maximize each person’s recovery—all of these factors provide concrete hope now and for the future” (Rennebohm, *Souls in the Hands of a Tender God*, 2008).

Outreach is essential to the national PATH program. Though outreach definitions vary and research is limited, a great deal of practical knowledge is available.

Homeless outreach has as its foundation the principle of “meeting people where they are”—geographically, emotionally, and philosophically. The practice of outreach is critically important to engage people who are reluctant or unable to seek services and care.

Homeless service providers, advocates, and consumers view the process of outreach and engagement as a key component of homeless service delivery (Olivet et al., 2009). It is often the first step in engaging people experiencing homelessness in services. “The overarching goal of outreach is to help break the bonds imposed by homelessness. Outreach, at its best, helps people move toward a life of greater health and personal stability. In doing so, they are able to discover more fully their own sense of identity and purpose, find meaningful work and activity, and establish a sense of place and belonging in the larger community” (Kraybill, 2002).



The following pages provide background information with accompanying web-based resources, documents, and other resources for service providers, outreach workers, and others interested in homeless outreach. This document consists of three main sections.

The first section, **Background**, features general resources important to any overview of homeless outreach. It includes background material as well as tips from other providers.

The second, **Population-Based**, categorizes specific subpopulations of people who experience homelessness:

- Co-Occurring and Substance Use Disorders
- Corrections
- Elder Homelessness
- HIV/AIDS
- LGBTQI2-S
- Serious Mental Illness
- Rural Homelessness
- Veterans

The final section, **Approaches and Other Issues**, touches upon additional homeless outreach concepts and supporting resources:

- Housing-Focused
- Medical
- Peer Providers
- Self-Care
- Data Management

It's vital to remember that my role as their social worker is just one part of their life. I keep in mind that it's truly an honor to be invited to be part of someone's journey in "their life," and that has helped me to maintain a sense of balance in this work.

Barbara Lucci, PATH Outreach Clinician,
Eliot Community Human Services,
Worcester, Massachusetts



Background

“Outreach and engagement are regarded by many who work in homeless programs as essential services. Outreach on the streets and in shelters is often the first point of contact for people who are not served by traditional site-based services and is often the first step in engaging homeless people in services” (Olivet et al., 2009).

According to the Service Definitions for PATH-Funded Services,

“Outreach is the process of bringing individuals, who do not access traditional services, into treatment. Effective outreach utilizes strategies aimed at engaging persons into the needed array of services, including identification of individuals in need, screening, development of rapport, offering support while assisting with immediate and basic needs, and referral to appropriate resources. Outreach results in increased access to and utilization of community services by people who are experiencing homelessness and mental illness.”¹

Traditionally, outreach is face-to-face interaction with individuals who are literally homeless in streets, shelters, under bridges, and in other non-traditional settings. Outreach may also include “inreach,” when an outreach worker is placed in a service site frequented by individuals who are experiencing homelessness, and indirect methods such as distribution of flyers.

Borrowing techniques from Motivational Interviewing (MI), the center of outreach is on listening to the individual's goals and desires, then working with that person to attain those goals. Assistance may include linking the individual to benefits or simply providing a taxi voucher for a ride to a local shelter or warming station. These examples are not to imply that outreach is easy. When approaching an individual experiencing homelessness on the street on a cold winter night, it does not seem adequate to listen to an account of chronic medical conditions and depart leaving only a cup of hot chocolate behind when a consumer refuses a ride to the shelter. The now shadowy figure under the tarp could benefit from so much more, but may not be ready. Offering help too quickly may push a person away; engagement and trust take time. It may have to be enough to hope to see that person again the next night, get a name, and have the offer of dry socks accepted.

¹ Definition of outreach from the PATH Administrative Workgroup
DRAFT Service Definitions for PATH-Funded Services, 2005



Training Materials

PATH Record to Video Discussion Guide

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=49497>

PATH Record to Episode 1 Initial Contact

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=49498>

PATH Record to Episode 2 Follow-Up Visit

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=49500>

PATH Record to Episode 3 Connecting

People with Services

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=49501>

Direct Link

<http://www.nhchc.org/outreachvideos.html>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50031>

PATH Outreach Video Series

The “Street Outreach” video series is designed to equip homeless service providers with skills and knowledge to do their jobs well. Rather than talking theoretically about skills and knowledge, these training videos show providers practicing them in real world settings.

Health Care for the Homeless Outreach Video

This video presents the essential components of Health Care for the Homeless outreach teams, including where outreach takes place, the purpose of outreach, who should do outreach, needed skills, and how to practice self-care. (Author).



Direct Link

<http://www.nhchc.org/Curriculum>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=26123>

Outreach to People Experiencing Homelessness: A Curriculum for Training Health Care for the Homeless Outreach Workers

This comprehensive outreach training curriculum consists of six modules that begin with an introduction to a relational outreach model and end with moving a consumer into a new home.

Direct Link

<http://www.eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED364617.pdf>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=18609>

The Streetwork Outreach Training Manual

This manual is a guide for providing services to youth living on the streets. It covers outreach program development; the creation of an outreach team, including staff development and training needs; program implementation and tips for success; and the various services, both direct and ancillary, that are necessary.



Web-Based Resources

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Channel/View.aspx?id=129>

PATH Outreach Topic Page

Find information, tips, and tools related to outreach in this topic section on the PATH website.

Direct Link

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Channel/Outreach-35.aspx>

Homelessness Resource Center (HRC): Outreach Topic Page

Best Practices for Providers—the resources on this HRC webpage can help providers and agencies adopt effective outreach practices through tips, trainings, and successful program models.

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=49224>

Empowering Consumers through Motivational Interviewing

Weary of trying to get people to change? Frustrated with trying to convince clients to move off the streets, take their medications, stop drinking, follow up at the clinic, eat better, and take other steps to improve their lives? The good news is that there is an alternative and more effective approach to helping others—based on Motivational Interviewing (MI).



