



the NATIONAL REENTRY
RESOURCE CENTER

— *A project of the CSG Justice Center* —

Reentry Housing Strategies

Brought to you by the National Reentry Resource Center and the
Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice

Speakers

- **Andy McMahon**, Associate Director
Corporation for Supportive Housing
- **Nadine Scamp**, Gulf Coast Region COO, Volunteers of America
Texas
- **Mary Buchner**, Gulf Coast Region Director of Treatment
Services, Volunteers of America Texas
- **Stephen Norman**, Executive Director
King County Housing Authority
- **Shawn Rogers**, Policy Analyst
National Reentry Resource Center

Additional Reentry Housing Resources

- **Reentry & Housing Podcast**
 - **Carol Wilkins**, Chair of the [National Reentry Resource Center](#)'s Housing Committee, developed a podcast specifically for webinar registrants. To watch the podcast, please click [here](#). (NOTE: The free [QuickTime Player](#) or [RealPlayer](#) plug-in is required to view this podcast.)
- **Reentry Housing Options: The Policymakers' Guide**, Council of State Governments Justice Center
 - The policy guide provides practical steps that lawmakers and others can take to increase public safety through better access to affordable housing for individuals released to the community. It offers an overview of several commonly accessed housing options and also examines three distinct approaches to increasing the availability of these options: improving access, increasing housing stock and revitalizing neighborhoods. To download the guide, please click [here](#).

Corporation for Supportive Housing



CSH is a national non-profit organization that helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. Since 1991, CSH has been advancing its mission by providing advocacy, expertise, leadership, and financial resources to develop and operate supportive housing.

CSH launched *Returning Home* in 2005 to integrate resources and policies in the criminal justice, behavioral health, and housing systems to create supportive housing and end the cycle of incarceration and homelessness so many people face.

