MICAH PROJECTS

Breaking Social Isolation
Building Community

People , Systems, Rough Sleeping

What have we learnt?

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Australia

→ Inequality is growing , the cost of living is increasing, attitudes are changing

→ Economic inequality, gender inequality, racism and discrimination

→ Structural drivers of homelessness: poverty, exclusion and economic prosperity are increasing, loss of social capital,

→ Silo Systems between the aggregation of multiple agencies, organisation, and populations

→ Governance arrangements in relation to homelessness are complex, federal State Local

→ Role of different tiers of government and role non government agencies has shifted

→ Personal experiences combined: vulnerability, disability ,trauma , domestic violence ,poverty

→ End in mind : Homelessness is solvable and we can reduce the impact of poverty

Homelessness can and does happen across a lifespan

→ We meet people on our streets of all ages, and stages of life from birth to death, at any transition point

→ Some it is from a "shock" and traumatic event or adverse incidents , episodic

→ Others it has been intergenerational since they were children and or long periods of time

→ 25% of people on the streets have been in out of home care as children

→ We need to know our neighbors who live on our streets by name and circumstances

→ We need to include data with the narrative of people's experience , both those who are experiencing homeless and those who work alongside them

Dual Purpose : a home and a quality of life

→ Access and Sustaining Housing: Creating and Sustaining a Home

→ Quality of life: Individual needs and responses, different population groups, ages and stages, heath, services designed around individual needs, risk and capacity

→ Partnerships, Consortiums, Collaboration: to create new systems, increase capacity, break down silos

→ Capacity to do what we know works, at a scale that is needed, across span of hours till 12 md , 365 days a year; focused on housing and personal outcomes with people. Need to go beyond single programs to matching the scale to need across population groups in local communities

Assertive outreach to the streets

→ Assertive outreach as applied to rough sleeping and homelessness requires some different characteristics

→ It is proactive – the worker will need to make more effort then the person to engage and negotiate, breaking down the mistrust and options

→ It is reliable and consistent to the place where people are sleeping, living, gathering, solving episodic crisis quickly , value of brokerage

→ Focus on both relatationip with the person and focused on a housing option often by lots of negotiation

Assertive outreach to the streets

→ start with the hardest people first who are chronic homelessness

→ Resolve crisis quickly for people who are episodically homeless

→ match housing allocation and support : coordinated entry

→ prioritizing needs based on risk of morbidity , people are dying on the streets

→ campaigns setting local targets have been helpful

→ Counting up to targets, 50, 500   or counting down to Zero

→ Coordinated effort: local council, police, assertive outreach mental health teams, street to home teams, health and housing providers

→ Integration of healthcare, better health outcomes , reduce ED presentations and hospitalization

Supportive Housing: Housing First continuum

→ assertive outreach teams are often expected to do outreach to people whilst living on the streets and in their transition to housing. This is not realistic and sustainable

→ need to scale up Supportive Housing providing diversity in size and scale and the diversity to match support needs. It needs a disciplined approach

→ combination of density and scattered housing in community with on site or outreach services.

→ Many evaluations show the essential ingredients of combining housing and support , we need the diversity, and we need to scale up what works

→ Supportive Housing policy need to set the enablers for enabling the right people to access the right housing, heathcare and support

Supportive Housing: Corporation of Supportive Housing USA

→ Supportive Housing is affordable housing with flexible services that help vulnerable people access and maintain housing and community supports needed to live independent and dignified lives . It is focused on addressing the needs of vulnerable individuals and families that are often disconnected from community and receiving services ineffectively delivered from multiple systems , or in crisis and institutional settings. It is a sub set of the much larger affordable and private housing markets and represents a small but critical portion of housing and services needed nationally . Supportive Housing uses a holistic approach to bridge these gaps and make communities stronger, safer, healthier ,often reducing public costs and improving the quality of life of people living in supportive housing.

→ Data driven work can assist local communities to assess need by looking at data across a spectrum of pubic systems.

Supportive Housing: Corporation of Supportive Housing USA

→ Aging Population 110,000 (25%)

→ Family Systems   50,000 (5%)

→ Individual Homeless Systems 95,000 (9 %)

→ Disability   270,000 (25%)

→ Justice system 260,000 (23%0

→ Mental Health System 65,000 (6%)

→ Substance use Systems 40,000 (4%)

→ Youth Systems (4%)

Working as local communities

→ Each community is different, but drivers of homelessness are often similar

→ The introduction of registry weeks/ connection week have brought communities not just service providers together to work towards a vision

→ The use of a common tool to assist with matching people's needs and housing, and tracking progress , making evidence based decisions

→ Working towards homelessness being rare, brief and non re-occurring ahd housing being affordable and stable

→ looking at the whole population of people and working with the diversity of need, difference and similarity of circumstances and the range and types of housing types

Moving Forward

→ Reclaim and maintain the vision to work towards Ending Homelessness : we all created what was the Road Home Policy document – it is still relevant

→ whilst we need to work one person one family at a time this will not solve homelessness as social, economic, and personal and family issue that it is

→ Preventing homelessness – Turn off the Tap , Cross systems leadership and investment

→ Aligning Systems to support people : Housing, Healthcare, Childcare, Employment and Training, Trauma related supports and services, Family Support and Child Protection, Domestic and Family Violence.

→ Look at personal outcomes, economic benefit, using and creating evidence

→ Listening to experiences –ensuring diversity

National Agenda

→ Preventing Homelessness: Early Intervention

→ Advance to Zero : a national campaign to end homelessness, starting with rough sleeping in communities who participate

→ Housing Supply: Supporting the Everybody's Home Campaign

→ Establish Permanent Supportive Housing for those who need it : Housing and Support

  → Locally identify the number of permanent supportive housing

→ Essential Links between Housing and Healthcare for chronic homelessness. Other linkages with families and children eg child protection

→ Partnerships: addressing poverty, domestic violence, child poverty , mental health