



# WHICH WAY OUT?

Healing and Housing---  
Essential Community Components for  
Diversion and Re-entry Programs

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# Healing and Housing

“Our jails and prisons have become our nation’s new asylums because there is nowhere else for the mentally ill to go.”



Pete Early, “A Father’s Search through America’s Mental Health Madness”p.355



# Background

Recognizing the increasing numbers of people with mental illness in jail and the importance of appropriate affordable housing for diversion and re-entry, the York County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) engaged Diana T. Myers and Associates, Inc. to conduct a housing needs study targeting *people with serious mental illness involved with the criminal justice system.*



# Spirit of the Study: Interception

“Interception has several objectives: preventing initial involvement in the criminal justice system, decreasing admissions to jail, engaging individuals in treatment as soon as possible, minimizing time spent moving through the criminal justice system, linking individuals to community treatment upon release from incarceration, and decreasing the rate of return to the criminal justice system.”

Munetz, M and Griffin, P. (2006). A systemic approach to the de-criminalization of people with serious mental illness: The Sequential Intercept Model. *Psychiatric Services*, *57*, 544-549.



## Findings – Interviews

- Jail is being used as an alternative to housing and treatment facilities
- Shortage of appropriate housing options
- Lack of mental health and dual diagnosis services for the target population
- Lack of education of players
- Lack of available resources
- Insufficient coordination



# Findings – Data Collection

## FOCUS ON MH Probation Caseload (N=106)

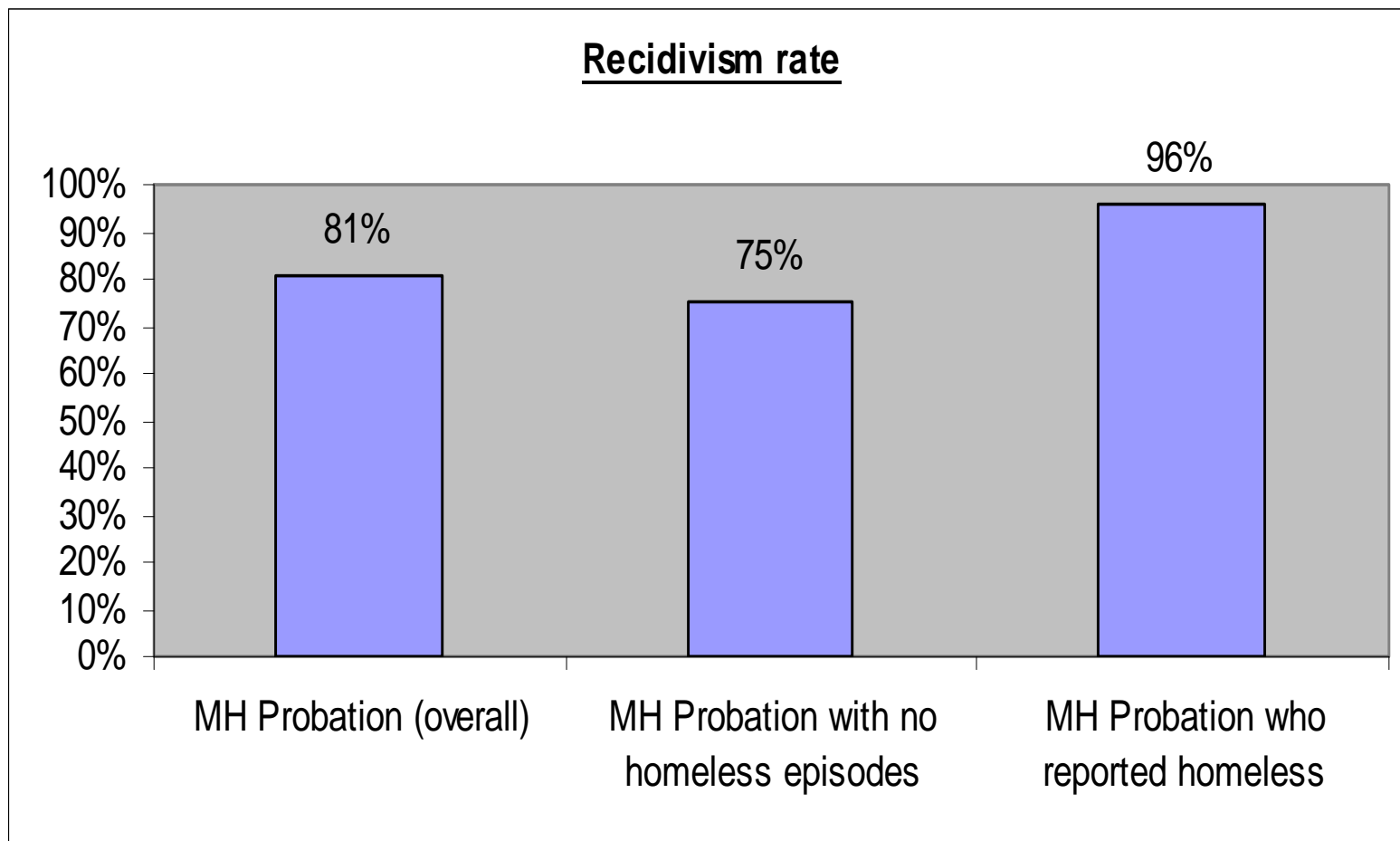
- Gender: 41 women, 65 men
- Age: Range 18-72 years, median = 35.89
- 11% discharged to homelessness
- 25% homeless at some point during supervision
- 29% denied parole due to lack of housing
- 41% experienced a mental health hospitalization while on supervision
- 64% dually diagnosed



