Roofs for Youth

Discharge Planning and Support for Young People Leaving Detention—Pilot Project

Partnership

Calgary John Howard Society

➢ Provides housing, education, and social services to youth and adults at risk or involved with the criminal justice system.

➢ Supporting the Calgary community for over 60 years.

➢ Have 6 locations in Calgary.

Partnership

Wood's Homes
➢ Children's mental health centre.

➢ Celebrating 100th year anniversary in 2014.

➢ Provides residential treatment, Foster Care, specialized educational learning centres, crisis and walk in counselling services.

➢ Located in Calgary, Lethbridge, Strathmore, Canmore, Fort McMurray, and the NWT.

INTRODUCTION

- ➢ Background
- ➢ Strategic Fit
- ➢ Outcomes
- ➢ Evaluation
- ➢ Lessons Learned
- ➢ Next Steps

History

➢ Met with the Alberta Secretariat for Action on Homelessness and the Calgary Police Service in 2009

➢ Confirmed significant gap

➢ Created partnership between the Calgary John Howard Society and Woods Homes

➢ Applied for Federal Government funding through Calgary Homeless Foundation

History

Collaborative Partnership Model

➢ Brought together partners with complimentary resources and experience with at risk youth

➢ Talked with community stakeholders to determine need

➢ Identified process of service implementation

➢ Developed intake Logic Model based on agency experience

Literature Review

➢ High correlation between youth homelessness and involvement with the criminal justice system (Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2011)

➢ In Calgary 71% of street youth charged under the juvenile justice system In 2010, the rate of those accused of a Criminal Code offence peaked at 18 years old and decreased with increasing age (Public Safety Canada, 2012)

➢ Low level of engagement with education (Worthington, C. et al., 2008)

Literature Review

➢ Childhood exposure to domestic violence (Herrenkohl, T. et al., 2008, Evans, S. et.al, 2008)

➢ Maltreatment and early traumatic experiences (Cook , A. et al., 2005)

➢ Alcohol initiation in early and mid-adolescence (Dube, S. et al., 2003)

➢ Personality characteristics; difficult temperament, early attachment problems, emotional regulation issues, low intelligence, ADHS. (Chamberlain, P., 2005)

Aligned with the following:

- ➢ Calgary Homeless Foundation: 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness (2008-2018)

- ➢ Plan to End Youth Homelessness (2011)

- ➢ Housing First Principles

- ➢ Address System Gap
    - Youth without child intervention status

Housing First Philosophy	Roofs Contribution
Identify Initial Housing	Locate safe and secure housing.
Provide Support	Identify appropriate services and resources.
Move to permanent housing	Positioning youth for permanent appropriate housing.

STRATEGIC FIT

CHF: 10 Year Plan	Roofs Contribution
Stop homelessness before it begins	Move youth exiting the justice system directly to stable housing. Connect youth with stable housing and supportive resources.
Re-house and provide necessary support	Develop trusting relationships that respond to the needs of youth. Connect with a Case Worker and provide supportive services and resources.
Improve data and systems knowledge	Introduced Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Plan to End Youth Homelessness	Roofs Contributions
No wrong door	Coordinating activities between agencies.
Discharge planning	Establish relationship and assess needs prior to release and match to correct service.
Strengthen informal networks	Involve natural supports like family, friends, educators, peers.

System Gap

Alberta's Crime Prevention Framework (comprised of 8 strategic directions)
- Shifts policy focus from enforcement of crime to a more balanced approach.
- Increases emphasis on crime prevention.

Strategic direction #4: develop strategies to address gaps in crime prevention programs and services.

Alberta Crime Prevention Strategy	Roofs Contribution
Youth leaving CYOC without accessing services and then living on the streets or in unsafe conditions.	Youth Reintegration Worker develops relationship at the institution through an intake and assessment process.
No system supports the target population and they are the most challenging to house and to provide supports for.	Voluntary service so youth must want to become involved. Develop a release plan and maintain regular contact.
Need to provide housing and re-integration support for youth released from CYOC.	Reintegration workers discuss housing options and helps develop a release plan.

