

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

CoC Bi-Monthly Meeting

November 27, 2018 10:00AM to 12:00PM

1 Smithfield St

Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Purpose: The Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) is a public/private partnership formed to assist and recommend to Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, the City of McKeesport and the Municipality of Penn Hills on public policy, programs, activities, data and all other efforts that will eliminate homelessness and improve the wellbeing of persons and families who are homeless.

HAB Members¹

Frank Aggazio

Meg Balsamico

Caster Binion

Jerry Cafardi

Cassa Collinge

Tom Cummings (P)

Sean DeYoung (P)

Jane Downing

Laura Drogowski (P)

Amber Farr (P)

Pete Giacalone (P)

Abigail Horn (P)

Anna Kudrav (P)

Joe Lagana

John Lovelace

Christy Pietryga (P)

Lenny Prewitt

Richard Rapp

Chris Roach

Kellie Wild (P)

Bethany Wingerson (P)

Guest Attendees

Amy Adams, CHS

Knowledge Build Hudson, HACF

Andrea Bustos, DHS

Elizabeth Daniels-Totten, City of Pgh

Rob Eamigh, DHS

Garletta Germany, DHS

Andy Halfhill, DHS

Jil Hawk, AFIT

Kate Holko, DHS

Diane Johnson, DHS

Chuck Kennan, DHS

Tammie Krepp, Sisters Place

Adrienne Laing, WC&S

Lisa Lakeman, Auberle

Terri Laver, DHS

Debbi Linhart, Bethlehem Haven

Jessica McKown, DHS

Stephanie Meyer, DHS

Janice Palucis, DHS

Darla Poole, Auberle

Emil Pyptyk, DHS

Diana Reichenbach, Goodwill SWPA

Megan Rose, United Way SWPA

Kelly Russell, City of Pgh

Wendy Smith, DHS

Chelsea Stone, DHS

Chelsea Stone, DHS

Lisa Trunick, Familylinks

Eldolia Wier, HACF

Caroline Woodward, Bethlehem Haven

Adam Zody, DHS

Minutes

1. Welcome & Review of Meeting Minutes—Abby Horn

- July and September meeting minutes were deferred for approval, pending a quorum.

2. Committee Updates

CoC Analysis and Planning Committee—Pete Giacalone

- The Committee has been working on reviewing and fine-tuning the performance management plan measurements for the CoC, including assessments and discussions around the data quality reports, quarterly scorecards and APRs. The group has also been incorporating provider updates to guide the focus and considerations within this work.

¹ (P) indicates HAB members who were present for the meeting.

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- Moving forward, the Committee plans to review HUD project categories, make adjustments for the 2019 review and ranking tool, develop a performance management plan for the CoC, and continue planning and next steps for the Satisfaction Survey.

Communication and Education Committee—Sean DeYoung

- The Committee was actively planning the homelessness awareness walk, which was scheduled for December 21, 2018, leading up to the annual remembrance vigil. The walk was set to begin at the Red Door, and had 6 stops at Provider Agency locations Downtown, highlighting the work they do around homelessness.
- The Committee recently collaborated with graduate students at Point Park University to hold a panel discussion around perspectives on homelessness. The students had been partnering with Operation Safety Net to journal, interview and chronicle people's stories who are living in camps around Pittsburgh. The panel discussion was attended by over 100, and another event is being planned for the Spring.

HOCC; Criminal Justice Workgroup—Peter Harvey

- The Workgroup, one of multiple subgroups of the HOCC, is seeking to understand how the criminal justice system operates, with the goal of identifying opportunities to intervene and collaborate. Most recently, the workgroup was joined by the Jail Collaborative, and previous meetings included representatives from JRS and Public Defenders Office.

Provider Committee—Kellie Wild

- As the Provider Committee establishes itself, the group has been working to design agendas around information to support strong provider practice. This includes bringing in speakers to share pertinent information for agency operations, including: Fair Housing to discuss how Fair Housing issues that intersect with service provision, supports Fair Housing can provide, and how providers can advocate for clients; and Allegheny Link to share information and participate in a Q&A.
- Upcoming efforts of the Committee will include sharing best practices and identifying issues impacting providers across the board.