Other Resources

Direct Link

<http://www.facebook.com/housingfornewhope>

Direct Link to PATH article about Housing
for New Hope's Facebook page

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=48860>

Housing for New Hope on Facebook

Visit this Durham, North Carolina PATH provider on Facebook. "Our mission is to encourage and assist the homeless, as well as other people in crisis, in their movement toward lives marked by increased levels of stability, dignity, hope, and independence."

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=32933>

Tips for Outreach Workers by Outreach Workers

On February 13, 2008, several outreach workers from around the country gathered in Boston to discuss the skills needed for effective outreach. In the course of their discussion, they came up with some tips for other outreach workers.

Direct Link

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/homeless/symposium/6-Outreach.htm>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=23975>

To Dance with Grace: Outreach and Engagement to Persons on the Street

This paper presents a review of the literature and information on best practices relating to homeless outreach and engagement. Presented at the 1998 Homelessness Research Symposium, it is a "must read" for all outreach workers.



ISBN: 9780520218833 Publisher: University of California Press; 1st edition (September 2, 1999)

Crossing the Border: Encounters between Homeless People and Outreach Workers

This publication is the first book-length study of outreach to persons experiencing homelessness and mental illness.

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46294>

PATH Technical Assistance Resource Page: Income and Medical Coverage

This PATH Technical Assistance Resource Page provides information about finding and applying for income and medical coverage for people experiencing homelessness. Resource topics include Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSI/SSDI), Veterans' benefits, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Earned Income Tax Credit, and Medicaid/Medicare.

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=49956>

Spotlight on PATH Practices and Programs: Motivational Interviewing

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a client-centered, strength-based approach that focuses on meeting people where they are and motivating an individual's intrinsic desire to change. This "Spotlight" issue highlights how four PATH programs utilize Motivational Interviewing to successfully engage and work with consumers.



PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=45571>

Spotlight on PATH Practices and Programs: PATH Programs Providing SOAR (SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access, and Recovery)

The purpose of the SOAR initiative is to improve access to SSI and SSDI for people experiencing homelessness. Some states that have ten-year-plans receive Federally supported training and technical assistance for SOAR through a partnership of multiple Federal agencies. Other states fund SOAR through a variety of mechanisms.

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=37555>

Assessing the Evidence: What We Know about Outreach and Engagement

This evidence brief shares preliminary findings from the Homelessness Resource Center's (HRC) review of outreach and engagement.

Direct Link

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/q15u414827g64074>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=21877>

Outreach Workers' Experiences in a Homeless Outreach Project: Issues of Boundaries, Ethics, and Staff Safety (fee)

This article explores areas of client-staff boundaries, professional ethics, and staff safety.



Population-Based

“Outreach seeks to establish a personal connection that provides the spark for the journey back to a vital and dignified life” (Bassuk, 1994).

Outreach efforts often focus on distinctive populations or groups in order to serve their particular needs most effectively. For example, women who are living on the street may more easily engage with other women, especially if they have past negative experiences with men. A male outreach worker may need to provide more space than a woman or need assistance from a female coworker. On the other hand, even though different populations have specific needs, the needs and services offered will vary depending on the individual consumer. Not all women will prefer outreach workers that are women, some may prefer men due to their own past experiences with women. People who experience homelessness are unique individuals and they have their own experiences that shape their needs. It is important to treat the whole person and not make judgments when people do not meet your expectations.

People have an imaginary safety zone (or bubble) around them and they come in all sizes. You can learn to read them by using their body language and expressions on their faces among other body language signs. The trick is to sense when you are approaching the edge of that zone and go no further unless invited.

Michael Kelly, PATH Outreach and Re-Housing Case Manager, Housing for New Hope, Durham, North Carolina



CO-OCCURRING AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

Web-Based Resources

Direct Link
<http://chab.samhsa.gov/Channel/Co-Occurring-Disorders-111.aspx>

The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment's (CSAT) Co-Occurring and Homeless Activities Branch (CHAB)

Located within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the resources provided on the CHAB website relate to the topic of co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders. Persons suffering from a co-occurring disorder are more likely than the general population to become homeless. This link leads directly to the CHAB co-occurring disorders page.



Other Resources

Direct Link

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a917096507~db=all~jumptype=rss>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50011>

Non-Abstinence-Based Supportive Housing for Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders: A Human Rights Perspective (fee)

In 2003 and 2007, surveys of social service providers in Portland, Oregon revealed a significant policy shift in meeting the housing needs of people who are homeless with chronic mental illness and ongoing substance-abuse problems.

Direct Link

http://www.nattc.org/userfiles/file/CentralEast/Mobile_Outreach.pdf

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=32834>

Mobile Outreach: A Guide to Help Plan and Implement a Mobile Outreach Vehicle (MOV)-Based Risk Reduction Intervention Program

The intent of this guide is to help Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and other individuals or groups in the planning and implementation of a MOV-based risk-reduction intervention program. It is specifically for mobile outreach programs targeting active drug users. However, it is helpful for anyone interested in mobile outreach to other target populations.



Direct Link

<http://informahealthcare.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00952990600754006>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=37428>

Assertive Outreach: An Effective Strategy for Engaging Homeless Persons with Substance Use Disorders into Treatment (fee)

The purpose of this study was to examine substance abuse treatment referrals made by outreach workers in a homeless outreach project.

Direct Link

<http://www.nhchc.org/Advocacy/FactSheets/CA05RCaseStudies-FINAL5.pdf>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/Providing-Treatment-for-Homeless-People-With-Substance-Use-Disorders-33575.aspx>

Providing Treatment for Homeless People with Substance Use Disorders: Case Studies of Six Programs

The authors spent approximately two days at each of the six selected programs to collect information about what seems to work well in practice, and for whom, according to those currently working in the field.



CORRECTIONS

Other Resources

Direct Link

<http://www.nicic.gov/Library/period296>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50014>

Outreach to Homeless Veterans in the Los Angeles County Jail: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Greater Los Angeles Healthcare Story

This article consists of the following sections: historical perspective; initial barriers to the jail outreach program; applying the Political Economy Model of Hasenfield and Brock; challenges in implementing the jail outreach program; jail outreach outcomes; challenges for program developers; and a conclusion.