Returning Home Initiative

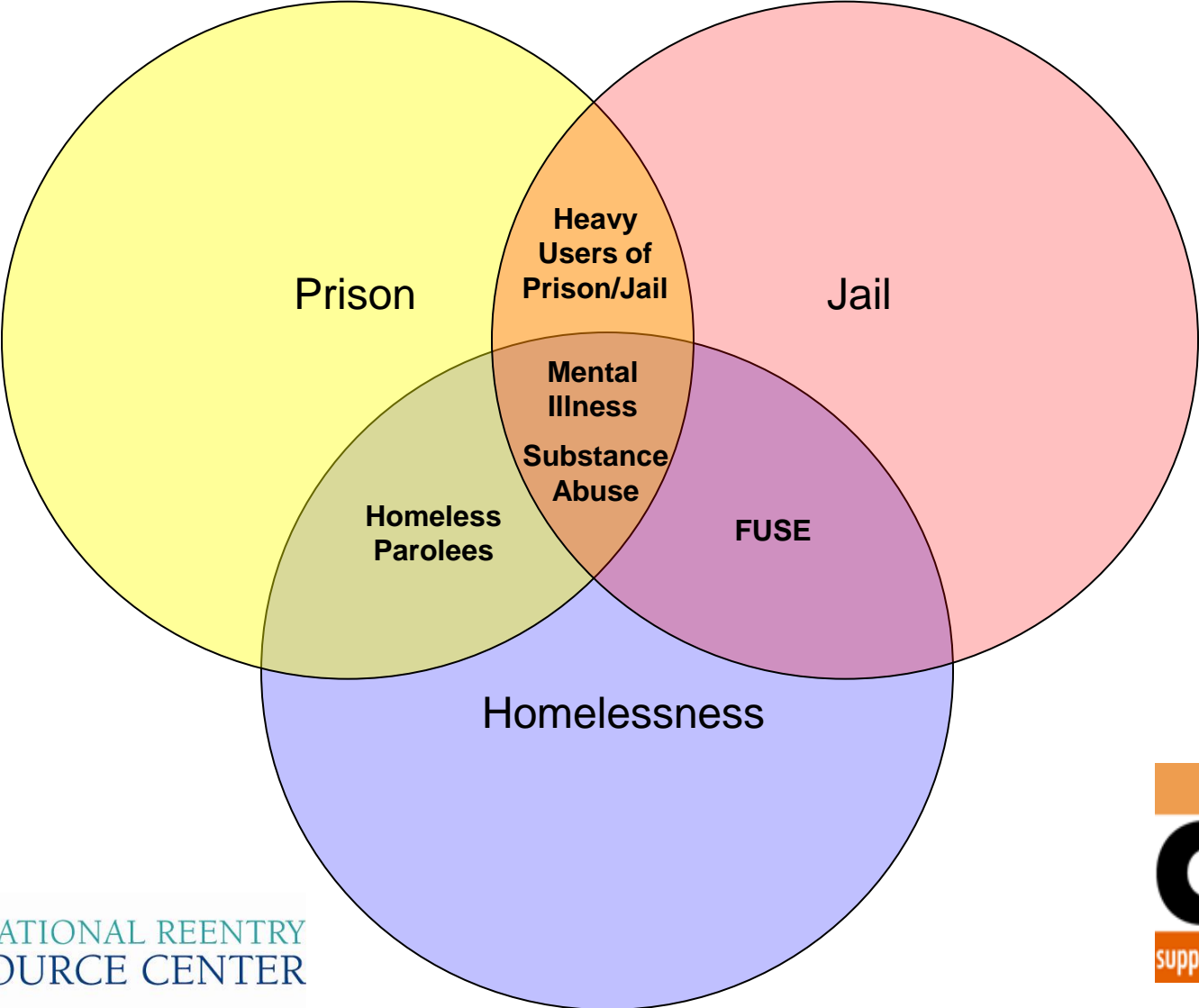


Central Premise:

Thousands of people with chronic health conditions cycle in and out of crisis systems of care and homelessness - at great public expense and with limited positive human outcomes.

Placing these people in supportive housing will improve life outcomes for the tenants, more efficiently utilize public resources, and likely create cost avoidance in crisis systems like hospitals and shelter.

The Intersection of Systems and Issues



Supportive Housing Is...



Permanent affordable housing with combined supports for independent living

- Housing is **permanent**, meaning each tenant may stay as long as he or she pays rent and complies with terms of lease or rental agreement
- Housing is **affordable**, meaning each tenant pays no more than 30% to 50% of household income
- Tenants have **access to an array of support services** that are intended to support housing stability, recovery and resiliency, but participation in support services is not a requirement for tenancy
- May be site-based or scattered site
- Options available for adults who are single, those who choose to share housing, and families with children

Key Strategies for Accessing Housing/Supportive Housing



- Linkages from Incarceration to the Community
- Accessing Publicly-funded Housing
- Cultivating Private Market/Private Landlords
- Creating Dedicated Housing & Supportive Housing

Key Strategies for Accessing Housing



- Linkages from Incarceration to the Community
 - Advance Discharge Planning
 - Benefits and Housing Application and Enrollment
 - Prison and Jail “In-reach” Collaboration
 - Correctional and Community Health Linkages

Strategies for Accessing Housing



- Private Market/Private Landlords
 - The Need to Mitigate Risk (real & perceived)
 - Identifying and Cultivating Network of Housing Providers
 - Rent Loss Reserve Funds

Strategies for Accessing Housing



- Dedicated Housing & Supportive Housing
 - Set-asides in affordable and supportive housing
 - Single site buildings - Dedicated
 - Scattered-site/Master Leasing

Returning Home

On the Ground Examples

Hennepin County, MN



- Data analysis in 2007 by Hennepin County found that, over 5 years, 266 people used approximately 70,000 nights of stay in shelter, jail, and detox, costing \$4.2 million
- Inter-agency collaboration with county community corrections and housing agencies, and state human services created in response. St. Stephen's Human Services engaged to provide in-reach services and link people to supportive housing up on exit from incarceration.
- Leveraged housing and service resources from state and federal levels as well as philanthropic support; limited county investment for community corrections
- Results:
 - **The FUSE program resulted in fewer nights spent in a shelter or in the county jail.** In total, FUSE participants spent 1,704 fewer shelter nights (43% reduction) and 700 fewer nights in the county jail (39% reduction) between the pre- and post-program periods.
 - **FUSE participants were less likely to be arrested or in the shelter system after entering the program.** 85% of FUSE participants reduced their shelter use and 60% decreased the number of times they were arrested during the 22-month period after entering the program.