3. Housing Opportunity Fund—Tom Cummings

Tom Cummings was asked to provide a brief update on the Housing Opportunity Fund. The Fund is a \$10 million/year commitment from City Council to address affordable housing in the City of Pittsburgh, and is administered by the URA. A 17-member advisory group is responsible for developing policies. The fund was started in 2018 and the Advisory Board formed in the early summer. Within the URA, there is a unit, led by Jessica Smith Perry and staffed by 3-4 people. An allocation plan will be established yearly, and approved by the Advisory Board, then the URA Board, and then City Council. Programs within the Fund include: Rental Gap Program, Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program, Homeowner Assistance Program, Housing Stabilization Program, and Affordable For-Sale Housing Program. The Advisory Board meets monthly, and meetings are open.

Information on the Housing Opportunity Fund, including Program information and Advisory Board meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the [HOF webpage](#).

4. Infrastructure Organization Update—Abby Horn

Abby Horn provided the following updates from DHS:

- HUD conducted their CoC audit in June and DHS is working through the findings and

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responses;

- Moving forward understanding UFA status operations, including meeting with other UFAs and identifying the types of processes that need to be put in place and how money can move;
- There is a new HMIS vendor—the contract is in place, but it is expected to take about a year to get up and running, during which time the existing system will continue to be used;
 - Providers have been engaged to give input on the design and transition process
- Discussions have started for planning the 2019 Point in Time county, including a small group of street outreach team members to think through better coordination, getting and training volunteers, and supporting effective collaboration;
- Bureau of Homeless Services is scheduling 1-on-1s with each provider to discuss experiences and processes;
- Leah Rainey has move on to a TA position with ICF International; DHS has posted the Program Specialist position and will be seeking to hire a replacement.

5. **Winter and Year-Round Shelter Updates—Sharon Sumansky**

Winter Shelter

- Smithfield United had maintenance concerns arise in October, resulting in a need to move the shelter to Shepards Heart for the initial period;
- Opened at Shepard's Heart on November 15th, averaging 40-45 men and 5-7 women each night;
- Hoping to return to Smithfield United at the beginning of December.

Year-Round Shelter

- OSN has entered into a Letter of Intent to secure the Lifeworks building by UPMC Mercy for the year-round shelter;
- Actively working on development and fund-raising;
- Looking to start renovations in July and then open in Fall 2019;
- The year-round shelter would be 50-60 dedicated beds, operate 24/7, and have meeting space available for service providers to work with their consumers; additionally Wellsprings will be co-located at the space.

6. **Annual Governance Charter Review—Abby Horn**

To support the annual governance charter review, a public comment period was open November 1st through 16th. No comments were received. The Provider Committee Operating Procedures, which were approved by the HAB in July, will be incorporated into the Charter. The Executive Committee will discuss if any other revisions should be proposed. Any suggested changes will be shared in advance of the HAB's vote on January 29, 2019.

7. **Emergency Shelter System Overview—Andy Halfhill**

Andy Halfhill provided an overview of the CoC's Emergency Shelter (ES) system, including information on what the role of ES is within the CoC, the CoC's capacity, who stays in ES, and how shelters are performing.

The presentation can be found in Appendix A.

Suggestions and questions raised in response to the presentation:

- Provide a County data comparison for demographic slides
- Explore the outcomes and experiences for consumers who do not exit to a permanent destination

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- The presentation identified that 64% of ES consumers have at some point in their lives also received Mental Health Services in Allegheny County public services—this is a high overlap and something to consider across the systems

Additionally, as a reminder, the Homelessness Programs Interactive Dashboard can be accessed through the Allegheny County Analytics page, and is linked here:

<https://www.alleghenycountyanalytics.us/index.php/2018/07/26/clients-using-allegheny-county-homelessness-programs-interactive-dashboard/>

8. Provider Spotlight: Auberle—Lisa Lakenan

Lisa Lakenan gave the Provider Spotlight, speaking about Auberle’s Family Emergency Shelter. The shelter opened on January 8, 2018, and has served 32 families (about 97 people) in that time. Ms. Lakenan highlighted the following observations about Auberle’s shelter processes and experiences:

- Sanctuary Model is practice across Auberle, including the Family Emergency Shelter
- Staff has crucial conversations with families to find ways for the families to lead what they need, and share the best ways Auberle can support them in feeling safe
- The shelter is designed to be low-barrier to support a timely and smooth transition in; prior to entry the staff aims to explain the service as clearly as possible so consumers can feel prepared for the process; and the shelter is aimed at accountability but not punitive consequences.
- Trauma is a central concept to the work—the trauma experienced and being experienced by families, as well as staff
- Support services are brought into the shelter which both expands the families’ access to services, but also provides additional opportunities for connection (e.g., when connections are established between a family and Auberle staff, sometimes the additional resources brought in, such as Homeless Services and Supports Coordinators, can become an important relational link)
- Criminal records are a common barrier for access to permanent housing and contributed to the longest stay (6 months) of a family