Eligibility Criteria

- ➤ Males incarcerated at CYOC aged 15 to 18 years old (Now includes females).
- ➤ Youth most at risk of being homeless.
- ➤ Youth without child intervention status.
- ➤ Chronic involvement with criminal justice system
- ➤ Cycle in and out of institutions including CYOC, shelters, secure treatment, and hospitals.
- ➤ Those without family or natural supports, experiencing repetitive incarceration, past unsuccessful releases, and frequent shelter users.
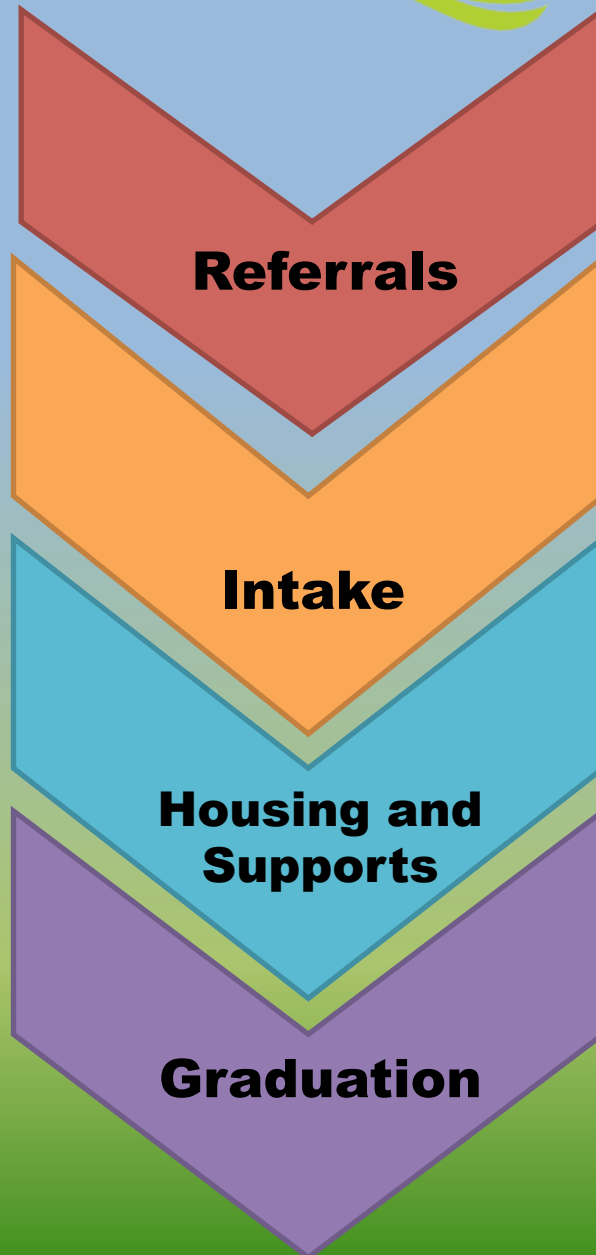
Referrals

CYOC
Youth Probation
Youth Criminal Defense Office
Schools
Emergency Health Centres

Intake

- ➢ **Determine** eligibility and suitability for program
- ➢ **Assesses** readiness of individual, willingness to participate considered
- ➢ **Develop** Clinical Summary and Crisis Plan, Release Plan
- ➢ **Complete** modified version of the Rehousing, Triage and Assessment Survey (RTAS)
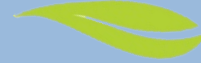
Assignment of Case Manager
Conducts Youth Acuity Scale
Implements combination of assessments

Housing and Supports

Options
- ➢ Return to family (permanent)
- ➢ Scattered Site (permanent)
- ➢ Place Based (temporary)
- ➢ Youth shelter (temporary)

Graduation

Procedure
- ➢ Policy of zero discharge into homelessness
- ➢ Remain in the program 18-24 months
- ➢ Follow up contacts conducted at 2, 4,and 6 week intervals and then two months thereafter.
- ➢ Clinical services continue after graduation for 6 months
- ➢ Required follow up contact 3,6,9,12 months after graduation

Continual Program Components:

➢ Goal planning
➢ Outreach activities
➢ Therapeutic support
➢ Skill development (Life Skills, conflict resolution, communication, independent living, self-management)
➢ Vocational Support (employment preparation, access to education, culinary program, Attendance Centre/career practitioner)
➢ Connecting youth to community services (employment, education, counselling, medical services, recreation, volunteer involvement)
➢ Harm Reduction

PROGRAM MODEL

Program Advisory Committee

CJHS

WOOD'S HOMES

| Program Manager | Program Manager |

| Team Leader | Team Leader |

| Case Workers | Youth Re-integration Workers | Youth Re-integration Workers | Clinician | Crisis Family Support Worker |

Resources

➤ Program Advisory Committee: senior management, staff member, Calgary Police Services, Youth Probation, non-partnering Youth Sector member. Meet quarterly.