State of Ohio/ODRC Pilot

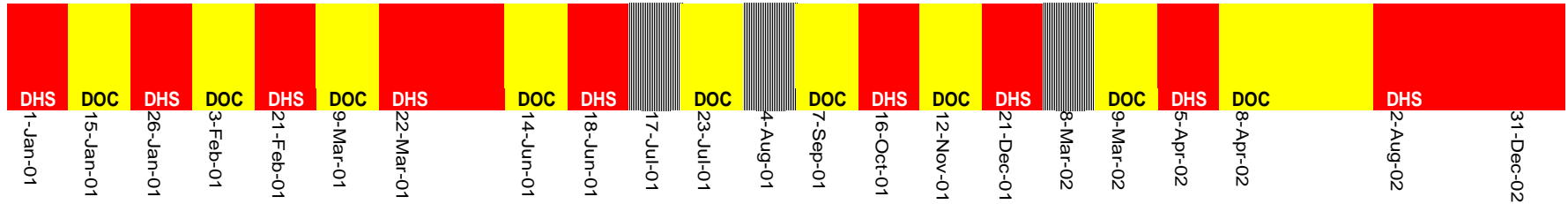


- ODRC-led pilot focused on placing up to 100 people with mental illness exiting prison into supportive housing
- \$4.8 million investment from ODRC
- Targeted prison in-reach programs
- CSH coordination SH provider network
- Engagement of mental health and housing agencies

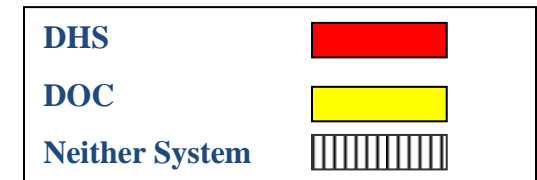
City of New York



Frequent User Case Study



- Collaboration between homeless services, corrections, mental health and housing authority
- Data integration to define target population
- Targeted in-reach and outreach
- Network of non-profit providers (scattered and single-site)





“Placing people into supportive housing costs about half as much as keeping someone in jail or prison, while also promoting public safety and improving life outcomes for people”

- Martin F. Horn, former Commissioner of
New York City Department of Correction



Volunteers of America®

Supportive Housing Practices

Working with Women Who are
Returning from Incarceration

VOA Look Up and Hope Initiative

- Holistic, research-based approach to breaking the cycle of poverty and incarceration
- Family- based perspective
- Comprehensive, coordinated services
- Goals: Family preservation, economic stability, positive family relations, school success, juvenile delinquency prevention
- VOA Gulf Coast Region is one of five pilots

Pre-Release Services – WHO



Volunteers of America®

- WHO-A (Women Helping Ourselves) program
- Partnership with Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Dept
- Women with substance abuse related offenses
- 6-12 month average incarceration
- VOA provides treatment and support services
- VOA provides 1:1 mentoring through OJP Second Chance Mentoring grant

Pre-Release Services - TDC



Volunteers of America®

- 25 bed women's residential program for women exiting Texas prison system
- VOA provides supportive residential substance abuse treatment and related support services
- Assistance with employment preparation, job search and placement
- Average 90 day stay

Housing Placement



Volunteers of America®

- VOA case managers and counselors develop discharge plans which include housing
- Housing options:
 - Network of providers in area for specialized care
 - In-House services through Homeless Prevention and Rapid RE-Housing (HPRP) or Shelter Plus Care (SPC)
- Coordinated discharge planning with correctional staff
- VOA Staff visits potential sites, assists in transportation for client visits, follows-up on needed paperwork and eligibility requirements, advocates for client

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing



- Three-year program through Federal Stimulus, rolling over to HUD
- Up to 18 months of rental assistance and case management services
- Goal is that at end of assistance, client is stable enough to remain in same apartment

Shelter Plus Care



Volunteers of America®

- Sponsor Based program
- Permanent Housing
- Clients must have been homeless prior to jail
- Clients must have documented disability such as chronic substance abuse or mental illness
- 1:1 match supportive services

Relationships Are Key



Volunteers of America®

- VOA developed relationship with SPC landlord to accept women who otherwise would not have been accepted due to background
- VOA has regular meetings with apartment management staff and landlord
- Apt staff knows they can call at VOA if issues arise
- VOA helps clients advocate with apt staff
- Now have designated apartments for HPRP as well

Employment Support



Volunteers of America®

- VOA is a United Way THRIVE partner – collaboration to support family economic stability
- Career development and coaching including dedicated Employment Support Specialist (ESS), job training programs, job placement
- In-house optometric tech and commercial drivers license training programs
- ESS experienced working with re-entry population