Direct Link

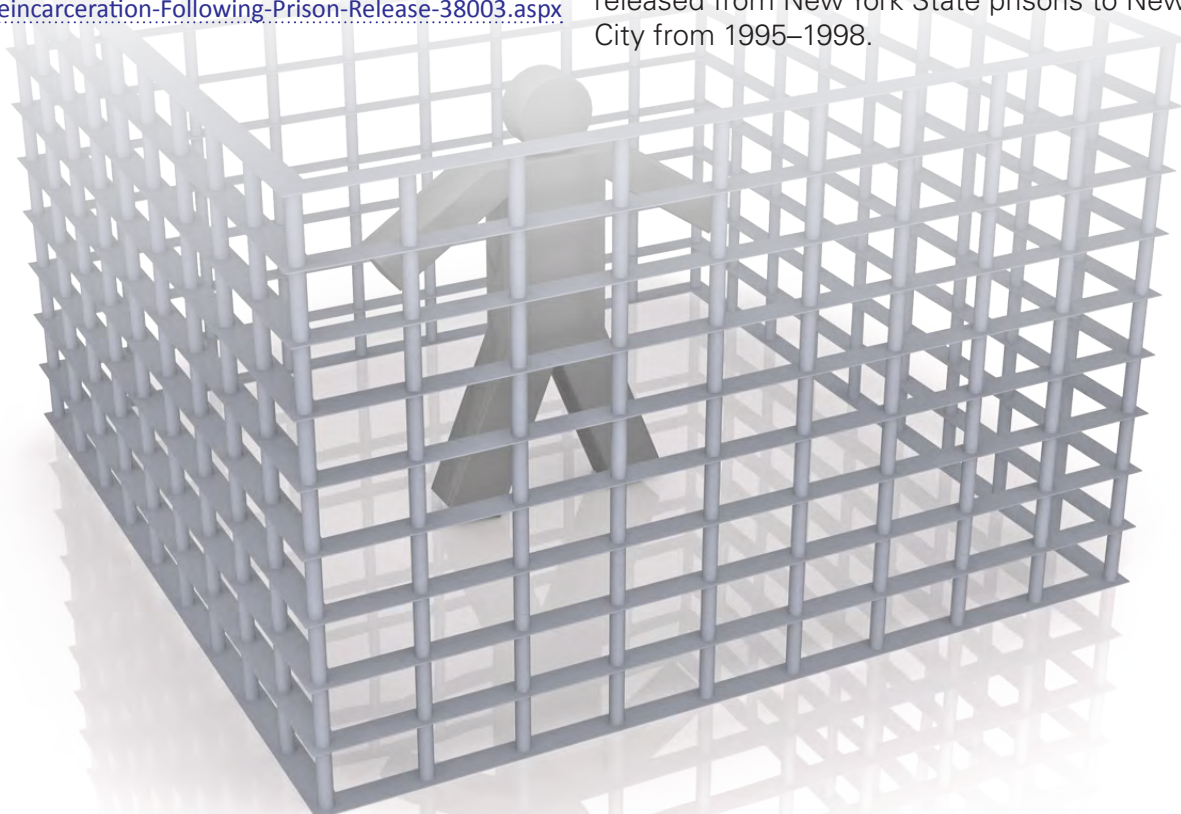
http://www.caction.org/rrt_new/professionals/articles/METRAUX-HOMELESS%20SHELTER%20USE

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/Homeless-Shelter-Use-and-Reincarceration-Following-Prison-Release-38003.aspx>

Homeless Shelter Use and Reincarceration Following Prison Release

This paper examines the incidence of and interrelationships between shelter use and reincarceration among a cohort of 48,424 persons released from New York State prisons to New York City from 1995–1998.



ELDER HOMELESSNESS

Web-Based Resources

I find that working with someone who is elderly brings on new challenges. The elderly people whom I have worked with have fallen through the safety nets that are supposed to be in place for this population. There is a greater distrust, reluctance to seek and/or accept help, and a need to be seen as independent. I had a client tell me “I’ve been this way for over 50 years, I’m not going to change now,... what’s the point, I’m an old man.”

Avera Morrison-Higgs, PATH Outreach
Clinician, Eliot Community Human
Services, Worcester, Massachusetts

Direct Link

<http://vimeo.com/5111617>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50015>

Hearth Outreach Program

In this video, outreach director Jane Erickson discusses the Hearth Outreach program. Hearth Outreach is a program of Hearth Inc., the only organization in the country with a sole focus and comprehensive approach to ending elder homelessness. Outreach staff canvas ten Boston homeless shelter programs weekly to identify and place elders experiencing homelessness in permanent housing.

Direct Link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=633k4Zh5eDM&feature=related>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50017>

Homeless Elders in Alameda, CA, St. Mary’s Center

In this video, Pier Schartz, director of St. Mary’s Center for seniors, discusses issues of seniors experiencing homelessness in Oakland and Alameda County.



Other Resources

Direct Link

<http://bphc.hrsa.gov/policiesregulations/policies/pdfs/pal200303.pdf>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50102>

The Health Center Program: Program Assistance Letter Homeless and Elderly: Understanding the Special Health Care Needs Of Elderly Persons Who Are Homeless

The paper outlines health issues faced by elders experiencing homelessness, the critical service needs of this population, and some of the barriers to accessing these services. The paper also offers recommendations to providers, and highlights programs that have achieved success.

Direct Link

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/springer/cmanj/2004/00000005/00000002/art00005>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50033>

Old and Sleeping Rough: Elderly Homeless Persons on the Streets of Boston (fee)

Many people who are elderly and are experiencing homelessness avoid shelters and outreach services, and are living on city streets instead. This article reports on these "rough sleepers."



HIV/AIDS

Web-Based Resources

Direct Link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3VTdfCkNO0>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50034>

Places I Used to Sleep and HIV and AIDS Outreach

An HIV-positive individual who experienced homelessness shares his story and discusses a day of outreach at Common Ground in California.