➤ 1:10 staff to youth model

➤ Wood's Homes provides internal services including; EXIT Youth Shelter, access to school placements, and supervision, management and direction through the Advisory Committee.

➤ Staff have access 24/7 to a Crisis Support Worker.

➤ Case managers on-call 24/7

Demographics

Housing Route	Representation
Family reunification	17
Place based	10
Scattered site	7
Shelter	2

*Based on the 36 individuals housed

Demographics

Ethnicity	Representation
Caucasian	20
Aboriginal	13
Metis	1
African	3
Korean	1
Latino	2
Arab	1

*Based on 41 intakes

Demographics

Age	Representation
15 years old	5
16 years old	14
17 years old	22

Males: 38
Females: 3

*Based on 41 intakes

Measurement tools:

- ➢ HMIS Benchmarks
- ➢ Outcome Star

EVALUATION

Criteria	Benchmark	Outcome
Occupancy	Minimum 85% occupancy	41 clients enrolled Program capacity: 45
Length of Stay/ Stabilization	95% maintain housing for at least 6 months; 85% maintain housing for at least 12 months. At any given reporting period 85% of people housed will still be permanently housed.	More than 80% client have attained safe accommodation

EVALUATION
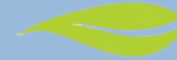
Criteria	Benchmark	Outcome
Positive Destinations	95% of clients leaving program go to positive housing.	47% reunified with family Some entering addictions treatment facility. Some remaining at CYOC A few leaving program services. Current running total: 83% of clients leaving program have left for positive destinations.

EVALUATION

Criteria	Benchmark	Outcome
Income	95% of clients have an increased income after 6 months in program from employment and/or other benefits	Clients employed: At intake 26% After six months in Roofs 54% After 12 months in Roofs 100%
Return to Homelessness	Less than 5% of clients return to shelter/rough sleeping 20% with some cycling in and out of CYOC	Most found positive long-term accommodation 31% returned to shelter since completing Roofs. Many shelter uses have been temporary.

EVALUATION

Criteria	Benchmark	Outcome
Interaction with Public Institutions & Mainstream Systems	Clients reduced; incarcerations, ER visits, and hospitalizations. Demonstrate an increase in connection to healthy systems.	Most reduced incarceration occurrence. All clients work on repairing relationships with family and friends. Develop relationships with Roofs staff.
Engagement in mainstream systems	100% of clients engage in mainstream systems.	100% of clients have accessed community resources/mainstream systems.

EVALUATION

Criteria	Benchmark	Outcome
Self-Sufficiency	75% engaged in education. 75% engaged in employment. 95% connected to and engaged in community resources.	Most pursue education while also connecting with employment resources. All involved with community services. Clients in school: At intake 87%* After six months 85% After 12 months 100% *most referrals come from CYOC, where school is mandatory.

EVALUATION

Criteria	Benchmark	Outcome
Self-Sufficiency	75% engaged in education. 75% engaged in employment. 95% connected to and engaged in community resources.	Clients employed: At intake 26% After six months in Roofs 54% After 12 months in Roofs 100% 100% connected to community resources.

Lessons Learned

➢ Expanded referral sources
➢ Added female clients
➢ 47% of clients returned home to family
➢ Housing youth under 18 years old comes with challenges
  ➢ (issues with stability and insurance, locating landlords willing to rent to youth with criminal record, tight housing market)
➢ Master leases
➢ Housing locators
➢ Limitations with HMIS
➢ Need a more effective way to track youth in the program

Next Steps

➢ Introduce a variety of community based housing options such as room and board, semi-independent living, and supported roommate

➢ Hire a housing locator to develop and maintain relationships with landlords

➢ Vocational support (employment preparation, access to education opportunities)

➢ Move staff team (CJHS and Wood's Homes) under one roof

➢ Seek accreditation equivalency in Summer of 2013

➢ Develop a comprehensive evaluation tool

  ➢ Rates of recidivism

  ➢ Impact of staff supporting families

  ➢ Understanding profile of successful graduates

  ➢ Importance of having one case worker stay with young person through the duration

➢ Expanding client population to include 18-24

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