

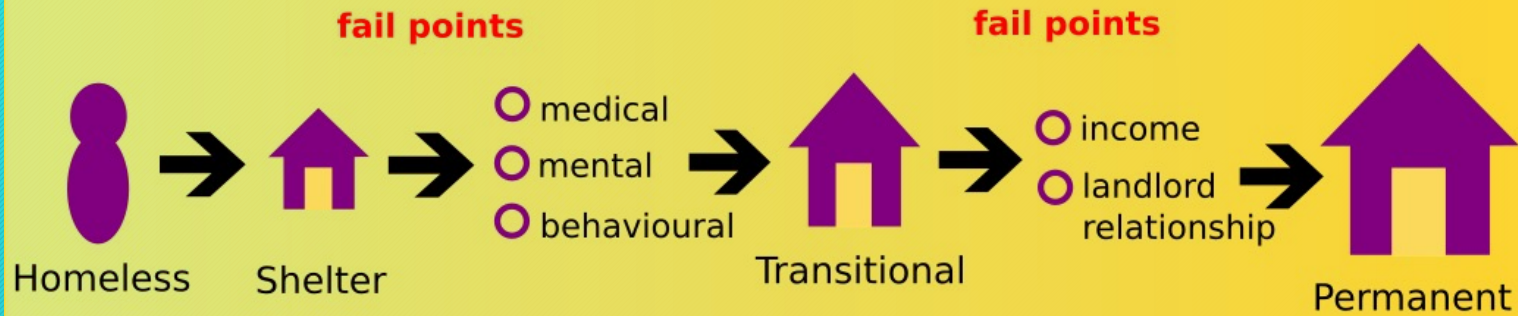
Intro to Housing First



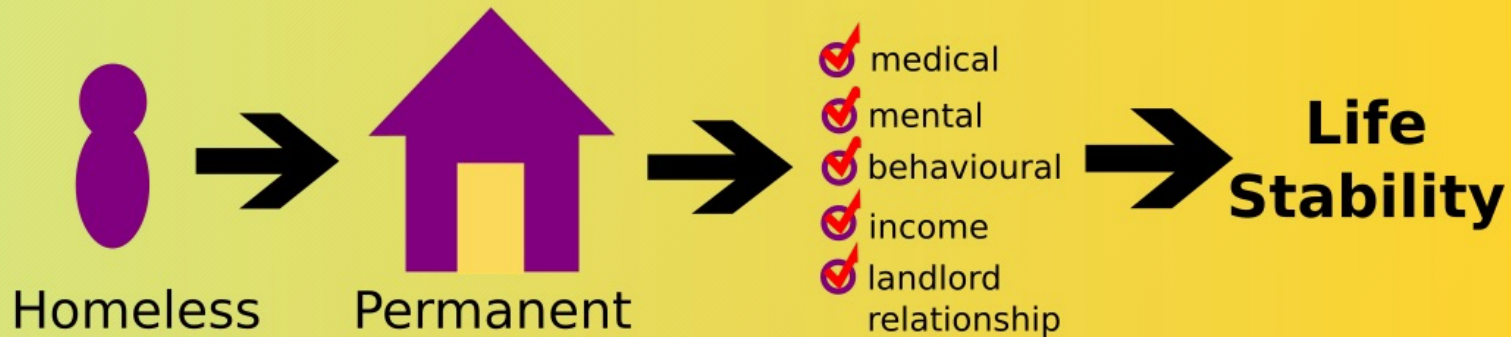
Why Housing First?

- Effective
 - It's working! Our overall numbers of homeless families are decreasing
 - To end homelessness, we need to house people!
 - People recover more quickly in housing*
- Housing is needed before many other things can be a focus

Housing Readiness



Housing First



What Housing First is NOT

- Housing ONLY
- 1 project or program
- In isolation of community resources
- Only PSH/HUD funded

- Housing First IS a culture and mindset shift

Housing First Principles

- Immediate access to housing
 - Systemically have enough housing/voucher availability
 - Utilize vouchers - housing regardless of ability to pay
 - No barriers to entry (background, service needs, etc.)
- Consumer choice and self-determination
 - Need a variety of housing options
 - A variety of service options
 - Services are optional for them, but mandatory for you

Housing First Principles

- **Recovery orientation**
 - Harm reduction mindset
- **Individualized, dignified, client-driven supports**
 - Using motivational interviewing
- **Community integration**
 - Physical locations are diverse and integrated
 - Services also focus on connection to community
 - How do we create community within programming?

