



The Pathway Home: Systems Change To Transform Lives

October 6-8, 2021

**Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa
4000 S Sandestin Blvd,
Miramar Beach, FL 32550**

High-Level Agenda: *Subject to change*

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

- 9:00am-5:00pm Registration
- 1:00 pm-2:30pm Opening Plenary Session
- 2:45pm-4:15pm Breakout Session 1
- 5:00pm -7:00pm Welcome Reception

Thursday, October 7, 2021

- 7:00am-4:00pm Registration
- 8:00am-9:00am Breakfast
- 9:15 am-10:45am Breakout Session 2
- 11:00am-12:30pm Breakout Session 3
- 12:45pm-2:15pm Awards Luncheon - *Rita Harcrow, Director Office of HIV/AIDS Housing US Department of Housing and Urban Development*
- 2:30pm-4:00pm Breakout Session 4

Friday, October 8, 2021

- 7:00am-4:00pm Registration
- 8:00am-9:00am Breakfast
- 9:15 am-10:45am Breakout Session 5
- 11:00am-12:00pm Conference Closing Session

Session Descriptions:

Braiding ESG-CV Funds to Implement Impactful Projects

Jill Robertson and Christy Hahn from Collaborative Solutions, Inc.

This session will include background information about federal funding sources available through the American Rescue Plan. Christy and Jill will present this information and answer any questions about allowable uses. Christy and Jill will also provide examples of braiding funds from other communities throughout the country and call for participants to share their experiences as well. In addition, Christy and Jill will identify an ESG-CV recipient or sub-recipient to present their success and challenges in this area.



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Peer Supportive Service in Supportive Housing

Robin McCarty, LPC; Marie Holliday, CPS; Wiley Waters, CPS, JBS Mental Health Authority

This presentation will focus on the benefits of having Peer Support Services as part of the support team to help individuals adjust from homelessness or institutional settings to permanent housing. Peer Support services is an evidence-based practice that employs individuals with lived experience with a disability to support individuals in their own recovery. JBS embraced the idea of peer support services early on the support has grown from employing 2 peers to 18 peers working in different settings throughout the agency including individuals with severe mental illness transitioning from homelessness or a residential care setting to independent living. We have found that peers have played an integral part in a successful transition. This presentation will provide an overview of Peer Support, discuss how peers assist with individuals living independently in the community, provide some lessons learned on having Peer Support on the team, and share success stories.

Emerging Rental Assistance Strategies in the Wake of the Pandemic

David A. Jackson, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

This session will explore emerging practices and strategies for programs that address rental assistance and anti-displacement efforts in the Southeast.

Taking Action to Develop a Medicaid Supportive Housing Benefit

Ashley Hesse, Indigenous Pact PBC, Inc

Medicaid agencies have wide latitude to develop flexible and robust healthcare programs which could address a variety of determinants of health. It is well known that the lack of safe and affordable housing directly and negatively impacts overall healthcare expenditures, outcomes of patient care, and overall population health. During this session, we will engage in dialogue and share relevant lessons learned and potential approaches to take in successfully aligning supportive housing services and State Medicaid and managed care programs.

Affordable Housing for Veterans by Bridging the Gap and Building Innovate Partnerships: Healthcare, CoC, and Housing

Sally Reed, Flagler Health/ St. Johns County Continuum of Care, Flagler Health; Bill Lazar, St. Johns Housing Partnership; and Lindsey Rodea, Flagler Health/ St. Johns County Continuum of Care

St. Johns Housing Partnership, a St. Johns County affordable housing non-profit, is in the process of building a 6 unit complex of 1 bedroom apartments for veterans with disabilities. Thus, SJHP reached out to Flagler hospital who is the lead agency for St. Johns County Continuum of Care, which has a goal to end Veteran homelessness in our community. Together, we developed a plan to address this need by bridging the financial gap between landlord and tenant by utilizing grant and hospital foundation funds for risk mitigation and implementing long-term case management and Veteran comradery to the tenants, in hopes of building self-sufficiency. With this partnership, we will be able to target this vulnerable population, by helping them gain access to affordable and stable housing, while also addressing other concerns that impact their sustainability and overall wellbeing.