Other Resources

Direct Link

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1403354>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=35669>

Teen Peer Outreach-Street Work Project: HIV Prevention Education for Runaway and Homeless Youth

This article presents a study detailing the Teen Peer Outreach-Street Work Project, which trains teenage peer educators to work in three existing San Diego youth service programs with outreach staff members to provide HIV prevention education and referral services to San Diego's youth who are homeless.

Direct Link

<http://pubs.cpha.ca/PDF/P44/24732.pdf>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50035>

“Getting Me Back on Track”: The Role of Outreach Interventions in Engaging and Retaining People Living with HIV/AIDS in Medical Care

This qualitative study investigated the process of outreach and engagement in HIV medical care from the perspective of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

Direct Link

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content?content=10.1080/09540120500331297>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=32791>

Characteristics of Homeless HIV-Positive Outreach Responders in Urban U.S. and Their Success in Primary Care Treatment (fee)

This report describes characteristics of HIV-positive substance users experiencing homelessness who responded to outreach and enrolled in integrated treatment services.



LGBTQI2-S (LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUESTIONING, INTERSEX, AND TWO-SPIRIT)

Other Resources

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/Quick-Tips-Working-with-LGBTQI2-S-Youth-who-are-Homeless-32999.aspx>

Quick Tips for Working with LGBTQI2-S Youth Who Are Homeless

Youth who are homeless and identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, or Two-Spirited (LGBTQI2-S) utilize many types of services. It is important that all agencies take steps to ensure that services are accessible, culturally competent, and welcoming. This webpage offers quick tips and a list of resources.

Direct Link

http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/homeless_youth

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50037>

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Youth: An Epidemic of Homelessness

This report discusses the reasons why so many LGBT youth are experiencing homelessness and the risks they face in shelters and on the street.

Direct Link

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all?content=10.1080/19361650903013519>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50038>

Homeless Gay and Transgender Youth of Color in San Francisco: “No One Likes Street Kids”—even in the Castro (fee)

This study, focused on five transgender and gay youth of color from San Francisco, explored how family problems, poverty, homophobia, and transphobia propelled them into homelessness and made gay-friendly spaces and resources especially meaningful to them.



Direct Link

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2239>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/National-Recommended-Best-Practices-for-Serving-LGBT-Homeless-Youth-37791.aspx>**National Recommended Best Practices for Serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Homeless Youth**

The recommendations in this guide provide direction for agencies and nonprofit organizations to increase their competency in working with LGBT youth.

Direct Link

<http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46133>**Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Youth and Their Families: The Family Acceptance Project**

The Family Acceptance Project is in the process of creating an outreach network to reach all of the systems of care and entry points where children receive services. The purpose is to increase support and reduce rejection of LGBT youth. By treating families as allies, young people and their families are better able to receive the support they need. This support is an important step toward reversing the rising trend of LGBT youth who become homeless.



SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS

Other Resources

When people have SMI, it's key to understand what their fears are around the mental health system, past poor experiences, or lack of any previous connection to mental health services, and to try not to repeat those poor experiences.

Barbara Lucci, PATH Outreach Clinician,
Eliot Community Human Services,
Worcester Massachusetts



Direct Link

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10493468>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=36910>**Street Outreach for Homeless Persons with Serious Mental Illness: Is It Effective? (fee)**

This study examined data on case management clients experiencing homelessness and severe mental illness to determine how those contacted through street outreach differ from those contacted through inreach at shelters and other social service agencies.

Direct Link

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/f18r3x1l4715gn66/>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=34454>**Taking It to the Street: A Psychiatric Outreach Service in Canada (fee)**

This paper describes a model of flexible psychiatric outreach service in Canada designed to meet the needs of persons who are homeless or marginally housed and have mental illness.

Direct Link

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/p007134n27231u53/>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=25427>**Outreach to Homeless Mentally Ill People: Conceptual and Clinical Considerations (fee)**

This paper describes a model of outreach predicated on developing a trusting, meaningful relationship between the outreach worker and people who experience homelessness and mental illness. It describes five common tasks inherent in this model of outreach.



Direct Link

<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/89/4/524>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=23714>

Improving Access to Disability Benefits among Homeless Persons with Mental Illness: An Agency-Specific Approach to Services Integration

This study evaluated a joint initiative of the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to improve access to Social Security disability benefits among veterans with mental illness who are homeless.

Direct Link

<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA04-3870>

PATH Record

<http://homelessness.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=21710>

Blueprint for Change: Ending Chronic Homelessness for Persons with Serious Mental Illness and/or Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders

Policy Research Associates and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) produced this manual. It outlines information about ending homelessness for people who have serious mental illness, including those with co-occurring substance use disorders. The chapter on learning about the population outlines the characteristics of and barriers faced by this group of individuals.



RURAL HOMELESSNESS

Web-Based Resources

Direct Link

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/issues/rural>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50042>**National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH): Rural Homelessness**

The NAEH is a leading voice on issues regarding homelessness. This webpage examines rural homelessness and provides valuable links and resources.

Other Resources

Direct Link

<http://www.nhchc.org/Publications/RuralHomeless.pdf>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/Hard-to-Reach-Rural-Homelessness-and-Health-Care-22628.aspx>**Hard to Reach: Rural Homelessness and Health Care**

This National Health Care for the Homeless Council project offers a broad look at the issues of rural homelessness and includes recommendations from service providers.

Direct Link

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/qrt128g1721574r1>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50039>**Towards a Delivery System of Services for Rural Homeless Youth: A Literature Review and Case Study (fee)**

This paper begins to explore key issues facing rural youth who experience homelessness, existing intervention options, and recommendations for the development of service delivery systems.

Direct Link

<http://www.nhchc.org/Network/HealingHands/2001/October2001HealingHands.pdf>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50040>**Healing Hands: Hard to Reach: Rural Homelessness and Health Care**

This Health Care for the Homeless clinicians' publication looks at the definition of homelessness, causes, rural versus urban, health problems, and access barriers. It also makes recommendations and examines how rural service providers cope.