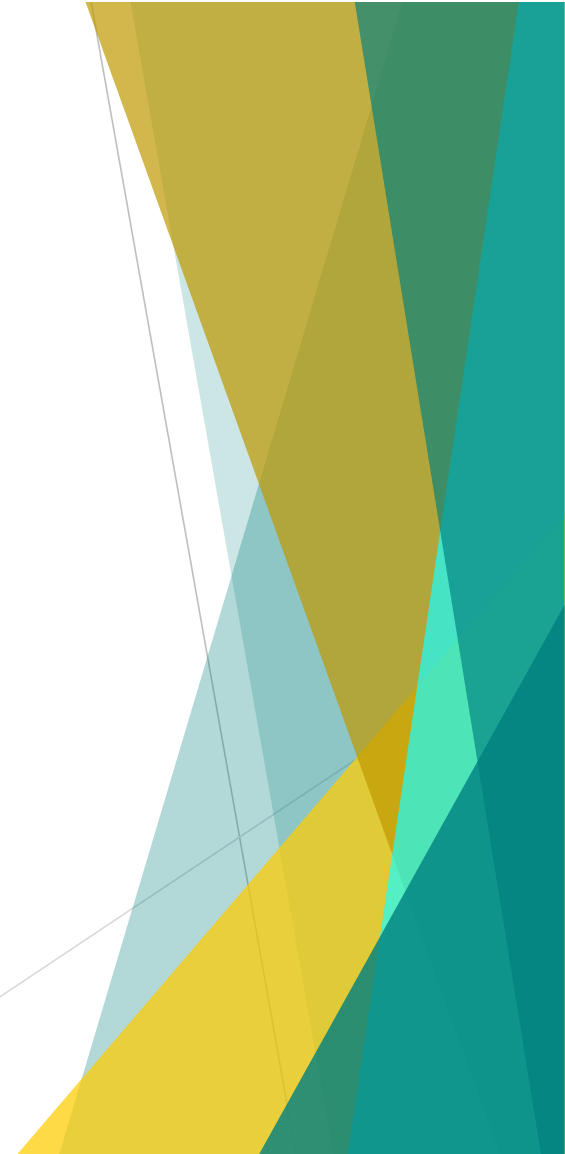
Milwaukee County Outreach Services:

A Housing First Approach



Housing First

- ▶ Housing approach that focuses on housing stability, reduction in emergency services utilization, income acquisition and permanently ending cycle of homelessness
- ▶ Triage into housing allows for quick stabilization and mitigates issues directly related to homelessness.
- ▶ Access to income, improved health outcomes, and addressing the underlying causes that led to homelessness, are all key components of the Housing First model. Once someone is housed, the focus on self-determination begins.
- ▶ Housing First contributes to drastically reducing the public cost of services (health, mental health, substance abuse, emergency shelter, and incarceration).



Key Principles of Housing First

- ▶ Immediate Access to Housing
 - ▶ *Housing is a basic human right, not a reward for clinical success*
- ▶ Ending cycle of homelessness
 - ▶ *Move people directly from streets and shelters without preconditions of treatment acceptance or compliance*
- ▶ Solution focused Case Management
 - ▶ Provider is obligated to bring robust support services to the housing program. Services are predicated on assertive engagement, not coercion.
- ▶ Improve health outcomes
 - ▶ Harm reduction approach to addictions rather than mandating abstinence. Provider must be prepared to support residents commitment to recovery.
- ▶ Social & Community Integration
- ▶ Social mobility
- ▶ Cost savings associated with housing retention



