

Overview of DESC

- **outreach/engagement teams**
- **emergency shelter**
- **licensed mental health services**
- **licensed chemical dependency services**
- **supportive housing**
- **high level of integration across programs**



Core convictions



- **housing is a basic human right**
- **housing is not a reward for clinical success or compliance**

Population characteristics

- **Severe and persistent mental illness**
- **Chronic alcohol and other drug problems**
- **Long-term homelessness**
- **Multiple concurrent disorders**
- **Aversion to or ambivalence about addressing problems**
- **History of abuse, neglect, and trauma**



What we believe

- people want a place to live
- people want to get better



Access to housing: Who gets in?

Methods:

- **Wait-list with standard rule-outs**
- **“Readiness” approach**
- **Targeted recruitment:**
 - **High utilizers**
 - **Most vulnerable**



Old approach - Risky Business



Housing “readiness”

- **criminal background**
- **housing history**
- **treatment compliance**



SINCE 1979

DESC
opening doors to end homelessness

DESC Supportive Housing



Union Hotel
1994



Lyon Building
1997



Kerner Scott House
1997



The Morrison
2001



1811 Eastlake
2005



Evans House
2007



Rainier House
2009



Canaday House
2010

What makes people eligible to move into DESC Supportive Housing?

- **homeless**
- **most vulnerable**

Common characteristics

- **mental illness**
- **addiction**
- **poor credit**
- **criminal history**
- **eviction from non-supportive housing**



Integrated services and property management

Typical staffing for 75 unit project:

- 1 project manager
- 10 residential counselors
 - *24/7 staffing*
- 3 clinical support specialists
 - *residential service plan*
- *\$850K per year operational budget*
- *Approx \$16M for development*