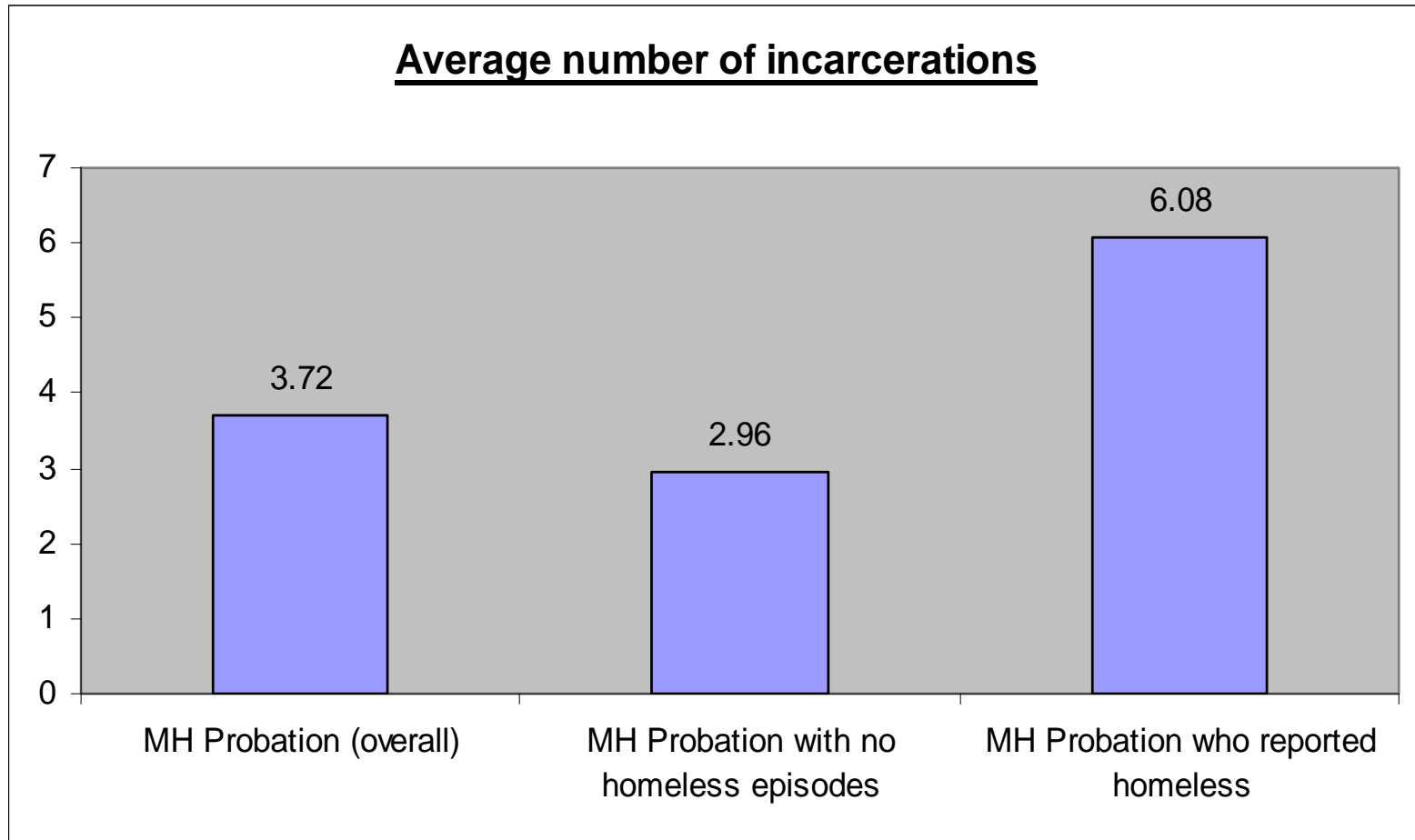
# Findings – Data Collection

- Homeless, seriously mentally ill individuals with criminal involvement have ***HIGHER***:
  - Recidivism rates
  - Average number of incarcerations
  - Average number of jail days

