Seattle Navigation Center

Project Update 11/17/2017
Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council
What is the Navigation Center?

- 75 beds for people who were living outside in Seattle
- Goal: Offer homeless people basic needs and supportive services and case management that are organized to quickly move people into housing

- City of Seattle Human Services Department selected Downtown Emergency Services Center (DESC) and OSL to provide services there
- REACH/Navigation Team provides outreach and referrals

- Low barrier shelter modeled on San Francisco's Navigation Center
Features:

- 3 P's: Pets, Partners and Possessions
- 24/7 access and staffing
- No curfew
- 3 meals a day
- On site services
- Stays of 60 days or more based on service and goal engagement
- Undergoing UW Evaluation
Who Lives There?

- People who are Chronically Homelessness (Often 3 or more years)
- People with multiple barriers to housing: poor rental history, criminal history, limited financial resources, lack of identification
- People living with Co-occurring disorders (Mental Health and Substance Use together)
  - To date the Navigation Center has not exited any guests due to substance use
- **Partners/Couples:** The Navigation Center has served over 20 couples since opening
- **Pets/Animals:** The Navigation Center has served 10 dogs and 3 cats since opening
- **Possessions:** Some guests bring enough belongings to fill up to 200 sq. feet of storage or about two parking spaces
What do we do?

• Evidence and harm reduction based model
• Assertive and persistent housing engagement
• Onsite Case Management (four full-time case managers)
• Onsite Substance Use Counseling (one part time counselor)
• Onsite Mental Health Counseling (one part time counselor)
• Life skills
What’s Working?

- The Navigation Center has provided shelter to 116 people.
- 6 People have exited from the Navigation Center to permanent housing
- Navigation Center staff has worked with:
  - 56 guests to obtain identification needed for housing and employment.
  - 46 guests to complete housing applications.
  - 22 guests for referrals chemical dependency treatment
  - Nearly 50 guests have been connected or re-connected to primary care services
Neighborhood Relationships

- Monthly CID Public Safety Forum
- 24 hr. Response Line and presence for immediate neighbors
- Addressing unsheltered homelessness and it's impacts
- Ca. 4,000 Sharps collected on site so far
- Participation in Community Forums, Bahn Mi Fest
- Staff and guest monitoring the area. Addressing needs with neighbors and City resources.
Challenges

• Bottle Neck in Permanent Supportive Housing
  
  o 6-10 Vacancies a month in Permanent Supportive Housing for over 1,600 eligible individuals

• Shortage of other Affordable Housing
Chart 3: Comparison of Budget Outlays for Homeless Programs, HOPE VI and New Public Housing Development

- McKinney/ Homeless Assistance *
- HOPE VI **
- NEW Public Housing Development ***

* McKinney/ Homeless Assistance includes HUD programs: Supplemental assistance for facilities for the homeless; Homeless Assistance Grants; Emergency shelter grants program; Transitional housing program; Shelter Plus Care; and Permanent Supportive Housing as well as Homeland Security Emergency Food and Shelter program.

** Includes $395,323,275 for demolition as of 2006 FY.

*** Figures for public housing are for construction of NEW units, not for operating or capital expenses. Does not include developments that were built to replace existing public housing, for example Hope VI.
Thank you and Questions

- Charles Schrag
  Project Manager
  Navigation Center
  cschrag@desc.org
  206-322-1763

- Jess Chow
  Planner
  City of Seattle Human Services Department
  jess.chow@seattle.gov
  206-733-9405