

Philadelphia's 10-Year Plan: Rethinking Intake, Shelter and the System of Housing and Services

Consultation Project Overview
Suzanne Wagner, Director
CUCS Housing Resource Center
May 12, 2006

Discussion Points

- Who are we?
- What is our charge?
- How are we approaching it?
- What are some of the basic numbers?

CUCS Overview - Who We Are

- CUCS is nonprofit organization based in NYC that provides a range of services to homeless and low income people, including those disabled by mental illness, HIV/AIDS and substance use. We offer outreach, transitional and permanent supportive housing and operate a job program and an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team.
- Founded at Columbia University in 1979 and now an independent nonprofit, CUCS has always had training, program development and systems change as part of our mission. CUCS has a unit, the Housing Resource Center, which is dedicated to delivering these services.
- For the past ten years, CUCS has worked with organizations throughout the US, including Philadelphia, to help train their staff, design model programs and shape systems that work.
- CUCS' Team includes Suzanne Wagner, Liz Isaacs and Myles Wensek
- To learn more about us, please visit us at www.cucs.org

Relevant CUCS Projects

- CUCS was part of a team that completed the most recent comprehensive housing needs assessments for persons with HIV/AIDS in NYC and NYS.
- CUCS was an active participant and played a leadership role in the development of NYC's 5-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, *Uniting for Solutions beyond Shelter*.
- CUCS maintains the inventory of homeless shelters, transitional and permanent supportive housing for the City of New York. This includes over 65,000 beds.
- Since 2000, CUCS has worked with the NYC Department of Homeless Services to develop the annual estimates of unmet need for emergency shelter and transitional and permanent housing.
- CUCS has worked with the State of Connecticut since 1997 to develop and implement supportive housing plans in urban, suburban and rural areas of the State.

Goals of the Consultation – Our Charge

- CUCS has been asked by the City of Philadelphia to assist in the development of implementation plans for two key areas of the 10-Year Plan: Shelter and Housing
- Specifically, the City has asked CUCS to work with the 10-Year Plan “Housing” and “Shelter and Services” Work Groups to develop recommendations regarding:
 - The current intake process for entering the shelter system
 - The configuration of the shelter system including the size, number, types and services needed
 - The “mix” of transitional and permanent housing options needed to serve homeless individuals and families
 - The costs and resources required to implement the recommendations

The Consultation – Our Approach

- Phase I – Data Collection
 - Target Date – June 15, 2006
- Phase II – Data and Gaps Analysis
 - Target Date – August 1, 2006
- Phase III – Develop Recommendations
 - Target Date – October 1, 2006
- Final Recommendations will be approved by the 10-Year Plan Steering Committee

Data Collection Tasks

- Review quantitative data about homelessness in Philadelphia available from administrative databases at OESS, Project HOME, UPenn, DSS and others
- Review program data from Philadelphia provider organizations
- Visit the shelter intake centers and a selection of shelters and transitional and permanent supportive housing programs
- Interview key informants including providers, consumers, administrators and policy makers
- Review pertinent planning documents, laws, policies, regulations and ordinances
- Review best practices nationally in the areas of study

Baseline Data – The People

On the night of January 25, 2006:

- A total of 3,079 people were living in shelters
 - 1469 were single adults - 1122 males, 347 females
 - 510 were households with children for a total of 1610 people
 - 1,068 of them were children
 - The average family size was 3.15 people with 2.1 children
- 316 people were living on the streets
- About 500 individuals (16%) were chronically homeless (single adults who have been homeless one year or longer or have had multiple episodes of homelessness)

Baseline Data – The People (2)

- Using data from the same date in 2005, these numbers represent:
 - An 8% (240 people) increase in the number of people in shelters, 5% more single adults and 12% increase in people in families
 - a 80% increase the street homeless population
- The number of persons in shelters has increased by 22% since 2003
- Sources: OESS and Outreach Coordination Center

Baseline Data – The System

- The APPROXIMATE Inventory of Shelter and Transitional and Permanent Supportive Housing in Philadelphia included (as of January 25, 2006):
 - 3000 Emergency Shelter Beds/ approx. 2000 Units
 - 1500 beds for Single Adults
 - 1500 beds for People in Families/ approx. 500 units
 - 4000 Transitional Housing Beds/ approx. 2500 Units
 - 1800 beds for Singles Adults
 - 2100 beds for People in Families/ approx. 700 units
 - 6200 Permanent Supportive Housing Beds/ 3220 Units
 - 1720 beds for Single Adults
 - 4500 beds for People in Families/ approx. 1500 units
- Source: City of Philadelphia HUD McKinney Inventory (in development)

Questions or Comments?

Contact:

Suzanne Wagner

CUCS, 120 Wall Street, 25th Floor

New York, NY 10005

Tel: (212) 801-3318

Fax: (212) 801-3325

Email: suzannew@cucs.org