Housing-Focused Street Outreach

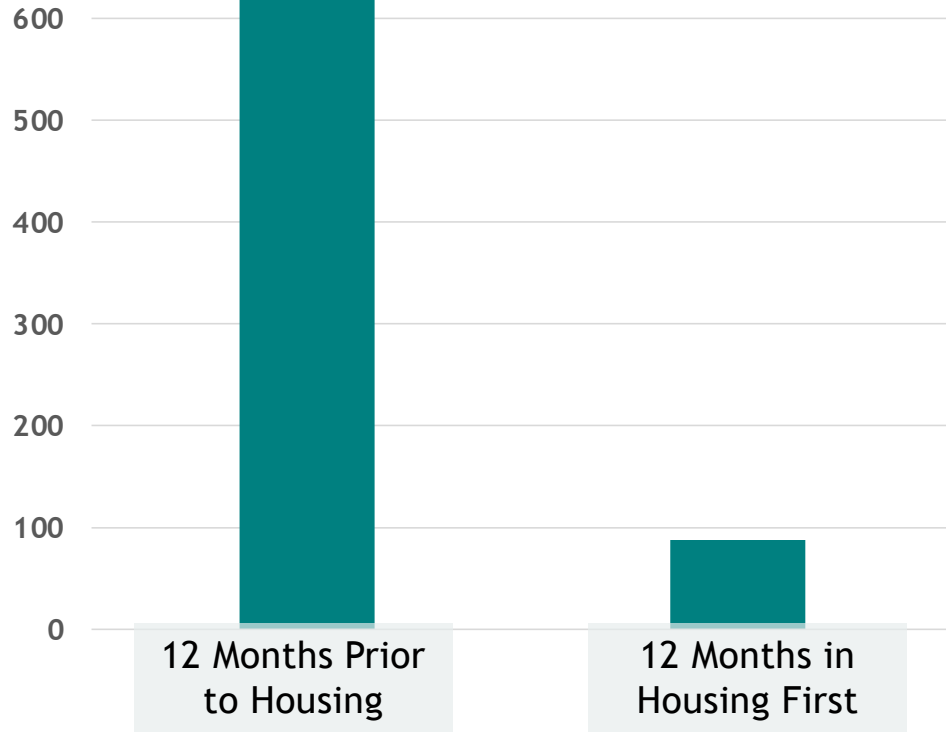
- ▶ Historically, street outreach has focused on bringing basic services and supplies to individuals living on the street
- ▶ This approach is still a need, and the simple human connection can foster rapport and ongoing communication
- ▶ Some part of your local street outreach efforts should be housing-focused
- ▶ Services and housing triage are provided on the street
- ▶ Concerted and collaborative approaches to housing
- ▶ Develop an awareness of the causes, experience, pattern and politics of homelessness. Knowing the macro aspects of the issue can increase advocacy and push the Housing First movement forward.

Impact: Local Emergency Services

- ▶ Psychiatric hospitalizations = 100x more often for Chronically Homeless individuals
- ▶ Any Hospital Stay = 4x longer for Chronically Homeless individuals
- ▶ Behavioral Health Division Psychiatric Crisis Services = **\$605.00** per visit (non-admission)
- ▶ Behavioral Health Division Psychiatric Crisis Services = **\$1,829** per visit (admission)
- ▶ Behavioral Health Division Detox Medicaid Cost = **\$506** per visit
- ▶ Behavioral Health Division Crisis Mobile Medicaid Cost = **\$1,245**
- ▶ Behavioral Health Division Psychiatric Inpatient Medicaid Cost = **\$2,145**
- ▶ Average Emergency Room Medicaid Cost = **\$2,235**



Mental Health Crisis Service Utilization



- ### Top 4 Utilized Programs
- Crisis Mobile
 - Detox
 - Psychiatric Crisis Services
 - Inpatient Services

12 Months Prior to Housing	627 visits	Difference of 539
12 Months in Housing First	88 visits	

12 Months Prior to Housing	\$860,985	Difference of (\$714,638)
12 Months in Housing First	\$146,347	



Law Enforcement

98%

OF HOUSING FIRST RESIDENTS RECEIVED A MUNICIPAL CITATION DURING THE 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO ENTRY

9%

RECEIVED A MUNICIPAL CITATION DURING THE FIRST 12 MONTHS IN HOUSING FIRST



Most Common

- Loitering
- Trespassing
- Public Drinking

Each violation requires attention from valuable resources. Fines are rarely - if ever - paid. Warrants require additional resources. Increased public cost with each resource.



Empowering Youth – Changing Lives

DeShanda Williams-Clark (she/Her)
Pathfinders Sr. Vice President of Programs & Services



Pathfinders Milwaukee, Inc.

- For 50 years, Pathfinders has brought safety, hope and healing to youth ages 6-25 facing homelessness, sex trafficking, sexual abuse, trauma and crisis in Milwaukee.