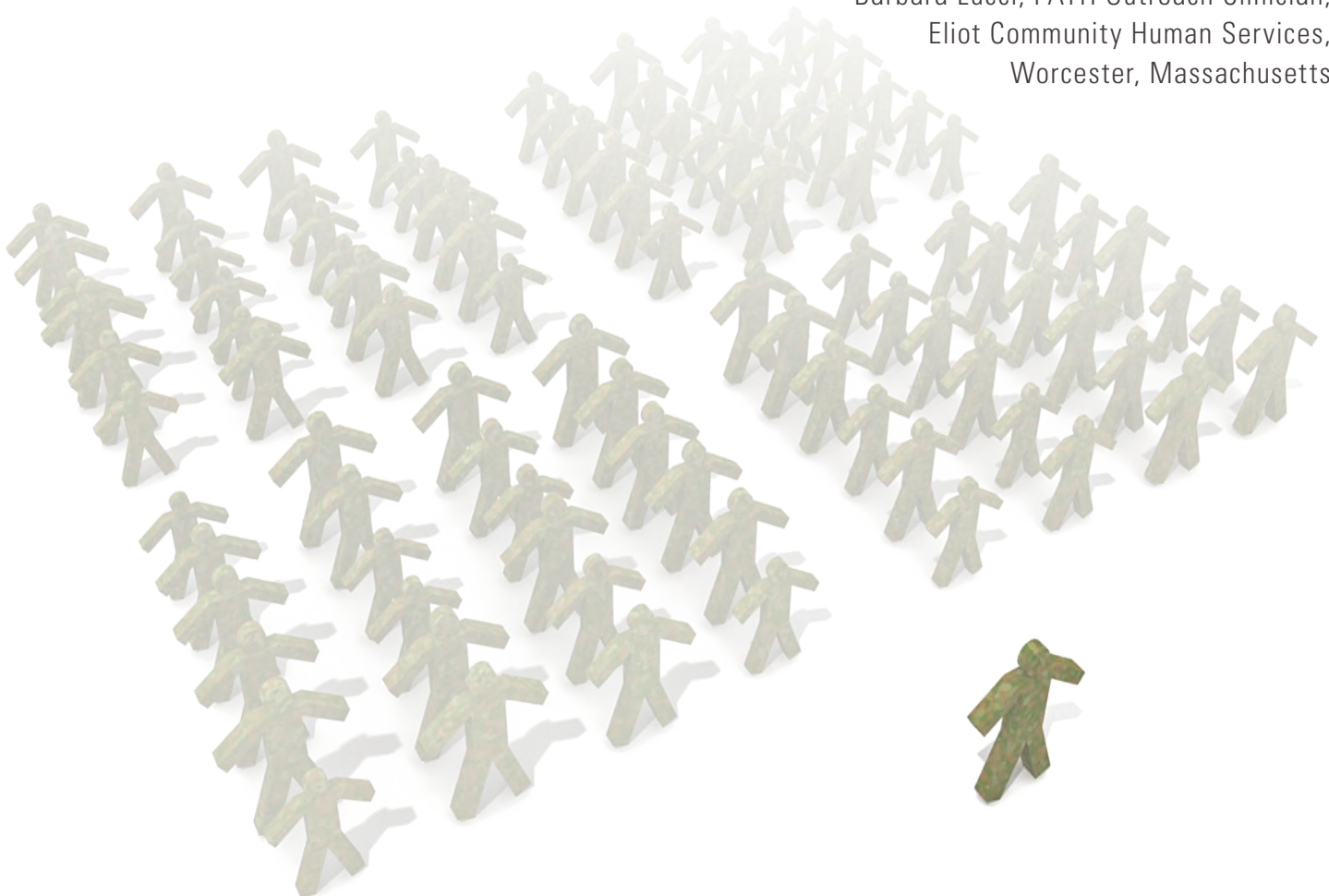


VETERANS

Web-Based Resources

I always try to acknowledge all that they have survived, and the political freedom they have offered to us, through their service and sacrifice. It has often surprised me when veterans, especially the Vietnam Era veterans, tell me that I was the first person to thank them for their service to our country.

Barbara Lucci, PATH Outreach Clinician,
Eliot Community Human Services,
Worcester, Massachusetts



PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=37884>**PATH Technical Assistance Resource Page: Veterans**

There are services and resources specifically available to veterans. Some aspects of these resources are complicated and limited to certain groups of veterans or based on certain eligibility factors. This document provides a tool to assist in accessing and understanding these resources.

Direct Link

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/amsus/zmm/2007/00000172/00000005/art00009>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=26477>**Receipt of Disability through an Outreach Program for Homeless Veterans (fee)**

The receipt of public support payments correlates with beneficial outcomes for people experiencing homelessness and mental illness. This study identifies factors associated with receipt of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pensions and compensation benefits among veterans experiencing homelessness after their initial contact with the VA national homeless outreach program.



Direct Link

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/pages/military-sexual-trauma.asp>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50043>

Military Sexual Trauma (MST): Issues in Caring for Veterans

This website targets providers and researchers, and is a valuable reference when doing outreach and engagement work with veterans experiencing MST. There is also a section specific to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Direct Link

<http://www.oefoif.va.gov/WelcomeHomeOutreach.asp>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50044>

United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): Welcome Home and Outreach

This VA website offers OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom)/OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom) links to “Welcome Home” events and information about outreach efforts.