Tying it all Together



Volunteers of America®

- “Linda” entered WHO-A program and began receiving substance abuse treatment services
- Paired with mentor three months prior to release
- Upon release entered apartment through HPRP assistance
- Continued outpatient treatment and mentoring services with VOA
- Entered VOA optometric tech training program

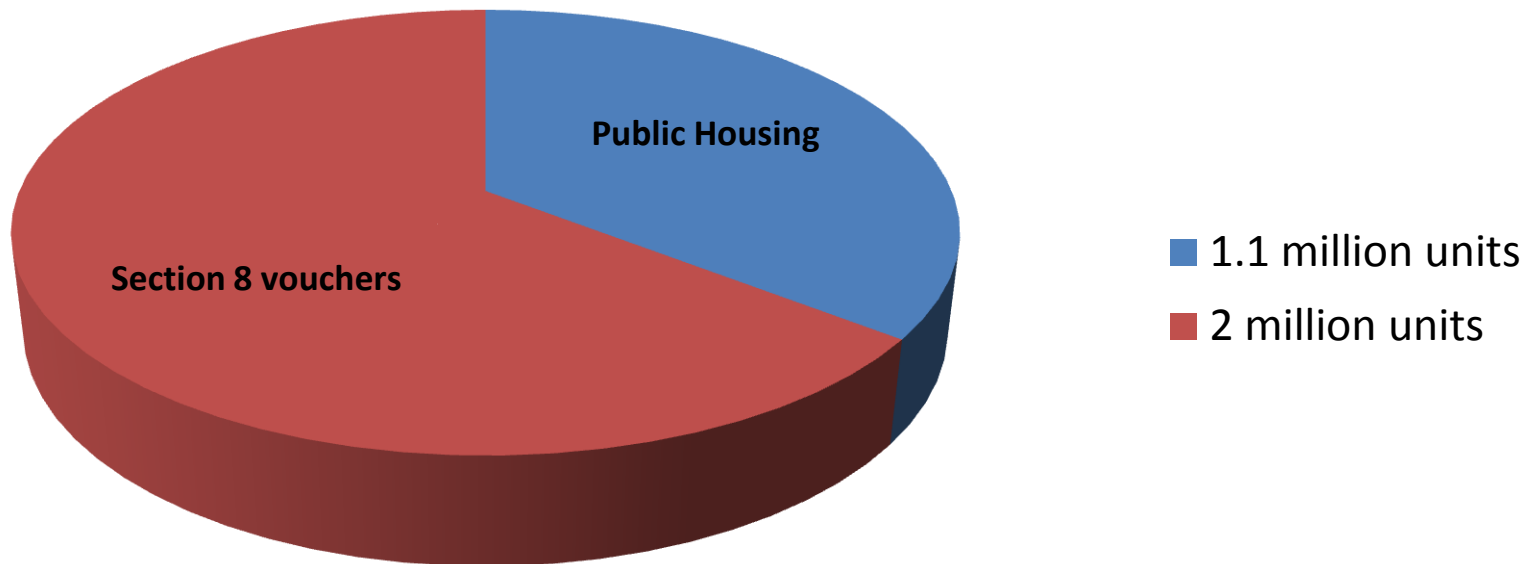
Prisoner Re-entry – A Housing Authority Perspective

Webinar

November 9, 2010

Why Are Housing Authorities Important?

3,300 PHAs – 3.1 million units



- Not an entitlement
- Estimated 12.4 million eligible households
- Serves just 25% of need

Housing Authority Supply Constraints

King County Housing Authority:

- 3,000 public housing units/10,000 vouchers
- Waitlists of 10,000+ each for Public Housing and Section 8
- Set-asides for targeted populations
 - Disabled
 - Veterans
 - Youth aging out of foster care
 - Family reunification
 - Victims of domestic violence

Operational Constraints

- Community perception
 - PH and S8 associated with criminal activity
- Landlord acceptance of Section 8 program
- Lack of adequate services
 - HA staff become first responders for mental health, domestic violence, drug issues
- Loss of tools: Drug Elimination Grant

Current and Proposed Federal Prohibitions

- Lifetime registered sex offenders
 - IG report faulted HUD for lax screening
- Conviction for meth manufacture
- “One strike and you’re out” provisions (strengthened under SEVRA)

The Section 8 program depends on private landlord acceptance

- Section 8 tenants are generally not a protected class
- Fair Housing requires consistent screening criteria
- Private multi-family inventory increasingly managed by large, risk averse management firms with rigid screening criteria