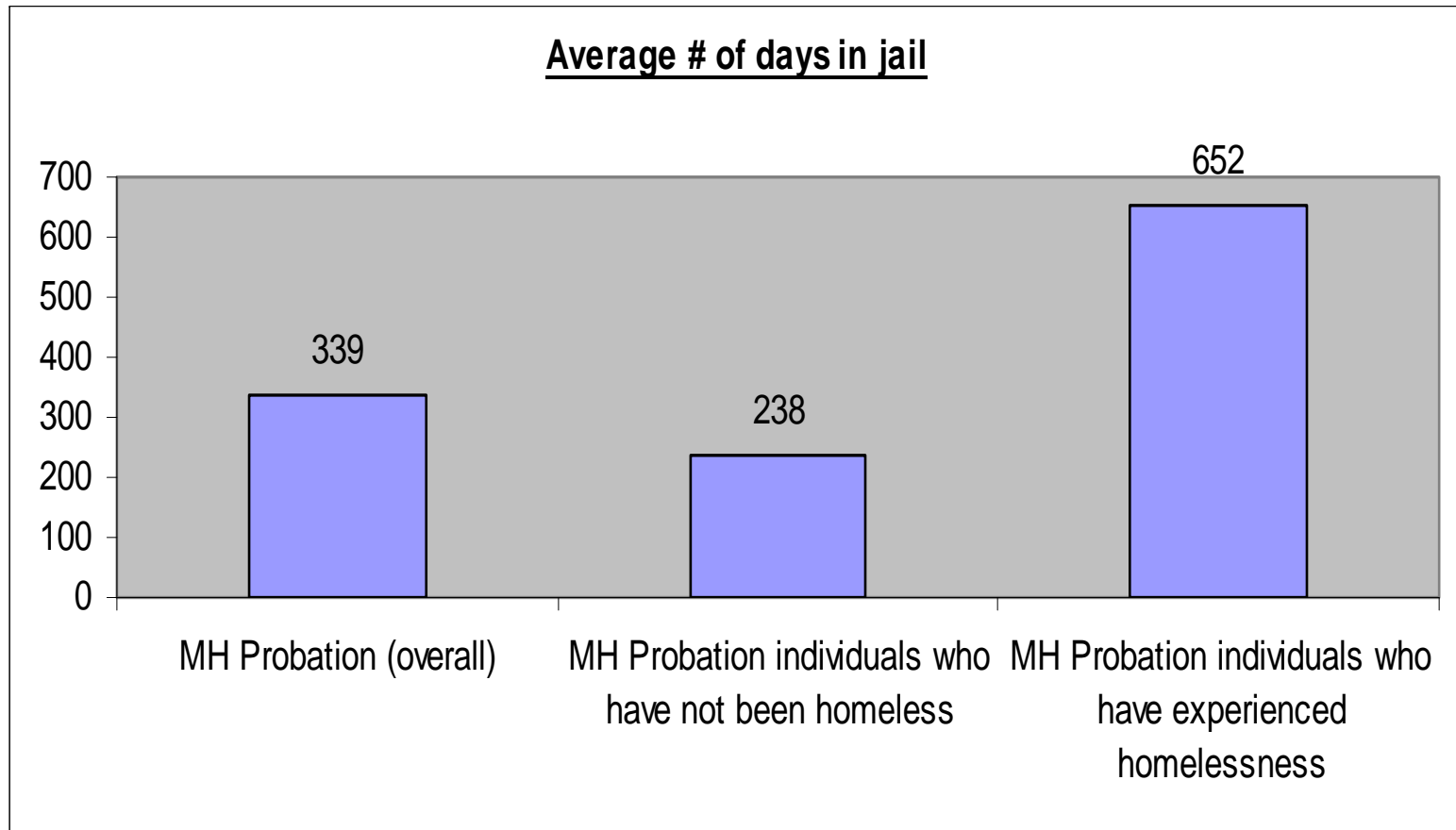
# Findings— Recidivism Rate & Housing



# Findings – Number of Incarcerations & Housing



# Findings – Number of Days in Jail & Housing





# Summary of Findings

- Lack of supportive housing and specialized transitional and permanent housing for people with criminal histories
- Collaboration, but insufficient coordination
- Need for cross-training
- Need for additional data collection/analysis
- Insufficient re-entry planning