Youth Action Board

Education

Runaway & Homeless Youth Services

Youth Anti-Violence Services

Clinical Services

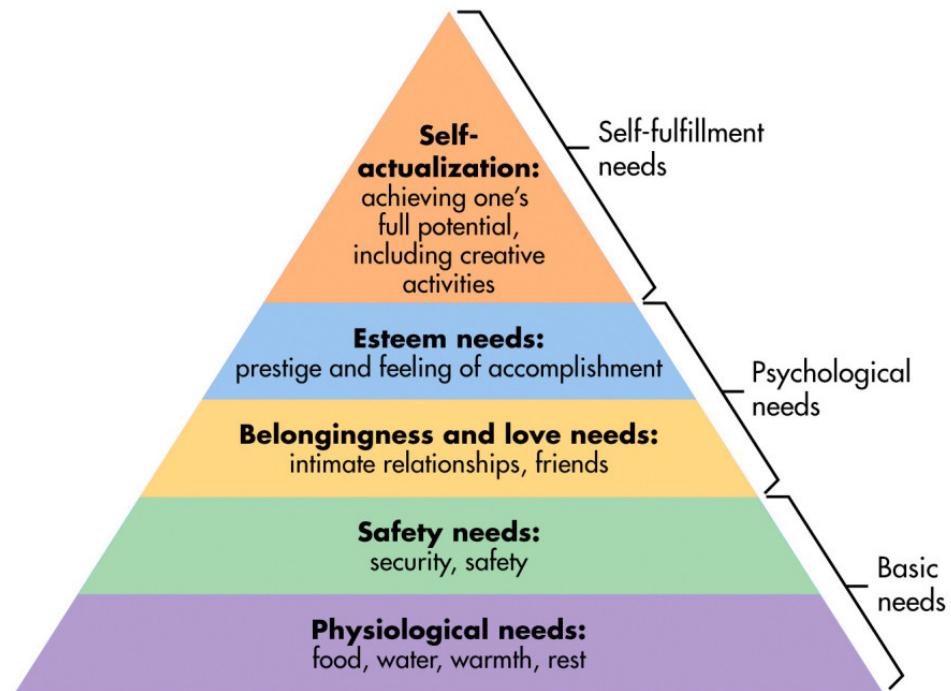
Supported Housing



Scope of Issue

- 5,166 youth in MPS experience homelessness
- Estimated 11,723 youth and young adults ages 10-24 experience a form of homelessness over a 12 month period in Milwaukee County
- 3.5 million young adults 18-25
 - 40% identify as LGBTQ+
 - Since 2018 LGBTQ+ made up 51% of those served in Pathfinders programs
- 96% BIPOC accessing Pathfinders services
- 78% of youth bought and sold by human traffickers in Milwaukee are African American.
- 64% of Milwaukee is BIPOC
- LGBTQ+ youth and young adults are homeless at disproportionate rates

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



What does Harm Reduction look like in direct services?

Individuals are treated with dignity, compassion, and are respected as the experts on their own lives

Individuals' services are provided with non-judgmental approaches. Provider accepts individuals' behaviors and recognizes that they experience benefits as well as consequences

Individuals are empowered with knowledge, options, methods that reduce risk and move them towards safety and/or services



Individual collaborates in the decision making surrounding the services they are receiving and provider respects their goals

Individual's outcomes or progress doesn't determine their continued ability to receive care

Individuals sustained ability to choose opportunities to live healthier lives is acknowledged

This impacts everyone!

What has helped make this successful

- Flexible funding
- Landlord and property management partnerships
- Safe & affordable housing
- Prevention
- Direct cash
- Youth Leadership & Lived Expertise
- Partnerships with other CBOs

Challenges

- Restricted funding
- Lack of safe living environments
- Cost of Living: Participants & providers
- Youth distrust of systems & stigma placed on youth
- Funding requirements
- Life skills
- Policies
- Racism, oppressions, etc..

Housing is a Human Right!