Key Issues – PHA Perspective

- Incremental Section 8 vouchers
- Meaningful, reliable, and accountable wrap-around services
- PHA flexibility

KCHA Approaches

1. Screening policies
2. Forensic ACT program
3. Transitional supportive housing for ex-offenders with children
4. Supportive Public Housing

Approach 1: **KCHA Screening Policies**

Results:

98% acceptance rate

Shopping success rate approx. 90%

Subsequent termination rate low

- 3% for criminal activity (PH/S8 combined)

- No lifetime sex offenders
 - No meth manufacture convictions in assisted housing
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- No Class A felonies in last twelve months
 - No pattern of criminal activity
 - Strong consideration of mitigating circumstances for applicants and returnees
 - No screening beyond Federal requirements for supportive housing units

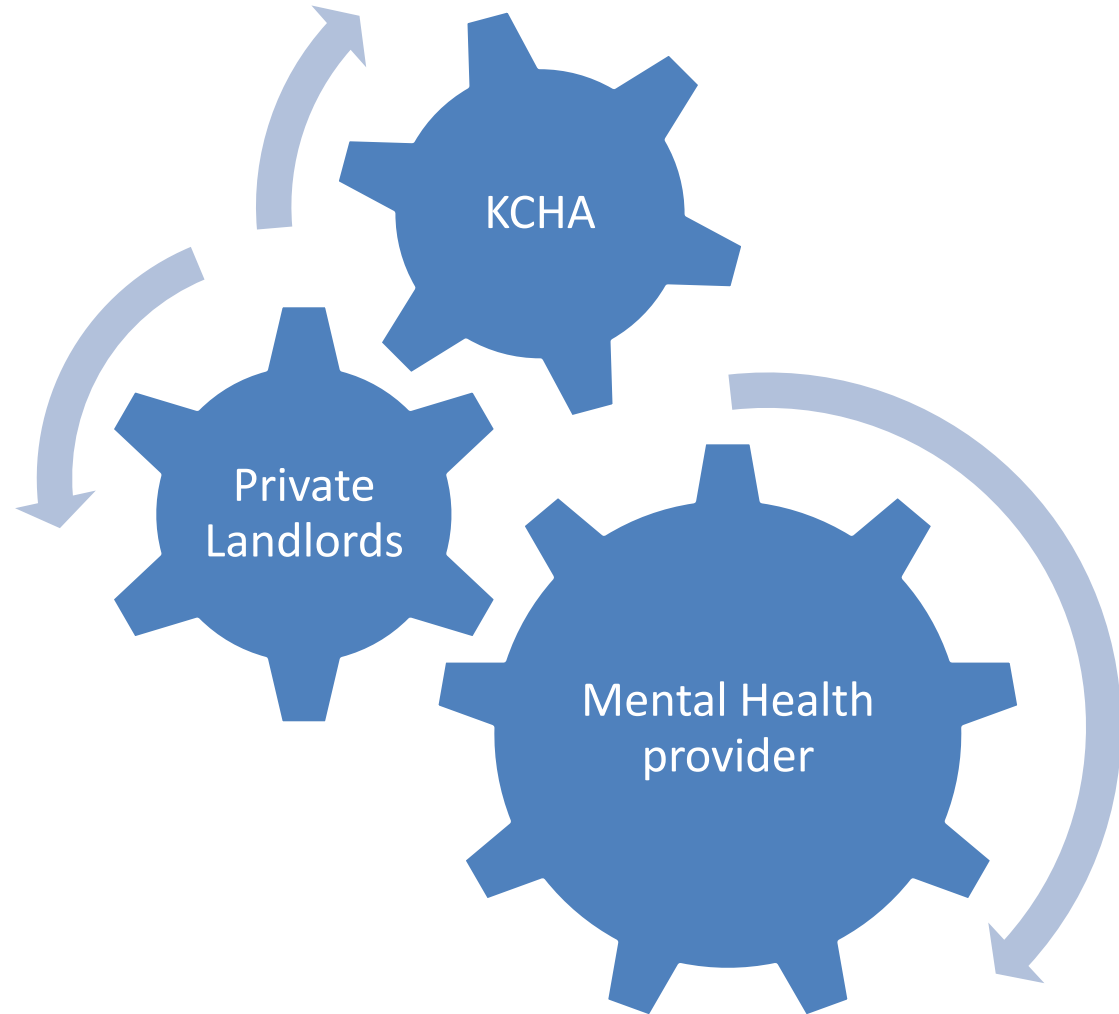
Approach 2: **Forensic Assertive Community Treatment**

