

LESSONS FROM THE LOS ANGELES HOUSING FIRST SHARING EXCHANGE

Presenters

- Kate Bitney (she/her) Western Region Consulting Team
- Jon Christian (he/him) Subject Matter Expert
- Tiffany Duvernay-Smith (she/her) Subject Matter Expert
- Jaline Gilliam, LICSW (she/her) Los Angeles Team
- Douglas Mackbee (he/him) Central Region Consulting Team
- Amiyoko Shabazz (she/her) Subject Matter Expert
- Andrew Spiers (he/him) Federal Technical Assistance Team



Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions (5 min)
- Housing First: the approach vs. the model (5 min)
- What is the Housing First Sharing Exchange? (10 min)
- Panel discussion (30 min)
- Q&A (10 min)



- A low-barrier housing approach
- Relies on the 5 key
 principles
- Seeks to meet someone's basic needs first, then provide wrap-around support services

The housing first approach

"hf"

CSH

- An evidence-based program model
- 38 distinct fidelity measures
- Utilizes ACT/ICM teams
- Scattered site, permanent supportive housing

The Housing First model

"**HF**"

The 5 Key Principles of Housing First



Fidelity Measures

- Without the five key principles, it's not housing first
- High fidelity <u>Housing First actually requires adherence to 38 individual</u> principles in 5 categories
 - Housing Choice and Structure
 - Separation of Housing and Services
 - Service Philosophy
 - Service Array
 - Program Structure

Funding the <u>philosophy</u> and not the <u>model</u> will leave you, *and your participants,* very disappointed.





Housing First Sharing Exchange: Project History

- Tenant Knowledge Exchange Advisory Council Meeting (Feb 2023)
- Bi-weekly PSH accountability meetings
- Tenant Messages shared in LA (and beyond)
- Developer, Property Managers, and Service providers shared challenges
- Risk to Housing First
- Criminalization of unhoused community members



Housing First Sharing Exchange

Title: Housing First Sharing Exchange

Audience: A cohort of 15 tenants with Lived Experience of being unhoused and living in Los Angeles County supportive housing

Purpose: Offer Los Angeles tenants an opportunity to learn about Housing First and make an <u>informed decision</u> about their views



Goal(s)

(1) Create a safe learning environment where Los Angeles tenants can gain awareness of the Housing First fidelity scale and have an opportunity to assess and score their own supportive housing experiences.

(2) Expand our collective understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the Los Angeles County's supportive housing landscape; which impact developers', property mangers', and service providers', operations and service delivery; and most importantly a person's home and recovery.

(3) The first step towards preparing for a peer advocacy led PSH Accountability Listening session(s) with partners to strengthen supportive housing implementation in Los Angeles County.



Learning Objectives

- Learn the difference between the Housing First philosophy, approach and fidelity program
- Gain an understanding of the Housing First's history, 5 principles, and the fidelity scale
- Identify truths and myths about Housing First
- Gain awareness of Housing First's implementation successes and challenges
 nationally
- Gain a deeper understanding of California Housing First policy and implementation in Los Angeles County



Session Topic	Session Description
	Wellness when discuss Housing First Implementation and personal experiences in PSH
Wellness:	Holding space for different experiences in PSH
In-Person	 Openness to learning about the Housing First model
	Create a brave space; that centers equity, self-care, and community care
Housing First Model: In-Person	Education on the Housing First Model; including the history, five principles, fidelity scale, and implementation successes and challenges (both locally and nationally)
LA Tenant Sharing: In-Person	Share experiences with Housing First and Harm Reduction and use the Housing First fidelity scale to measure tenant experiences
PSH Accountability Session: In-Person	Discuss what accountability looks like in Los Angeles; what changes and results to do we want to see, feel and last; identify our SH partners, policymakers, and funders; and identify who the audience should be for a future PSH Accountability listening session.
	Collaborate to establish a draft summary of learnings and themes from the prior 4 sessions and
Draft Learning Summary: Virtual	identify next steps and opportunities to strengthen SH in LA County
Final Summary & Celebration: In-Person	Review the final summary report and celebrate our journey!

Panel Discussion



Amiyoko, can you share why you became interested in learning more about housing first and joining the HFSE project team?



Why is wellness an important aspect for the 15 members joining the Housing First Sharing Exchange cohort?



As you take on this journey of building your understanding of the Housing First approach at the state and local level, and then how that trickles down to individual program implementation, why is your individual wellness and your project team members' wellness equally important?



Jon can you share why you became interested in learning more about housing first and joining the HFSE project team?



What myth(s) did you hold about the Housing First model? How has your learning challenged these presumptions?



Why is now the time to bring greater awareness of the stresses and gaps that developers, service providers, and tenants are experiencing in supportive housing operations and service delivery in Los Angeles County?



Tiffany can you share why you became interested in learning more about housing first and joining the HFSE project team?



What outcome(s) do you hope to achieve from building accountability partnerships with developers, service providers, and tenants?



What outcome(s) do you hope to achieve from building accountability partnerships with funders at the city, county, state and even federal level?



Doug can you share why you became interested in learning more about housing first and joining the HFSE project team?



Why is racial justice and equity an important factor within the Housing First Sharing Exchange project?



Why is it important for Los Angeles tenants to have an opportunity to assess and score their own supportive housing experience against the Housing First fidelity scale?



Questions & Comments?



What myth(s) did you hold about the Housing First model? How has your learning challenged these presumptions?



Why is now the time to bring greater awareness of the stresses and gaps that developers, service providers, and tenants are experiencing in supportive housing operations and service delivery in your community?



Why is it important for tenants to have an opportunity to assess and score their own supportive housing experience against the Housing First fidelity scale?





What differences or conflicts have you observed between what research says about Housing First, what the media says about Housing First, and what recipients of supportive services say about Housing First?



Thank You!

HFSE project questions jaline.gilliam@csh.org

Stay in contact: andrew.spiers@csh.org shabazz.amiyoko@gmail.com douglas.mackbee@csh.org jonchristian904@gmail.com kate.bitney@csh.org tiffanyduvernaysmith@gmail.com

