



2017 ONPHA Conference and Trade Show

Shaping
our
Future

102

Reducing Homelessness
In Northern Ontario

PRESENTED BY:

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Introductions and Brief Program History

Tracy Ann Bethune – Tenant Services Manager
Jamie-Lynn Sluman – Housing Success Coordinator



Learning goals

The following are the key factors that we focus on to reduce homelessness in the Nipissing District.

1. Housing Retention
2. Housing Placement
3. Housing Sustainability



Alarming Trends...

- High percentage of vulnerable tenants in social housing without the supports they need.
- Social housing providers house clients referred from all sectors such as police, mental health workers, domestic violence agencies, and private rental market.
- Growing number of seniors.
- Long waitlists for mental health supports services – including mental health housing.
- High percentage of vulnerable tenants in unaffordable housing.

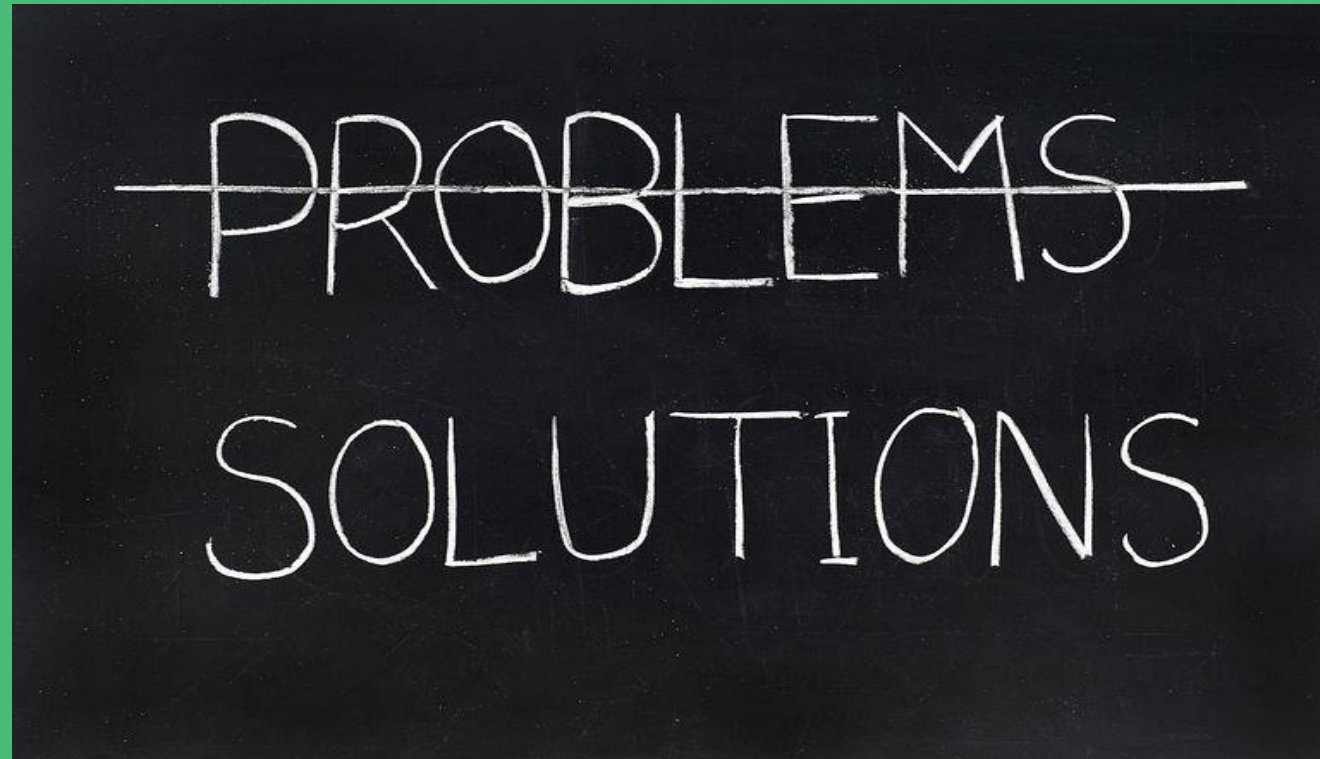


As A Result....

- The landlord is often the primary access point for connecting the tenant to services and they may not know where to direct them.
- Landlords and other tenants pay the price for unsupported tenancies.
- Higher management costs to the owner – increase in complaints from other tenants or neighbors, unit damage, evictions, clutter/hoarding, and after hour emergencies.
- Reduced quality of life for the vulnerable tenant.



What Role Has The Housing Success Team Played???



Housing Retention

- Eviction prevention.
- Advocacy with landlords and local agencies.
- Foster a collaborative approach to stabilize tenancies, secure and maintain sustainable housing.
- Provide ongoing support and follow up.
- Provide a client-centered approach.



The Importance of Housing Retention

Affordable housing provides a more cost-effective solution to addressing homelessness:

- One rent-geared-to-income subsidy = \$613 per month (average)
- One shelter bed = \$2,100 per month (average)
- One long-term care bed = \$3,960 per month (average)
- One correctional facility bed = \$4,300 per month (average)
- One hospital bed = \$13,500 per month (average)

(<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page10444.aspx>, 2014)



Housing Placement

- Establishing strong relationships with private landlords in the community.
- Assisting with aspects of the housing search – for example rental applications, accompaniment to viewing accommodations, guidance with securing financial assistance
- We remove barriers!!!
- Provide a client-centered approach!



Housing Sustainability

- Support landlords and tenants in the community to prevent evictions.
- Connect clients to appropriate services to assist with maintaining ongoing stability.
- Participate in case conferencing and collaborative efforts regarding the client.
- Participate in ongoing follow up visits as needed
- Provide a client-centered approach!





Housing
Sustainability
is all about
everyone
working
together!

Successes

- Between April 2015 and August 2017 we have assisted approximately 850 clients with housing related issues.
- On average our monthly case load is approximately 50 clients.
- Of the 850 number we have successfully housed 78. This number truly speaks to our focus on housing retention and housing sustainability.
- Successfully created several working relationships with private landlords and social housing providers.
- Successfully connected hundreds of clients to the appropriate services in our district.



Okay let's test your skillz!



How to Beat Homelessness Game Summary

- Each situation has different challenges and we must be creative in order to solve our tenant's issues.
- Often vulnerable tenants have complex needs that require an interprofessional approach.
- Housing Last!



What we are doing now...

- We are taking all we have learned from our experience with the Housing Success Team and focusing it on our own tenants!
- It helped us to recognize the areas where our own tenants needed more support, and come up with solutions to help.



We welcome you to visit us in the great white North anytime!



Thank you so much for being here!