



Heading Home Hennepin Benchmarks Update

- Working Well
- Some Barriers or New
- Significant Barriers

Goal One: Prevention

Expand FHPAP to serve 3600 households per year

- From July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009 we served 3,315 households, including 2054 families, 713 singles, and 548 youth.

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

- The City and County have collaborated to distribute and administer \$6.5 million in federal stimulus funding for homeless prevention and rapid re-housing. These funds will serve up to 3,000 households over the next three years.

Youth Discharge

- Approx 200 youth age out of systems in Hennepin County each year.
- The 24/7 housing program works with youth exiting foster care and arranges for independent living and mentoring to help with the transition. This program was funded in part by a \$500,000 grant from the Andres Foundation.
- Due to work by On-Ramp and Youth Moving Forward youth can now stay in foster care up to 21 if they have a plan in place.

Adult Discharge

- With support from the Minneapolis Foundation, the Office to End Homelessness has been able to hire a Discharge Policy Coordinator who is working closely with HCMC and adult corrections to ensure that policies are in place to prevent discharge to homelessness.

Conflict Resolution for Youth

- This group has identified expanded resources, created a parent-run support group for parents of teens, and has helped create expanded conflict resolution trainings.
- This new Peaceful Solutions Group has a website: www.peacefulsolution.info.

Refugee Group

- MN Council of Churches' Refugee Housing Program (RHSN) served over 140 families from 14 countries in 2008. After the county and privately funded pilot ended, they obtained 30 vouchers from Elim Transitional Housing to Continue their work. They have service staff through the end of the year. This highly successful program was funded for 2010-2013 by the new Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) funding from the Federal Stimulus Package.
- This group has developed a three stage research/evaluation project with the help of the U of M's School of Social Work.

Medical Respite

- Work is underway to identify opportunities to create a Hennepin County Medical Respite Program (in addition to the already utilized special needs beds at Salvation Army).
- With the loss of General Assistance Medical Care, Hennepin County is facing up to \$40 million in uncompensated care. Respite care may be one way to help reduce the uncompensated cost by providing appropriate care for sub-acute and post-acute needs.

Goal Two: Outreach

Street Outreach

- The St Stephen's outreach team has housed over 100 individuals directly off the street, and has helped to achieve a 14% drop in arrest of people who are homeless in downtown.
- The outreach team is working with the Downtown Improvement District ambassadors to ensure outreach is able to respond to homeless specific concerns.
- St. Stephens will receive a 2-year, \$214,000 grant for the outreach team from stimulus funds issued to the State Office of Justice Programs.
- The police recently received an award for their collaborative work with street outreach, the business community, and the city attorney's office to improve downtown livability.
- More funding needed to expand the program.

Mental Health Outreach

- This group has made 5 major recommendation and staff are working to implement these system recommendations by 2010.

Native Medical Outreach

- The Kola medical program recently had their contract renewed, but this only represents a continuation of existing programming, not an expansion. Native Americans on the streets continue to be an underserved group.

Youth Outreach

- One additional staff was hired to provide outreach to suburban Hennepin County, and a part-time Native American specific outreach worker was hired to work in Minneapolis.

Goal Three: Housing

Housing Production

- In the first two years of the plan we created over 1100 housing opportunities.
- Family housing is our most challenging area.

Total Housing Developed as of 12/08

Total New	Youth	Singles	Families	Total
	0	128	70	198
TBR	131	555	231	917
Total	144 (13 Host Homes)	683	301	1128

Faith Community Pilot

- This pilot is being created by a newly formed teen-parent workgroup that is looking to expand a mentoring program that was started at a local church.

Increase case management to serve 90 additional youth per year

- This is being addressed by an internal HC workgroup that is streamlining the case management process for youth.

Frequent Users Housing Program

- The Frequent Users of Systems Engagement (FUSE) program targets housing and support services to people most often in our shelters and jails. In its first year, this program has housed 36 of the top 100 user of our jail and shelter system. 80% have maintained their housing, 90% have not returned to shelter, and 56% have not reoffended. A survey of six participants found that they used \$95,000 in services in the year prior to housing. In the year post-housing, this group used only \$16,000 in services, for a savings of \$13,000 per person.

Housing First Programs

- The Hennepin County Housing First partnership is a collaborative with multiple community agencies and Hennepin County. This collaborative has housed 340 long-term homeless households, with an over 80% retention rate and an average length of homeless for these individuals of over 8 years. A recent evaluation by the University of Minnesota found that, when compared to similar people experiencing homeless, those in the Housing First programs increased the number of months of health care coverage, closed gaps in health care coverage, reduced their use of shelter, and reduced their interactions with Minneapolis police, both as victims and perpetrators of crime.

Goal Four: Service Delivery

Opportunity Centers

- Two new one-stop Opportunity Centers will be opening in 2010. The single adults Opportunity Center will be located at Catholic Charities Branch III at 17th and Chicago. The youth Opportunity Center will be located at Youthlink in downtown Mpls. Both centers will co-locate multiple services including housing, employment, medical care, and mental health care.

Increase Access to Veterans' Services

- A new outreach worker at Minnesota Assistance Council on Veterans (MAC-V) is doing extensive outreach to providers about veteran's services, as well as reaching out to veterans who are homeless.
- The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority has received 105 Housing Choice (Sect 8) vouchers specifically for veterans with case management services provided by Healthcare for Homeless Veterans at the VA Medical Center. More vouchers are expected. Our office has spearheaded an effort to improve targeting and distribution of the vouchers.
- A working group is being formed to step-up our efforts on housing homeless veterans and align our work with the Obama Administration's goal of ending veterans homelessness in 5 years.

Goal Five: Build Capacity for Self Support

Employment for Adults

- The Heading Home Hennepin Employment Workgroup is developing an integrated housing and employment pilot to be launched at the single adult Opportunity Center in 2010. Leadership has been provided by The United Way, PPL, Goodwill Easter Seals, Catholic Charities, and Luke Works, Inc. This pilot will focus on those who are not served by traditional employment programs. This approach will utilize Food Stamp Training and Employment Program (FSTEP) money to help pay for services. The FSTEP program allows training for individuals who receive food stamps to be subsidized at 50% by the Federal Government.

Transportation

- Homeless against Homelessness and The Human Rights Program at St. Stephen's led an organizing effort that resulted in legislation, allowing for 20 homeless serving agencies to purchase bus tokens for 50% of face value.

Goal Six: Systems Improvements

Shelter Efficiency

- A group of Executive Directors and Program Directors from all five major singles shelters meet regularly to coordinate efforts and share information.
- This group has developed a collaborative case management program, with staff from all shelters, Hennepin County, and the outreach team taking place.
- Among the issues that this group addresses are H1N1 and TB response in shelter, coordination of services and case management, improving quality of care in shelters, and providing more culturally competent services.

Family Housing and Shelter Network

- This group is made up of representatives from all Hennepin County family shelters and other homeless service agencies. This group is working on multiple issues such as streamlining services for families in shelter, improving employment services to these families, working on child care issues, and H1N1 response.

Cultural Competence

- This group has hired a consultant team with the support of the Minneapolis Foundation and is working on developing a method to increase the cultural competency of the homeless service delivery system. Recommendations for action steps will be complete by the end of 2009.