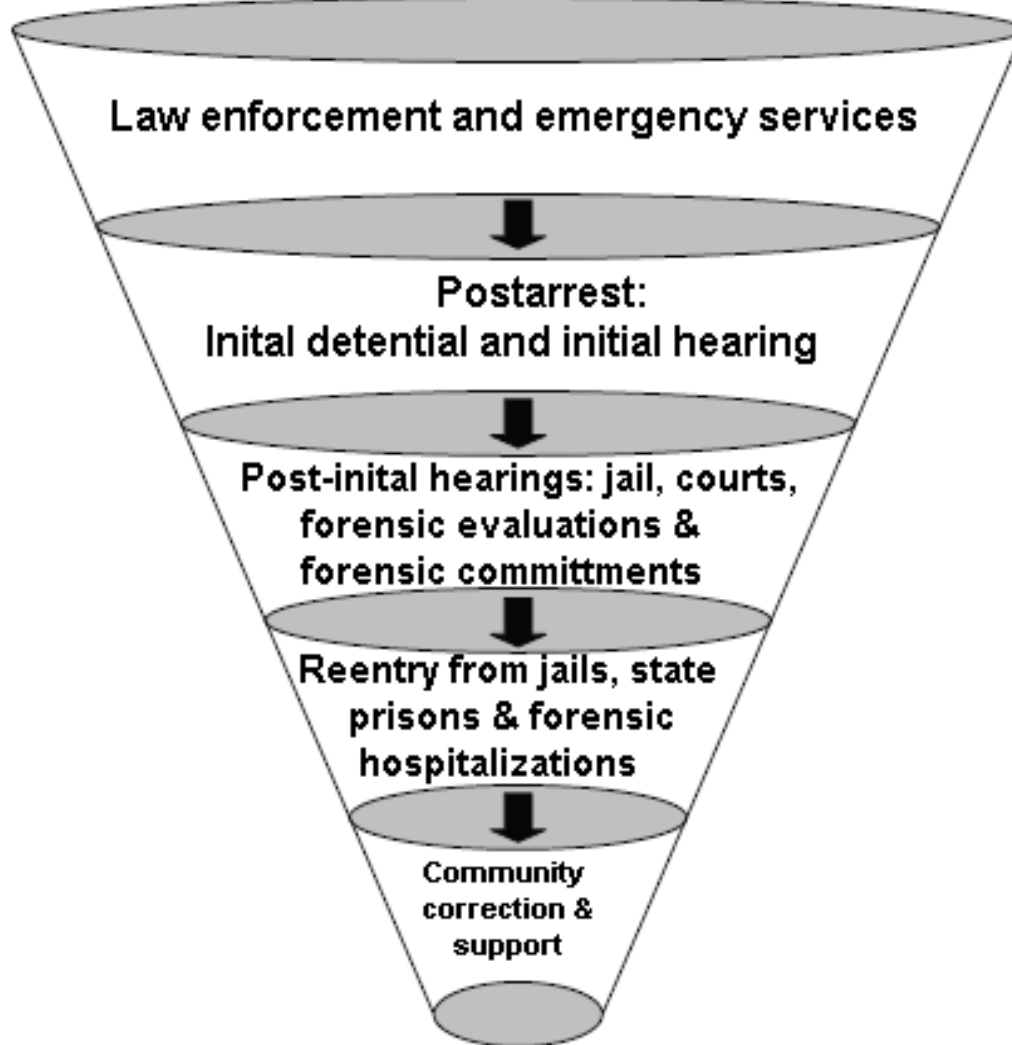


# Summary of Findings

- Lack of treatment options for individuals with co-occurring mental illness & substance use
- Limited crisis options available
- Limited resources available
- *No clear assignment of responsibility for planning and implementing housing and services for the target population*

# Sequential Intercept Model

Best clinical practices: the ultimate intercept



Intercept Point 1

Intercept Point 2

Intercept Point 3

Intercept Point 4

Intercept Point 5



# Housing Recommendations

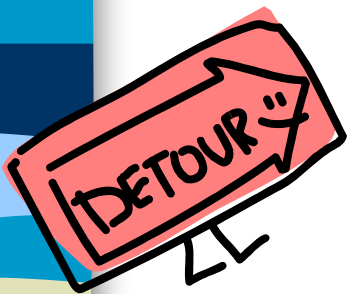
“ Permanent Supportive Housing is a solution to a problem rather than a band-aid fix. While many of those who stay in the shelter system remain in or return to the system for extended periods of time, a much higher percentage of those who are placed in permanent supportive housing remain housed.”

Wikipedia

# Housing Recommendations

## CRISIS/EMERGENCY HOUSING

- Specialized short-term/emergency beds
  - Alternative to arrest
  - Alternative to incarceration
  - Re-entry from jail
  - Crisis while on parole/probation



# Housing Recommendations

## TRANSITIONAL/BRIDGE HOUSING

- Safe haven

- For individuals meeting HUD definition of homeless

- Half-way house

- For individuals not meeting HUD definition of homeless

- TBRA bridge vouchers

- Master lease for individuals excluded due to public and private policies





# Housing Recommendations

## PERMANENT HOUSING

- Shelter Plus Care beds
  - For homeless with disabilities
- TBRA vouchers for permanent housing
  - For individuals leasing in the community
- Fairweather Lodge
  - Shared housing for individuals to live and work together



# Housing Recommendations

- Expansion of PHA preference
  - For Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher program
- Develop relationships with private landlords
  - Address their concerns and needs
    - e.g. Links to services, hotline for crises
- Permanent supportive housing
  - As set-aside/proportion of new housing receiving public subsidies



# Housing Recommendations

In the long run, if the issue of housing and services for people with serious mental illness is to be successfully addressed, it must become part of the larger discussion of affordable housing in the community.