What Happens Next?: Helping Citizens Transition from Jail and Prison to Society

Dr. Demetrius Semien, Mobile Area Interfaith Conference

This presentation covers how efforts to provide housing and solutions to homelessness intersect with reentry programs to assist people who have been incarcerated. As the "pathway home" for incarcerated persons, reentry programs often provide a way to transform lives, lower recidivism rates, and increase public safety. As a case example, Mobile Area Interfaith Conference (MAIC) will be featured. MAIC is a community faith-based agency that saw the need for reentry services and collaborated with community partners to develop three programs – the Metro Chaplaincy Program, The Neighbor Center, and the Academy for Career Development – to offer pre-release and post-release services to returning citizens.



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Creating Capacity in a Crisis - Lessons from 2020

Dawn Gilman, Changing Homelessness, Inc

When future historians look back on 2020, many conclusions will be drawn about the effects of this tumultuous year, including how it highlighted the inextricable relationship between housing and health. Those experiencing homelessness are some of the people most susceptible to viruses like COVID-19, and the onset of a global pandemic created a new perspective: a stable home is essential for the health of individuals and our collective wellbeing. It also gave housing and homeless advocates, like us, a unique opportunity to form new partnerships and take meaningful steps towards long-term solutions. To accelerate progress on ending homelessness Changing Homelessness utilized a variety of technical assistance, contract workers, and new partnership.

The Way Station - Providing a Safe Place for Birmingham's Homeless Youth

Caroline Bundy; Heather Pressley, LICSW, PIP; and Byanca Underwood from AIDS Alabama, Inc.

During this session, AIDS Alabama staff will highlight the agency's newest housing program called The Way Station, an emergency, overnight shelter, and transitional living program for homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth ages 18 to 24 in Birmingham, Alabama, near the city center. The Way Station is intended to be a refuge, but only a temporary stopping place on their journeys as these youths set on the way of their own lives as successful young adults. The Way Station staff anticipate a September 2021 groundbreaking. Currently no shelter like this exists. Adult shelters are not seen as a safe alternative to life on the streets by the youth, as many state that they risk physical and emotional abuse and theft of what little property they own by the savvy adults residing in adult shelters. The Way Station will fill a gap that is necessary to the health, safety, and well-being of these young people and start them on their way to a sustainable life as productive adults.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Hiring

Jeri Tindal, One Roof

How to create an inclusive workplace where diversity can thrive. Seems difficult, but not as much as you think. Making changes in your job descriptions, diversifying your recruitment pool, and hiring for the skills you actually need can help you go a long way towards building a workplace culture where staff from diverse backgrounds can thrive. Our organization has been working on these initiatives for years with results we would love to share with you.

Seeing the Whole Picture: The Overlap of Homelessness and Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence and How We Can Address It

Janice Miller, House of Ruth Maryland

HUD's definition of homelessness includes a Fleeing or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence category. Yet there is a real conflict between the confidentiality and safety requirements of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the data sharing requirements of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH) that often results in the absence or reduced participation of many intimate partner and sexual violence (IPSV) service providers in local Continuum of Care (CoC) planning and services. As a result, Coordinated Entry systems often fail to identify and consider victim vulnerability when determining housing placements, putting them at risk for further serious injury. Programming meant to increase economic and housing stability for homeless individuals and families can unintentionally re-traumatize survivors slowing down or reversing progress toward these goals. This presentation will discuss why it is critical that CoC's consider IPSV when addressing homelessness in communities. An analysis of the two main point in time counts that measure this overlapping population will be shared, and policy considerations will be presented to improve accuracy of data. Participants will learn how House of Ruth Maryland engaged their local CoC to elevate awareness of IPSV as a contributor to and a result of homelessness and successfully partnered with the CoC to provide services to this vulnerable population while fully protecting survivor safety and confidentiality.



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COVID-19, A Homeless Public Health Concern

Michael C. Pearson, Greensboro Urban Ministry

The purpose of the presentation is to examine how COVID-19 is a major public health crisis. It is also meant to review how COVID-19 disrupts structural and systemic barriers to homelessness. Likewise, it will highlight COVID-19 as a high-risk public health concern that has both direct and indirect impacts on access to treatment for the homeless, access to housing, and a sense of security. This seminar will discuss mitigating strategies essential to effectively addressing communicable disease risks within shelter environments. A general impression of COVID-19 will be formulated based on real experiences during the pandemic to evaluate public health response. This notion will also gauge the homeless population's access to health needs, housing, treatment, as well as any impacts to services, shelter, and safety. In addition, COVID-19 will be examined based on the domino effect it has had on both society and homeless populations within shelter environments.

The Other Side of the Desk

Byanca Underwood and Shayla Elom from AIDS Alabama, Inc.

