Housing First

The Fourth International Housing First Conference:
Knowledge Mobilization of Evidence-Based
Housing First Practices
October 5-7th, 2021

Summary Bulletin

HF & Women - Creating Safe & Suitable Housing Opportunities for Women Impacted by Violence

Grant Martin – City of Stratford Social Services Department
Hannah Skinner – Optimism Place Women's Shelter & Support Services

According to the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, there is an undeniable connection between violence and homelessness. Violence can force households to leave home suddenly without proper supports in place. Research indicates that violence (including sexual violence and domestic sex-trafficking) is the primary cause of homelessness for women. Additionally, women are at a significant disadvantage because traditionally, housing and homelessness strategies, including Housing First programs, have been focused on the most visible, chronically homeless individuals who have concurrent mental health and addiction issues – primarily single adult men living in shelters or sleeping rough.

Built off the success of other Housing First programs and their principles, the Supported Housing of Perth Program (SHOPP) was designed and implemented as a local Housing First service collaborative comprised of four (4) community leading organizations. The aim was to support priority populations experiencing homelessness through a HF Intensive Case Management Scattered & Fixed Site model. One of those populations included women with or without dependent-aged children impacted by violence.

Within this presentation, attendees will learn about our local experience of applying an enhanced gender-based lens to the Housing First approach; improving intake for women experiencing homelessness into our Coordinated Access System, practical case management considerations when working with women experiencing homelessness, and insights from qualitative and quantitative program evaluation.

EEnet

The conference is hosted by the Ontario Housing First Regional Network Community of Interest (OHRFN-CoI). The OHFRN-CoI is supported by Evidence Exchange Network (EENet) at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. The OHFRN-CoI assists communities across Ontario to develop, evaluate, and improve Housing First programs based on the Pathways model tested, adapted, and shown to be effective in the At Home / Chez Soi Demonstration Project. For more information, visit www.eenet.ca/housing-first.

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