



HIV linkages and housing for people experiencing homelessness

Thursday, October 28, 2021 * 11-12:30 pm

Cases

Case 1: Operation Safer Ground and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) List

- Patient became street homeless after concerns about neighbors harassing him and threatening violence.
- Patient had been connected with LifeLong since 2012 and connected to the TRUST Clinic in 2019.
- Patient declined referrals to shelters, such as Community Cabins, citing concerns about his personal safety living near other people.
- When Operation Safer Ground (OSG) first opened, TRUST ran a list of eligible patients 7/31/2020 and this patient was included on this list due to his many health conditions, including HIV.
- Patient was outreached by our Health and Wellness Coach at the time for patient's interest. Patient expressed interest and was referred to the program 8/6/2020.
- Patient was accepted into Operation Safer Ground on 8/11/2020 and was transported there on 8/17/2020.
- Patient updated Coordinated Entry Services (CES) and continuously worked with a housing navigator to get document ready
- Patient received Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) target match to housing in Newark 3/2/21. Patient accepted this offer and moved in to permanent supportive housing on 7/19/2021.

Case 2: HOPWA Housing

- Patient was homeless at Mosswood Park for many years with partner and was off HIV meds.
- Patient was hospitalized for respiratory issues and was discharged to a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF).
- Hospital referred patient to respite but declined because he did not want to be apart from partner.
- Patient connected with TRUST Case management and applied to housing through Camino 23 10/2019. TRUST worked with patient to coordinate interview.
- Patient was accepted and moved in 12/2019 along with partner. Patient has let friends in crisis couch surf until they have stabilized.
- Patient started taking HIV antiretrovirals (ARVs) more regularly and significantly reduced substance use.
- Patient is still currently housed!

Case 3: Contra Costa County Coordinated Entry Services (CES) and Permanent Supportive Housing

Mr. G was a homeless man living in his car in Central Contra Costa County with no hopes or faith he would be able to find housing especially during this COVID-19 Pandemic. It was suggested to Mr. G that he contact 211, to see if he could be linked to the CORE Team where an Intake could be completed while housing searches were being conducted daily. This client was very doubtful in the process and did not see a need for him to contact 211 let alone the CORE Team. The process was explained to Mr. G, and to at least think about and possibly give it a chance. Giving it a chance is what he did, 211 was contacted, the CORE Team in Contra Costa County contacted this gentleman where he was placed in a hotel in Concord, why waiting for housing. The Martinez Housing Authority provided Housing Vouchers to those 55 and older and to those who had a disability and living in the various hotels and motels in Contra Costa County. Mr. G was able to receive a housing voucher, and successfully receive housing in West Contra Costa County. Mr. G stated "his nightmare has come to an end, and he is successfully housed and happy."

Case 4: Alameda County Coordinated Entry Services (CES) and HOPWA Shelter+Care

April 2020 - HomeStretch, a component of the Alameda County Coordinated Entry System, contacts the AIDS Housing Information Project (AHIP), the EOCP Crossroads Shelter and other agencies providing homelessness services to request referrals to permanent supportive housing at the Harrison Hotel in downtown Oakland.

After undergoing extensive renovations, the Harrison Hotel has several Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units available, funded by Shelter Plus Care and HOPWA.

Candidates for referral must be PLWH who are “literally homeless,” e.g. living in an emergency shelter or a place unsuitable for habitation such as a vehicle, a tent, or on the street.

Spring 2020 - EOCP Crossroads staff and AHIP work with shelter residents who meet the eligibility criteria to prepare their applications and “core housing documents”, keeping HomeStretch apprised of progress.

AHIP works with Ryan White medical case managers to identify clients who meet the Shelter + Care criteria. AHIP and medical case managers at the LifeLong Medical Care Ashby Health Center and AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) meet regularly with applicants to guide their applications toward approval.

Several unhoused AHIP clients are placed in “Safer Ground” hotel rooms because they are living with underlying medical conditions and are unable to safely self-isolate. ABODE Services staff at the Radisson Hotel Safer Ground site assist AHIP and medical case managers with entry to the site and arranging meetings with residents. Medical case managers assist applicants in obtaining income verifications, DMV ID’s, duplicate social security cards, diagnosis letters, etc.

Summer 2020: The process of obtaining documents and submitting client applications for approval involves ongoing inter-agency communication. AHIP acts as liaison between medical case managers and both HomeStretch staff and Shelter + Care administrative staff at the Alameda County Housing & Community Development Department.

Each applicant who is referred by HomeStretch to Shelter + Care is then referred to the Harrison Hotel and must be approved by the John Stewart Company (Harrison Hotel property management).

Approved applications are then forwarded by Shelter + Care to the Oakland Housing Authority to be approved for a Shelter + Care subsidy. AHIP acts as liaison between applicants and case managers and the staff of County Shelter + Care, the John Stewart Company and OHA to respond to questions about rent amounts, scheduling of appointments, move-in dates, etc.

Fall 2020 - By September, five formerly homeless PLWH obtain permanent housing at the Harrison Hotel, paying 30% of their income toward rent and participating in on-site supportive services provided by LifeLong staff. AHIP, AHF and LifeLong Medical staff prepare Season of Sharing and HomeStretch Fund applications for financial assistance to cover the security deposit, first month’s rent, and the cost of furniture and household items.