Intensive community-based services

Serves 'frequent fliers' – those with history of mental illness and high utilizers of criminal justice system

KCHA funds enable service providers to master lease units

Landlord relationships and intensive services keys to success



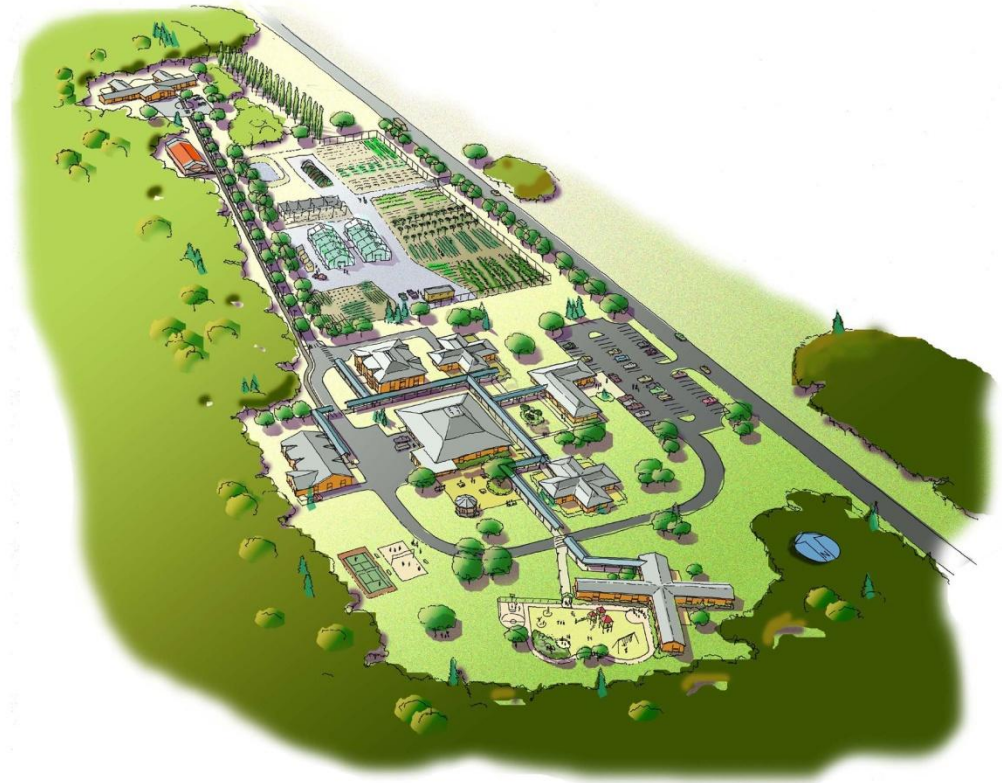
Approach 3: Transitional Housing for families

Passage Point – 46 units being redeveloped for women exiting correctional facilities who have children in the foster care system.

Minimal screening.

Uses project-based Section 8 subsidy from KCHA and service funding from County and foundation sources. Run by non-profit service provider.

18 -24 month program with priority placement into KCHA public housing (without additional screening) for graduates.



Passage Point

Approach 4: Supportive Public Housing

32 Public Housing complex

Houses 48 formerly homeless individuals with histories of mental illness and criminal justice involvement

On-site service provider selected and funded by mental health system

KCHA manages property within existing public housing portfolio

Pacific Court Apartments



Final Thoughts

- Talk to your Housing Authorities
- Opportunities do present themselves
- Bring resources
- Appreciate Landlord risk issues

For More Information On the Web

- www.csh.org or www.csh.org/reentry
- www.voatx.org
- www.kcha.org

Contact Information

- Content questions about this webinar should be directed to:
 - Andy McMahon, Corporation for Supportive Housing at andy.mcmahon@csh.org
 - Nadine Scamp, LMSW, Gulf Coast Region COO, Volunteers of America Texas at nscamp@voatx.org
 - Mary Buchner, LCDC, Gulf Coast Region Director of Treatment Services, Volunteers of America Texas at mbuchner@voatx.org
 - Stephen Norman, King County Housing Authority at stephenn@kcha.org



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