Other Resources

Direct Link

http://www.nchv.org/docs/HomelessVeterans_factsheet.pdf

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=22608>

Homeless Veterans Fact Sheet

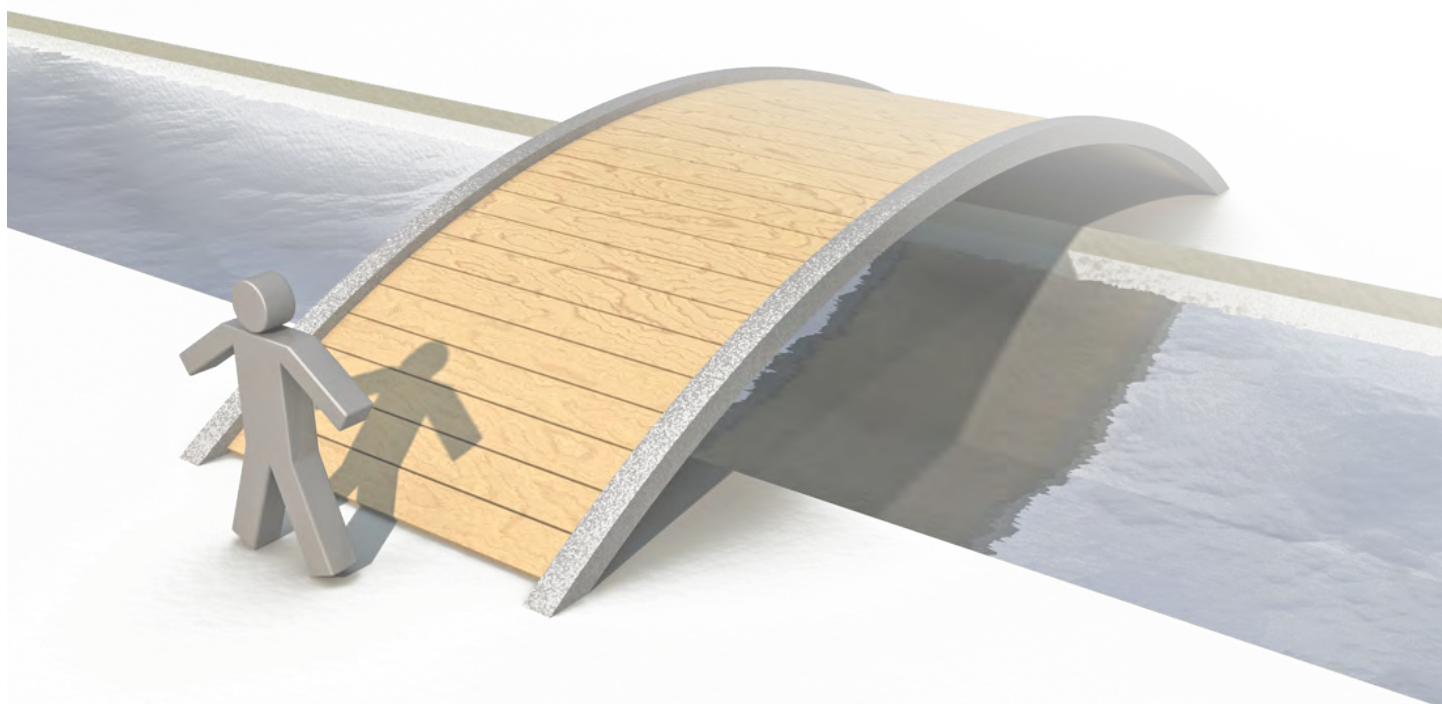
The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) publishes this fact sheet on veterans who are homeless.



Approaches and Other Issues

“[There is] a need for an approach to outreach that incorporates giving individualized attention from outreach workers, using an empathetic listening approach, minimizing stereotyping, providing greater choices, and employing formerly homeless people as outreach workers” (Kyrda and Compton, 2009).

Below are outreach-related topics of interest. For example, peer providers are a key component of successful outreach and engagement efforts. The practice of self-care is also critically important for outreach workers. This section concludes with data management resources, focusing on Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and handheld technology used by outreach workers. Tracking outreach efforts enables us to see the big picture. With this data we are able to highlight successes and expose weakness that can be improved upon.



HOUSING-FOCUSED

Web-Based Resources

When someone gets housed, they are at high risk of going into a “reverse crisis” because they are used to living in “survival mode” and there needs to be some form of safe haven transitional period for them to adjust to a normal life again. Having people around that are going through that same struggle is very helpful. When housed, follow up services are needed.

Michael Kelly, PATH Outreach and Re-Housing Case Manager, Housing for New Hope, Durham, North Carolina

Website
<http://www.commonground.org>

Street to Home
http://www.commonground.org/?page_id=21

100,000 Homes
<http://100khomes.org/>

PATH Record
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/100000-Homes-Campaign-48988.aspx>

Common Ground and the Street to Home and 100,000 Homes Campaigns

Common Ground is a pioneer in the development of supportive housing and other research-based practices that end homelessness. Common Ground’s strategy has three components: affordable housing; outreach; and prevention. Common Ground’s Street to Home program helps people living on the streets move directly into homes. The 100,000 Homes campaign uses a Vulnerability Index to prioritize persons experiencing homeless for housing and services. Common Ground launched its 100,000 Homes Campaign in the summer of 2010. The Campaign is a national effort to find and house 100,000 of the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness in the country.



Other Resources

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=37886>

Spotlight on PATH Practices and Programs: Housing First

PATH and Housing First are a natural partnership. Although PATH programs have limitations in the ability to assist financially with housing, PATH can provide the outreach as well as the initial case management and residential support services for those individuals moving into a Housing First program.

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=37883>

PATH Technical Assistance Resource Page: Housing Acquisition and Retention

Housing acquisition and retention are critical to preventing and ending homelessness. This PATH resource page provides information about different kinds of housing programs.

Direct Link

http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/solutions/ten_essentials

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50047>

How to End Homelessness: The Ten Essentials

Outreach can play an important role in ending homelessness by engaging people living on the streets and getting them into housing. A key ingredient of effective outreach is a rapid link to housing, which necessitates some form of low-demand housing (housing with few rules or requirements).



Direct Link

http://www.pathwaystohousing.org/Articles/PTHPublications/streetstohomestemberisasmussen_1999.pdf

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=18641>

From Streets to Homes: The Pathways to Housing Consumer Preference Supported Housing (CPSH) Model

This paper describes essential elements of the CPSH Model of homelessness prevention in use at Pathways to Housing, Inc., in New York City. This intervention prevents homelessness by engaging and housing individuals experiencing homelessness and dealing with substance abuse and psychiatric disabilities who have been rejected by other programs for being considered “treatment resistant” or “not housing ready.”