This presentation will discuss factors that cause homelessness; how homelessness is measured and how to properly assist individuals who may not have the same belief system as the social worker. There will be an interactive slide show with different scenarios to discuss. I have even prepared a quiz for those in attendance and a lot of goodies to give out when audience responses are correct. After the session, participants will be able to 1) Understand why people may be experiencing homelessness, 2) Relate to the population we serve and reserve judgement, and 3) spot some cultural cues with clients we serve so we can serve without offending.

Homeless Outreach - Rehousing During a Pandemic

Michael Overway and Mitch Watson from Hunger & Homeless Coalition of Collier County

Our two presenters will discuss rehousing during a pandemic, looking to multiple resources, and talking with local community funders to bring forward housing solutions.

Landlord Engagement During the COVID 19 Pandemic and Beyond

Mande Ellison, Collaborative Solutions, Inc.

We all know how hard it can be to convince landlords to work with populations with more complex needs, especially in these uncertain times of COVID-19 pandemic-related complications and new outreach and funding opportunities for rental assistance. Please join us for an interactive session that includes tips and best practices for engaging landlords in communities with limited housing stock, and engaging activities to push you out of your comfort zone and into doing all you can do to help people find safe affordable homes.

The Journey to Housing for Those Who Are Struggling with Homelessness

Lori Floyd and Kathleen Waelti from The Right Place, Inc.

Showing a collaboration of services and providers working together in a rural community with little resources for those struggling with homelessness. We will provide learned experiences in filling gaps that allow those who have faced chronic homelessness the opportunity to find shelter and supportive services even during a pandemic.



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Homeownership Pathway: Turning Dreams into a Reality

Buffy Murphy, BancorpSouth Bank and Rod McCall, BancorpSouth Mortgage

Attendees at this homeownership workshop will examine down-payment assistance programs to lower housing cost, review affordable housing mortgage products from government and financial entities specifically for low-income households, learn to read a credit report, examine fixed versus variable mortgage rates, determine when to apply and receive a pre-qualification letter for house shopping, examine early disclosures and understand fees to be paid as part of the closing process, learn how to build a budget and determine your household debt to income, review types of insurance that protect homeowners, and examine programs that provide home repair financing with a home purchase.

The Intersection of Homelessness, Domestic Violence and HIV

Adriane Brown, Diamond Ministries Inc. and Tammy Kinney, Rural Women in Action

During this presentation, participants will engage in conversation about the statistics of HIV, Domestic Violence and Homelessness. How to recognize the red flags of domestic violence and the Power and Control wheel. How to safely disclose your status and the risk associated with disclosing your status. What resources are available and how to properly use them. How to navigate and find housing resources to assist with homelessness as a survivor of Domestic Violence and/or HIV positive. Most victims of domestic violence never speak about the violence they encounter. Adriane is a survivor of domestic violence and also works for an AIDS Service Organization. She is familiar with the red flags of domestic violence and how domestic violence has affected the HIV/AIDS community. Silence is not the answer. Adriane is the author of "From Sneakers to Stilettos." A motivational journal on how she was able to escape a domestic violence relationship and transition into a healthy lifestyle. This journal goes step by step to assist anyone with how to transition from abuse. Tammy Kinney has been HIV positive for over 30 years. She has survived Domestic Violence and being homeless while being HIV positive. Tammy currently works for Advantage Behavioral Health, has her own Non-Profit Organization, and has secured stable housing for herself and others. Together they will share helpful resources on how to assist others that face the same challenges.

Community First, A Home for the Homeless

Layton Blaylock, Inferno Films

Mr. Blaylock plans to present the feature-length documentary "Community First, A Home for the Homeless" which introduces an innovative new model for transforming the lives of homeless people through the power of community. The film tells the story of leaders and residents at Community First! The village, a master-planned development providing affordable, permanent housing for hundreds of chronically homeless people in Austin, Texas. The Village offers a variety of micro-enterprises providing the residents an opportunity to make a dignified income, and 20% percent of the residents have never been homeless but choose to live there as support. Community First! The village currently occupies 53 acres with tiny homes and RV's, community kitchens, bathroom/showers, community meeting areas, gardens, and libraries. It also includes a blacksmith shop, art house, the market for selling residents' goods, a Community Cinema/amphitheater, a bus stop, resident postal boxes, and much more. "Community First, A Home for the Homeless" illustrates how the sense of community at the core of the Village is transforming the lives of our homeless brothers and sisters. The film made its world premiere at SXSW and debuted on PBS in 2021.



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