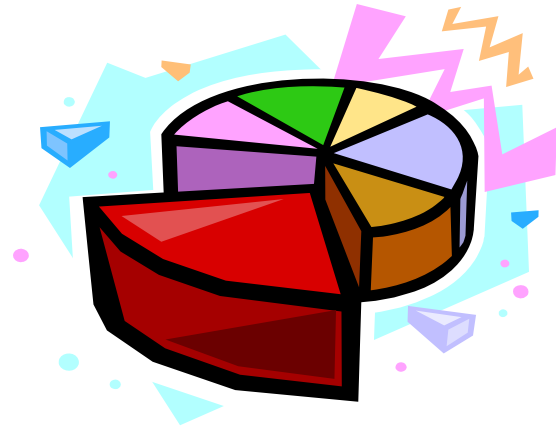


# Services Recommendations

“An accessible, comprehensive, effective mental health treatment system focused on the needs of individuals with serious and persistent mental disorders is undoubtedly the most effective means of preventing the criminalization of people with mental illness.”

Munetz, M and Griffin, P. (2006). A systemic approach to the de-criminalization of people with serious mental illness: The Sequential Intercept Model. *Psychiatric Services*, *57*, 544-549.

# Data Collection



- Purpose of data collection and analysis is:
  - establish and refine need
  - determine success of current interventions
  - measure the success of new initiatives
  - cost analysis; advocacy; systems change
- Start data collection now!



# Cost Analysis

Public services utilized by Mary S. since 1/4/05:	Number of days	Estimated cost
County Prison	452	\$26,216
Intensive Supervision	261	\$2,407.68
Crisis and Inpatient MH Care	79	\$37,593.48
State Hospital	134	\$68,159.10
Out of State Hospitalization	57	\$31,350
Total	725	\$163,318.58
Average cost is estimated at \$59,388 per year		



# Cost Analysis

Public services utilized by Jane O. since 4/29/02:	Number of days	Estimated cost
County Prison	701	\$40,658
Inpatient MH Care	378	\$167,563
State Hospital	472	\$240,082.80
Group Home	73	\$7,300
Total	1624	\$455,603.80
Average cost is estimated at \$84,111 per year		

# Cost Analysis



## Permanent supportive housing saves money

Prison and jail are among the most expensive settings to serve people who are homeless: One nine-city study calculated median daily costs for prison and jail at \$59.43 and \$70.00 respectively, compared with \$30.48 for supportive housing.

- The Lewin Group. 2004. "Costs of Serving Homeless Individuals in Nine Cities." *Chart Book Report*. New York, NY: Corporation for Supportive Housing.



# Cost Analysis

## Tenant Based Rental Programs

■ Rental Assistance	\$ 4,476 per year
■ Supportive Services	\$ 10,345 per year
■ Total	\$ 14,821 per year

## Site Based Housing

■ Capital per unit	\$175,000
■ Operating Subsidies	\$ 4,476 per year
■ Supportive Services	\$ 10,345 per year
■ Total Annual Subsidies	\$ 14,821 per year



# Cost Analysis

<b><u>Mary- Average Cost</u></b>	\$59,388 per year
<b><u>Jane- Average Cost</u></b>	\$84,111 per year

## **Tenant Based Rental Programs**

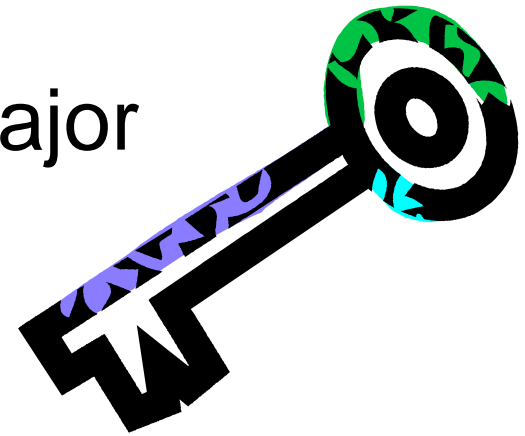
■ Total annual subsidies	\$ 14,821 per year
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## **Site Based Housing**

■ Total Annual Subsidies	\$ 14,821 per year
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# Coordination and Partnerships

- The key is bringing the major stakeholders together:
  - Courts
  - Probation and Parole
  - Mental Health/Behavioral Health
  - Housing and Community Development
  - Law Enforcement





# QUESTIONS

Who in your Community is presently working on housing as an intercept issue?

How Can You Be a Partner in Your Community in Expanding Housing Options?