MEDICAL

Web-Based Resources

Direct Link
<http://www.nhchc.org>

On Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Health-Care-for-the-Homeless-Council/167745405730>

PATH Record
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/National-Health-Care-for-the-Homeless-Council-189.aspx>

**National Health Care
for the Homeless Council**

"The mission of the Council is to help bring about reform of the health care system to best serve the needs of people who are homeless, to work in alliance with others whose broader purpose is to eliminate homelessness, and to provide support to Council members."



Other Resources

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=37887>

Spotlight on PATH Practices and Programs: Integrating Mental Health and Primary Healthcare

This Spotlight describes how one PATH program in Wisconsin links behavioral health and medical services for their consumers.

Direct Link

<http://www.ijdp.org/article/S0955-3959%2808%2900095-9/abstract>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50049>

Linking Women to Health and Wellness: Street Outreach Takes a Population Health Approach (fee)

This article reports on how changing to a client centered population health approach instead of the individual service approach gave Street Outreach nurses in British Columbia, Canada, greater flexibility so that they were able to engage more effectively with clients, families, and other service providers regarding health related issues.

Direct Link

<http://www.med.unc.edu/healthonwheels/files/mobile-unit-articles/Medical%20Outreach%20To%20Homeless%20Substance%20Users%20In%20New%20York%20City-Preliminary%20Results.pdf>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/Medical-Outreach-To-Homeless-Substance-Users-in-New-York-City-Prliminary-Results-26121.aspx>

Medical Outreach to Homeless Substance Users in New York City: Preliminary Results

An innovative, experimental, medical outreach initiative, using a fully-equipped mobile medical van with a staff of two part-time physicians, a physician assistant, a social worker, and a driver/medical aid serving the needs of 1,048 individuals. The individuals were mostly male, minority, experiencing homelessness, using substances, and suffering from infectious diseases.



PEER PROVIDERS

Web-Based Resources

Peer providers can provide compassion and encouragement. They can share their own story with someone who needs hope.

Maggie Walker, PATH Case Worker, The Salvation Army Open Door Program Marysville, California

Direct Link

<http://www.gacps.org/Home.html>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50052>

Georgia Certified Peer Specialist Project Website

Certified Peer Specialists are responsible for the implementation of peer support services, which are reimbursable by Medicaid through Georgia's Rehab Option. They also serve on Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams as Community Support Individuals (CSI) and in a variety of other services designed to assist the peers they partner with in reaching the goals they wish to accomplish in their personal recovery journeys.

Direct Link

<http://www.nhchc.org/advisory.html>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50050>

National Consumer Advisory Board (NCAB)

The NCAB consists of persons who are homeless and formerly homeless who were clients of Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) projects across the country and now participate in the governance of those HCH projects.

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=45946>

Consumer Integration: Why It Matters, How It Works

This Homelessness Resource Center (HRC) webcast highlights principles of recovery, benefits, and common barriers to participation as they relate to consumer integration. The presenters discuss potential roles for people formerly or currently experiencing homelessness.



Other Resources

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Channel/Moving-Forward-Together-Integrating-Consumers-as-Colleagues-603.aspx>

Moving Forward, Together: Integrating Consumers as Colleagues

The Moving Forward, Together series was written by two consumers to inspire agencies, consumers, and advocates to work toward integrating people with experiences of homelessness into all levels of policy, planning, evaluation, and homeless service delivery. The series addresses consumer integration in the context of transforming systems and services to become more recovery-oriented, person-centered, and trauma-informed. Benefits and challenges to consumer integration are identified and practical guidance provided.

Direct Link

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/p844k67627352884/?p=706f8164ac0748a6a16172a4d860d8ecr=5>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=22298>

Using Consumer Staff in a Mobile Crisis Assessment Program (fee)

This study investigates consumer service delivery in a mobile assessment program designed to assist people experiencing homelessness with severe psychiatric disorders.



Direct Link

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/qq2283x271pg1727/>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=18496>**Consumers as Staff in Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Programs (fee)**

With their emphasis on rehabilitation and support in the client's natural environment, ACT teams foster consumer-professional collaborations. The authors discuss one such program in which an ACT program for adults experiencing mental illness and homelessness employed consumer advocates (CAs).

Direct Link

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1403354>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=35669>**Teen Peer Outreach-Street Work Project: HIV Prevention Education for Runaway and Homeless Youth**

This article presents a study detailing the Teen Peer Outreach-Street Work Project, which trains peer educators to work in three existing San Diego youth service programs with outreach staff members to provide HIV prevention education and referral services to San Diego's youth who are homeless.



SELF-CARE

Web-Based Resources

I have to remind myself to stop and take time for me once in a while...or I might not be helpful to anyone.

Maggie Walker, PATH Case Worker, The Salvation Army Open Door Program Marysville, California

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=46475>

Caring for Self While Caring for Others

This PATH webcast focused on the subject of self-care with a presentation by Ken Kraybill of the Center for Social Innovation.

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=47630>

What about You?

Tools to Promote Self-Care

This Homelessness Resource Center (HRC) webcast on self-care featured a presentation by Ken Kraybill, from the Center for Social Innovation, and Katie Volk, of the National Center on Family Homelessness.



