



Presentation to the National Conference to End Homelessness

CAEH

November 5th, 2018

In partnership with the City of Greater Sudbury

SUCCESS PAGE 984
COMES BEFORE
WORK PAGE 1132 ONLY IN
THE DICTIONARY.

thingsweforget.blogspot.com

My Elevator Pitch



As the Coordinator of the Homelessness Network, I lead and assist a multidisciplinary team of housing first focused workers, from a Network of 6 partner agencies, to deliver a consistent, efficient, and efficacious, participant centered, case management and housing stabilization program, based in a philosophy of recovery, with an aim to being a significant contributor to ending chronic homelessness in the City of Greater Sudbury.



Context is everything...

The city we live in –

Population of 160,274- making it the largest urban center in Northern Ontario

The City of Greater Sudbury is centrally located in Northeastern Ontario at the convergence of three major highways.

(Approximately four hours north of Toronto, three hours east of Sault Ste Marie and three hours south of Timmins)

Greater Sudbury is 3,627 square kilometres in area making it, geographically, the largest municipality in Ontario and second largest in Canada.

2018 Enumeration found 1315 people who are homeless; of these 424 chronically homeless, 207 were youth, and 42% identified as aboriginal.

The Homelessness Network

- Network of 6 partner agencies in seven sites
- Team is 15 persons strong and growing
- Contracted by City of Greater Sudbury
- Assist people who are chronically homeless, including multi-episodic, couch surfers, etc.
- Adhere to and promote Housing First model (e.g. - participant centered, case management and housing stabilization program, based in a philosophy of recovery)
- Aim to ending chronic homelessness in the C.G.S. (part of 20K Homes campaign)



Who are we?

Agencies include:

- Centre de santé communautaire du Grand Sudbury (and Corner Clinic) (Health center)
- Elizabeth Fry Society Sudbury
John Howard Society Sudbury
- N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre
- L'Association des jeunes de la rue/Foyer Notre Dame (Outreach)
- Sudbury Action Centre for Youth



How we do things?

- Centralized intake – 2 workers at two sites – Intake workers also visit outbound sites to complete assessments and intakes. Street Outreach worker also does assessments on the spot
- Use SPDAT and VI-SPDAT - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool
- Weekly assignments and case updates at mid-week team meetings
- Case management support for persons who want to be housed and sign basic participation agreement (weekly visits +)
- Collaboration with other community partners to connect with people experiencing homelessness (shelters, outreach, CMHA, drop-ins, O.W., ODSP, etc...)



How we do things cont'd...

- Although multidisciplinary, no expectation for specialists on team; Broker (refer) out for specialized supportive, treatment services such as mental health, psych, addictions, etc...
- Provide weekly list of available housing for general public
- Provide preventative services to low income households at risk through CHPI, LEAP, OESP (Hydro, Natural Gas, rent arrears) and diversion (Housing Navigators)
- We work very closely with the Coordinator of Shelters and Homelessness at the City.



Our History

Embryo – started conversations for housing response change – 2005

- 2007 – Community Solutions Team for Homelessness recommended a move to Housing First Philosophy.
- City posted an RFP for funding to be used for homelessness prevention supports and a Housing First System. Funded through municipal funding 2007
- Seven community agencies entered into a formal partnership to become the Homelessness Network and were awarded the funding contract with the City. Started with eight positions.

Our History cont'd...

2007- 2018 Contract has been renewed three times with the City. Two agencies have left the partnership. Program has expanded to 15 positions and is funded through the City using municipal, provincial and federal funding dollars.

2016- Reorganized service delivery to adhere to Housing First model

Success story – Since adopting a Housing First model, the Network has helped house some 140 persons; over 20% having been stably housed over 12 months and more than 50% stably housed over 6 months

Daily inner workings

- Intakes all work week long (not weekends)
- Meet once a week, Wednesday afternoons to discuss whole caseload, strategize, assign new participants (matching)
- Seperate caseloads with open supports from other C.M.s when asked for/needed
- Communication with team and Coordinator available at all times – Network cell phones, emails, in person visits/meetings

How we interact with community partners

- Signed consents with our participants to communicate with services e.g. – specialists, therapeutic supports, treatment, others
- Assist our participants (advocate) with CHPI funds, discretionary funds, pay direct and transportation requests, I.D. and tax updates,
- We know we can't do it alone - Working together to support our mutual clients to achieve stable permanent housing

Strengths - Internal

- Collaboration and partnerships building between agencies – stronger understanding of each other's mandates, client groups
- Shared resources and professional development
- Foundation for coordinated access system
- Extended collaborations with friends of partner agencies
- Strength in numbers

Challenges - Internal

- Structure (multi-agency policies, procedures, worldviews) – e.g. – car policies for transportation; home visits policies, financial procedures; cultural considerations.
- Multi-disciplinary backgrounds, training, approaches –
- Multiple varied mandates
- Limited rent supps for Network



Strengths - External

- Small town feel – know everyone by first name, relationship building between service providers
- Community agencies are willing to partner outside of the Network, including shelter providers, CMHA, Monarch Recovery, Sudbury Housing Corporation etc...Everyone working towards same goal (e.g. – 20K homes campaign)
- Public housing has an « urgent » priority status list for people experiencing homelessness
- Great support from City in continuing to build the Housing First Program



Moving Forward

- Housing – availability, affordability, quality
- Extremely limited access to psychiatry, ACT team, specialized treatment and therapeutic supports
- Landlord recruitment and retention
- Ongoing housing specific training and development, evaluation
- Monday to Friday kinda town (except for shelters, emergency services some outreach)



WHAT'S THE RUSH?

REACH

Grande Finale



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Thank you

Merci

www.homelessnessnetwork.ca