Housing access for
women in street-based sex work:
A systems approach



Benedict Center

Compassion • Justice • Action • Transformation



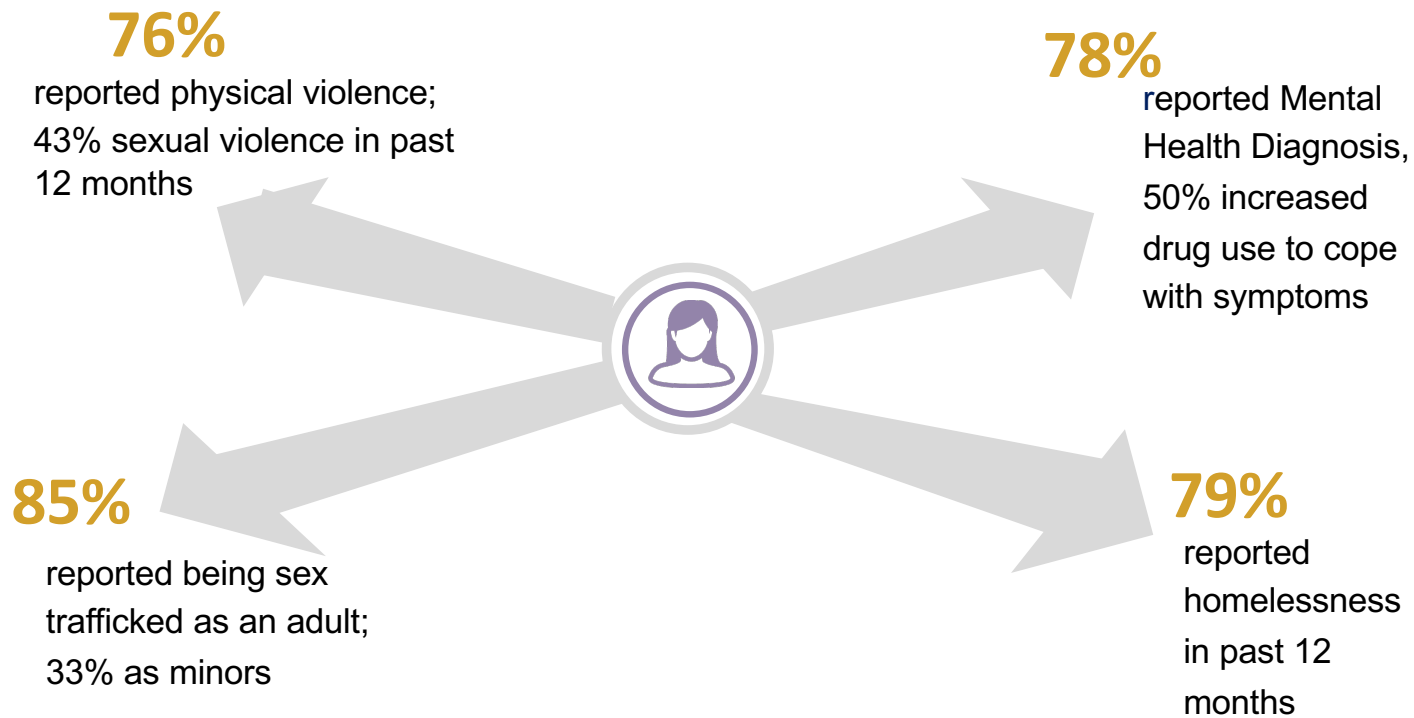
Benedict Center Sisters Program



Helping women in the street-based sex trade find hope and live healthier and safer lives.



Housing, Health and Safety





Housing First...Where Healing Starts

- When you are living outside, without a roof over your head, surviving and avoiding violence are your main concern.
- Once a woman has a safe place to live, she can focus on her next “most important” problem.
- Everyone deserves safe, affordable housing.
- Housing=Safety
- Women told us it was the highest need





Strategic Housing Partners

- Milwaukee County Housing Services
- Milwaukee Continuum of Care
- IMPACT 211
- Exploit No More
- Sojourner Family Peace Center
- Community Advocates





Housing Access



- Raised awareness:
 - *Women in Street Based Sex Trade are part of the unhoused population;*
 - *Housing is a solution for their health and safety needs*
- Increased number of women identified/assessed
- Improved prioritization for women within existing funds



Leveraged Dedicated Funding in

2022-23

“HUD DV Bonus” for Category 4: fleeing violence

- First of its kind for MKE CoC
- Collaboration with Milwaukee County Housing Division, Benedict Center, Exploit No More, Sojourner Family Peace Center, and Community Advocates
- \$881,603 for one year
- 45 households, Rapid Rehousing Vouchers
- Transitional Housing- ENM, DV Shelters,
- Renewable and expandable





Tangible Results in Women's Lives

- 2022-2023: 45 women housed (20 by Benedict Center)
- 2023-2024: 16 new housing clients began in Oct.
- Rent vouchers for 2 years
- Wrap around case management services





How can IMPACT 100 Members Help?

- You are already doing it!
- Stay informed
- Tell your friends, Housing First works!
- Support Housing First Policies
- Give people a 2nd chance
- In-kind gifts/ drives

For more information, contact Jeanne at jgeraci@benedictcenter.org or go to www.benedictcenter.org.