DATA MANAGEMENT

Web-based resources

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Channel/Homeless-Management-Information-Systems-HMIS-136.aspx>

PATH Topic Page on Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)

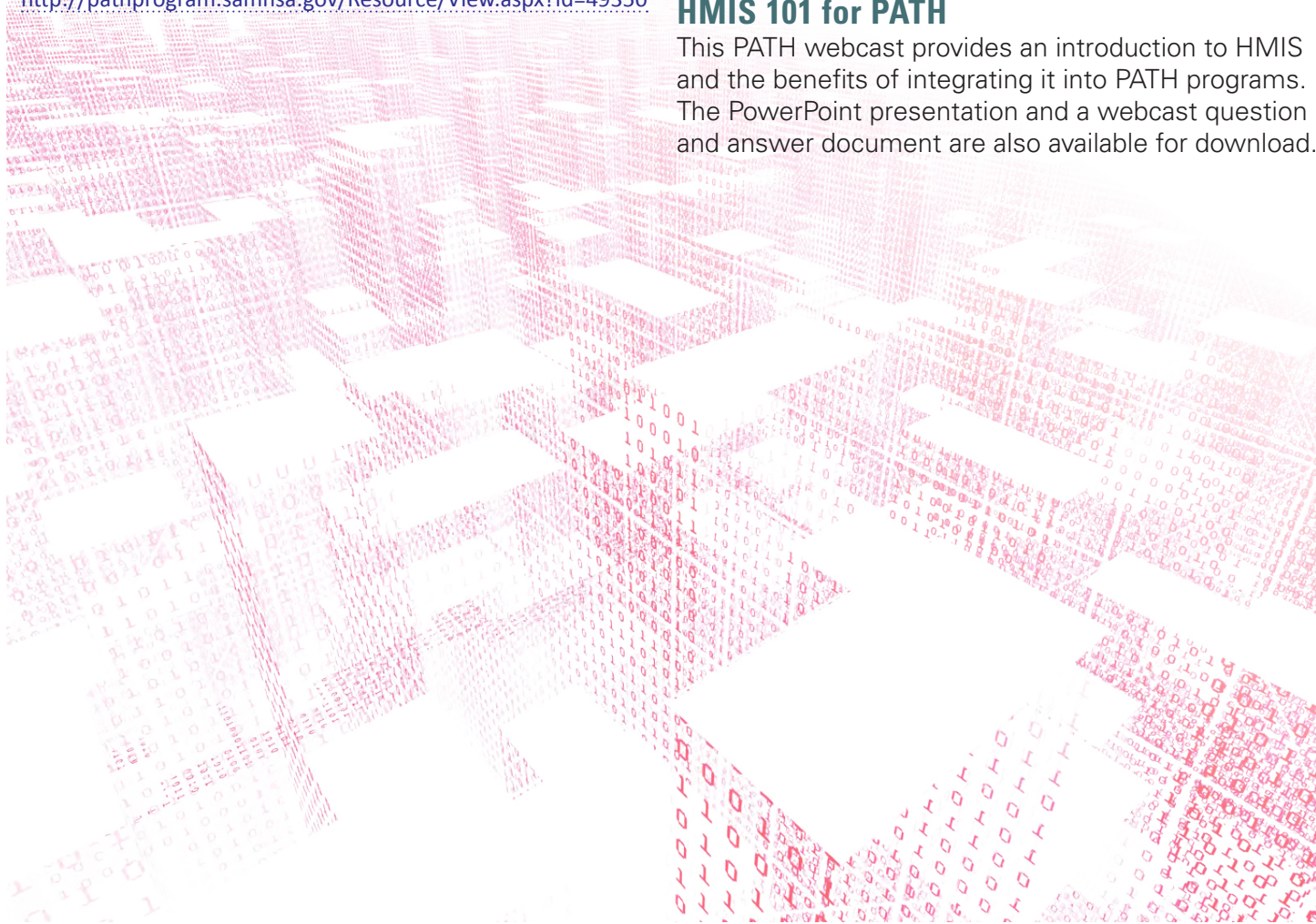
This Topic Page is regularly updated with new and pertinent resource related to PATH and HMIS. It includes the resources listed in this section and other additional materials.

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=49350>

PATH Webcast Resource: HMIS 101 for PATH

This PATH webcast provides an introduction to HMIS and the benefits of integrating it into PATH programs. The PowerPoint presentation and a webcast question and answer document are also available for download.



Other Resources

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=37888>

Spotlight on PATH Practices and Programs: Mobile Data Management Technology in Outreach

This PATH Spotlight focuses on technology as a tool to help providers with outreach records and data reporting.

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=48863>

Spotlight on PATH Practices and Programs: Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)

This spotlight highlights PATH Providers in Idaho, New Jersey, and Hamilton County, Ohio and their approaches to ensure successful HMIS implementation.

Direct Link

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/513709>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=26126>

Taking It To the Streets: Recording Medical Outreach Data On Personal Digital Assistants (member log-in required, free)

This article features Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston (HHH) and their use of personal digital assistant (PDA) to track client data.

Direct Link

<http://www.hmis.info/default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

PATH Record

<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=37590>

HMIS.info

This is the main website for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Homeless Management Information System Initiative. It includes information on the Homelessness Data Exchange, Point In Time Counts (PIT) and Housing Inventory Charts.



WHAT IS PATH?

The PATH Program—or Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness—was authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990. PATH funds community-based outreach, mental health and substance abuse services, case management, and limited housing services for people experiencing serious mental illnesses—including those with co-occurring substance use disorders—who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless.

PATH funds stimulate state & local contributions

PATH funds are worth more than their face value because they are matched with state and local resources. For every \$3 in Federal funds, state or local agencies must put forward \$1 in cash or in-kind services. At a minimum, a \$52 million Federal allocation would result in a \$17 million match. In some states PATH funds and the state and local match are the only resources specifically for serving people experiencing homelessness and mental illnesses.



PATH providers deliver innovative services

PATH providers work with service delivery systems and embrace practices that work. These include:

- Partnering with housing first and permanent supportive housing programs
- Providing flexible consumer-directed and recovery-oriented services to meet consumers where they are in their recovery
- Employing consumers or providing consumer-run programs
- Partnering with health care providers, including Health Care for the Homeless to integrate mental health and medical services
- Assertively improving access to employment
- Improving access to benefits, especially through SSI/SSDI Outreach, Advocacy, and Recovery (SOAR)
- Using technology such as PDAs, electronic records, and HMIS

PATH providers are strong community partners

PATH providers and State Contacts are involved in local and regional planning efforts to end homelessness, including Continuum of Care, 10-Year Plans to End Homelessness, and other planning efforts. PATH providers and State Contacts work to ensure that services are coordinated and available to people experiencing homelessness.

For more information about PATH, please visit <http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/>

Technical Assistance Resource Page

Outreach



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov

