

2010 HOMELESS SOLUTIONS REPORT to the Community



A Blueprint for Ending Chronic Homelessness and Reducing Overall Homelessness in Dayton and Montgomery County, Ohio

LETTER FROM THE POLICY BOARD CO-CHAIRS


Homelessness is often called a lagging indicator of the economy – people rely on their own financial and social resources when they are struggling; they only enter shelter when there is no other option. In 2010 the full impact of the recession hit the Dayton and Montgomery County homeless system; 4,569 people spent at least one night in a gateway shelter. In the face of this increase, the achievements under the Homeless Solutions Plan – the new men’s shelter and increased housing options – have been critical to ensuring that people have the protection of emergency shelter and the resources to end their homelessness.

While new housing has been added and an extensive homelessness prevention program continues to operate, the main activity in 2010 under the Homeless Solutions Plan has been a fundamental change to the way that people are referred to programs in the homeless system. The goal of the new Front Door Assessment system is to end each family or person’s homelessness as quickly as possible by providing the particular services the household needs as determined through a comprehensive assessment.

Targeting long-stayers in shelter or on the street has been a priority of the new process. As a result, 31 of the 57 people who were in shelter or on the street more than 200 nights in 2010 now are in housing instead of shelter. Changing the system to implement the new process has not been easy and we want to recognize and thank all of the agencies that provide services in the homeless system. We appreciate your commitment to serving people who are homeless and your willingness to change to improve the services people need.

As we begin work in 2011, we lose a devoted member of the Homeless Solutions staff. Roberta Longfellow has dedicated her professional life to creating housing opportunities for families and individuals in Montgomery County. Her knowledge and commitment has been a driving force behind the development of hundreds of permanent supportive housing units created under the Homeless Solutions Plan. We also lose a committed City of Dayton employee, Kathy Emery, who worked tirelessly on many Homeless Solutions projects. Thank you Roberta and Kathy; we will miss you.

We also want to thank the members of the Homeless Solutions Policy Board and the many volunteers who serve on the Policy Board’s Committees. Your wisdom and commitment have made the accomplishments of the last few years possible.

Sincerely,

 Walt Hibner
 Co-Chairs, Homeless Solutions Policy Board


 Charles Meadows
 Co-Chairs, Homeless Solutions Policy Board

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Several permanent supportive housing projects opened in 2010 including 32 units for families and individuals funded through Section 8 vouchers committed by the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority (DMHA) and 13 units funded with Shelter+Care vouchers through the Continuum of Care targeted to medically fragile homeless single adults. Although progress has been made toward the 2006 goal for PSH, these goals are now five years old. The Front Door Assessment data will be used to reassess the types of units needed in our Continuum, identify gaps in the system and help develop updated goals for permanent supportive housing.



In the summer of 2010 ground was broken for River Commons II, a new 83 unit permanent supportive housing development that will replace the current obsolete River Commons building (see adjacent pictures from the ground breaking and during construction).

DAYTON - MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUNE 2006 • DECEMBER 2010 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRESS			
Target Population	10-year Goal	Units Added or in Development	Remaining Goal
Young Adults (18-24)	115	24	91
Single Adults (25+)	460	368	92
Families	175	38	137
Total	750	430	320



FRONT DOOR ASSESSMENT

Larry (not his real name) was a long stayer at the gateway shelter. He is a 63 year old white male who is an honorably discharged veteran and has been staying in shelter almost continuously since July 2006 with more than 1,600 nights in shelter. He is seriously mentally ill and extremely paranoid and has refused all services from the VA. Larry believed that the shelter was the only place he was safe. The only person he trusted was his shelter case manager although he felt comfortable with some of the shelter staff. With the emphasis on housing long-stayers, Homefull and St. Vincent staff worked with Larry until he felt ready to move to permanent supportive housing. He has been in his new home for a month and is adjusting well.

On August 1, 2010 a new Front Door Assessment process was implemented at all gateway shelters and street outreach programs. This new process is the result of almost three years of work by the Policy Board's Front Door Committee. The process includes a standardized Assessment Tool to identify the issues that have led to a person or family's homelessness and a decision tool to help determine the most appropriate program in the homeless system to help the household stabilize. The development of the Front Door Assessment fulfills the Homeless Solutions Plan's vision of a unified homeless assistance system that meets the needs of all homeless families and individuals.

Under the new process all programs receiving funding from the homeless system are required to report any vacancies; referrals of homeless clients to the program with a vacancy come from a central waiting list. This standardized referral process based on client needs ensures the most efficient use of resources in the homeless system and the most appropriate level of services to homeless households. The process allows for the collection of comprehensive data on the needs of homeless households and the effectiveness of programs in the homeless system. This data is essential to future system planning and resource allocation. The front door assessment will also position the homeless system to respond to new federal outcome requirements for reducing recidivism back to homelessness and length of stay.

The Front Door Committee, chaired by Rev. John Paddock and Dr. Vic McCarley, with members from the homeless system, other social service agencies such as CrisisCare and United Way, and area universities, began meeting in October 2007. Since January 2010 the Committee has been working with nationally recognized consultants on the development of the assessment tool and process. Significant client and provider input have been solicited at every step of the process. To clarify the purpose of the assessment the following principles have been adopted:

- Rapidly exit people from their homelessness to stable housing
- Ensure that the hardest to serve are served
- Serve clients as efficiently and effectively as possible
- Be transparent and accountable throughout the referral and assessment process

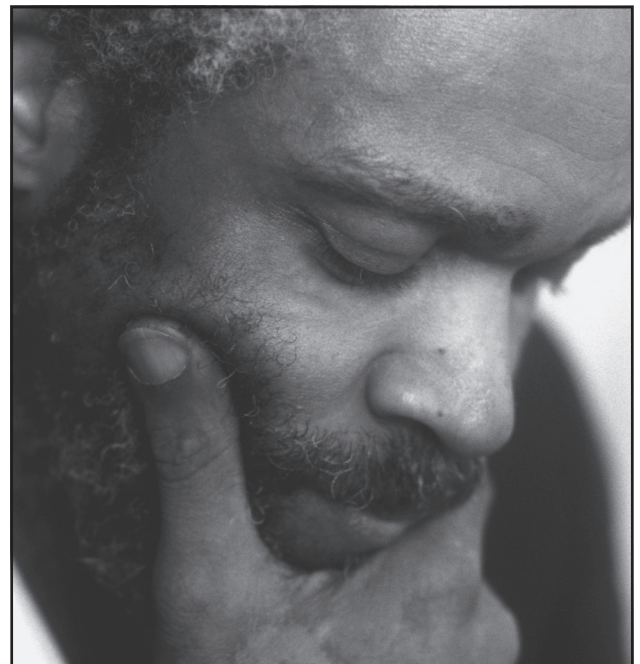
One of the goals of the front door assessment is to house people who are long stayers in the homeless system – people with more than 200 nights of shelter or on the street in a year. In 2010 there were 57 single adults who were long stayers. Because long stayers were prioritized in the front door assessment process 31 were housed.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS FOR VETERANS

Locally and nationally veterans are overrepresented in the homeless population. In 2010, there were more than 300 men in shelter in the community who reported they were veterans; this was 18% of the total number of homeless men that year.

Because homelessness is so prevalent for veterans, in June 2010 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs made a commitment to end homelessness for veterans in five years. To achieve this goal there is an increased focus on local coordination and several new programs to serve veterans. In Dayton-Montgomery County the Dayton VA Medical Center and the Continuum of Care have partnered for many years. VA outreach workers are at the gateway shelters every day working to identify veterans who need VA programs. The VA Manager of Homeless Services is a member of the Policy Board's Continuum of Care Committee, and in the spring of 2011 all of the agencies who operate VA programs for homeless veterans will enter data in the Homeless Management Information System.

Local programs working with homeless veterans include transitional housing operated by Homefull, Volunteers of America and Holt Street, as well as a permanent supportive housing program using Section 8 vouchers.



HOMELESSNESS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN 2010

The Dayton-Montgomery County homeless assistance system has a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) into which prevention, outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and some supportive services providers enter data. The HMIS allows unduplicated client counts and extensive data analysis to get a more complete picture of homelessness in the community. Based on their last contact with the homeless system in 2010, people who experienced homelessness are grouped into one of four categories: *Prevention, Shelter, Rapid Rehousing, or Permanent Supportive Housing*.

The *Prevention* group grew from 299 households in 2009 to 1,005 households in 2010. The *Shelter* group includes unsheltered persons whose last contact was with an outreach worker, as well as single individuals and families whose last contact was in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program – all households who still needed stable, *permanent* housing when they were in the homeless assistance system. For 2010, 655 families and 2,527 unaccompanied individuals are included in the *Shelter* group. The *Rapid Rehousing* group, those households who received financial assistance and case management to enable them to quickly exit shelter into permanent housing, increased tremendously in 2010 from 36 households in 2009 to 305 in 2010. The *Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)* group includes disabled households, both singles and families, who received a housing subsidy and supportive services designed to allow people to live as independently as possible in the community. There are many styles of PSH ranging from small facilities with 24 hour on-site staff to scattered site apartments with case management support on an as needed basis. In 2010, 1,015 households – 164 families with 443 people and 851 unaccompanied individuals – resided in *Permanent Supportive Housing*.

Because households may receive more than one type of assistance and the categories mentioned earlier are based on a household's last contact with the homeless system, the *Shelter* group undercounts the total number of families and individuals who had an emergency that required at least a one night stay in an emergency shelter. For example, a family may have received rapid rehousing assistance upon exit from a shelter or an individual may have exited shelter to move into permanent supportive housing in which case they would be "counted" in those categories. In 2010, a total of 4,569 people – 670 families (1955 people) and 2,531 unaccompanied individuals – stayed in one of the community's gateway shelters at Daybreak, Gettysburg Gateway for Men, St. Vincent Gateway for Women & Families, or the YWCA. For the majority of households, an episode of homelessness is short-lived. For households sheltered at the Gettysburg or St. Vincent Gateway shelters, 34% stayed 7 nights or less and 61% of households were in shelter for 1 month or less.

HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED BY HOMELESS SYSTEM

	2009	2010	% Change
Prevention			
Families	175	649	271%
Unaccompanied Adults	142	356	151%
Total Prevention Households	299	1005	236%
Outreach, Shelters, Transitional Housing			
Families	677	655	-3%
Unaccompanied Adults	2,576	2449	-5%
Unaccompanied Youth	97	78	-20%
Subtotal Shelter Households	3386	3182	-6%
Rapid Rehousing			
Families	20	91	355%
Unaccompanied Adults	16	214	1238%
Subtotal Rapid Rehousing Households	36	305	747%
Permanent Supportive Housing			
Families	147	164	12%
Unaccompanied Adults	896	851	-5%
Subtotal Permanent Supportive Households	1043	1015	-3%
Total in Outreach, Shelter, or Housing Programs	4764	5507	16%

GATEWAY SHELTER ADULT HOUSEHOLDS

1,725 Single Men	812 Single Women	670 Families
13% Young Adult • 18-24 years	24% Young Adult • 18-24 years	25% Young Adult • 18-24 years
50% Black, 46% White, 4% Other	50% Black, 45% White, 5% Other	57% Black, 39% White, 4% Other
18% Veterans	2% Veterans	91% Female Head of Household
63% Disabled	56% Disabled	41% Disabled
52% No Income	48% No Income	32% No Income
67% GED, High School degree or better	61% GED, High School degree or better	58% GED, High School degree or better

Source: Dayton-Montgomery County HMIS, YWCA

HOMELESS SOLUTIONS

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For more information, please contact:

Montgomery County Office of Family & Children First

451 W. Third Street, 9th Floor • Dayton, Ohio 45422-3100

937.225.4695 • Fax: 937.496-7714

www.mcoho.org