9. Group Spotlight: Early Childhood

Bridges—Jilian Hawk

Jilian Hawk, Clinical Director for the Alliance for Infants and Toddlers, spoke to meeting participants about Bridges. While the group disbanded in August (2018), the HAB asked Bridges organized in 2010, to come share their experience, including accomplishments and areas of continued need. Initially convened around PA compliance with the McKinney Vento Act, specifically the rights of children experiencing homelessness, Bridges sought to: support increased data collection, increased cross-system capacity, promote parent and family engagement, and advocate for cross-system policies and practices. Some achievements highlighted included:

- Advocacy: Providing comment on suspension and expulsion and the over-representation of children who experience homelessness in suspension/expulsion rates; participating in public comment on the PA Child Care and State Plan for 2019-2021;
 - OCDEL implementations around areas of advocacy work: children experiencing homelessness becoming an eligible category for Birth to Three Early Intervention, making changes to Child Care Works eligibility prioritizing children experiencing homelessness and issuing an OCDEL announcement concerning inclusion in child care programs and specific guidelines around suspension and expulsion from child

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care requiring that supports and interventions be in place to prevent loss of placement.

- Supported a grant for bright, family spaces at 2 shelters
- Increased awareness of the scope of services provided to young children throughout the county
- Increased awareness of the federal mandates of the McKinney Vento Act pertaining to young children through a collaboration between the IU's liaison for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness and the Education Law Center
- Focused cross-system attention on issues of family engagement, parent independence, system navigation, issues of stigma and trauma, and promoting healthy parent-child interactions
- Increased the resources available to Allegheny County homeless housing programs for early childhood mental health and access to early childhood services.

Ms. Hawk also provided some areas the continue to need attention and development, and should be considered when planning a homeless system that is responsive to the needs of children:

- Availability of emergency shelter and child care resources, including the need for non-traditional hours for child care
- Trauma informed professional development
- Mentoring for young moms
- Utilizing an effective collaboration with child welfare
- Underreporting of homeless children receiving early intervention (due to providers not collecting the data)
- Mediating the differing definitions of homelessness across systems
- Focusing on the needs of young children

Early Learning Resource Center—Wendy Smith

Wendy Smith provided information on the Allegheny County Early Learning Resource Center, which in Allegheny County will be beginning in July 2019 as the single point of contact for all families with key service connections in early childhood. The key components on the ELRC can be found in Ms. Smith's presentation slides in Appendix B, however, Ms. Smith additionally noted the following regarding the homeless system and where the ELRC can be an active system partner:

- In addition to development screenings, a video interaction project is available that will allow parents' interactions with their children to be taped and then reviewed to receive positive feedback on the interaction
- Homeless children will go to the top of the waitlist
- Parents do not need to be working or going to school to get a childcare subsidy
- Head start can set aside 3% of slots for children experiencing homelessness; and head start is regularly a more enriching service than many child care settings that have 1 or 2 Stars; as such, there is a community planning opportunity around getting families connect to the best child care service for them

10. Public Comment

- No comments

Next CoC Meeting

January 29, 2019—10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Human Services Building One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh

Appendix A



Emergency Shelters in Allegheny County

Presentation to the Homeless Advisory Board
November 27, 2018

What is an emergency shelter?

"*Emergency shelter*" means any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements.



Homeless Assistance Project Types

At risk of homelessness

- Homeless Prevention
- Case management/supportive services

Homeless

- Street Outreach
- **Emergency Shelter**
- Bridge (transitional) housing

Formerly homeless with permanent housing supports

- Rapid rehousing
- Permanent supportive housing

What is the role of an emergency shelter?

- Immediate response to a housing crisis
- Connect people experiencing homelessness to housing assistance and/or other services (i.e. can be “front door” to help access permanent housing)
- Diversion

What is our CoC’s shelter capacity?

Available year round:

	Units households w/children	Beds households w/children	Beds households w/o children
General population shelter	67	177	183
Domestic violence shelter	23	69	10
Youth-dedicated beds (18-21)	0	0	16
Veteran-dedicated beds	7	16	6
Total	97	262	215

Additional capacity in winter:

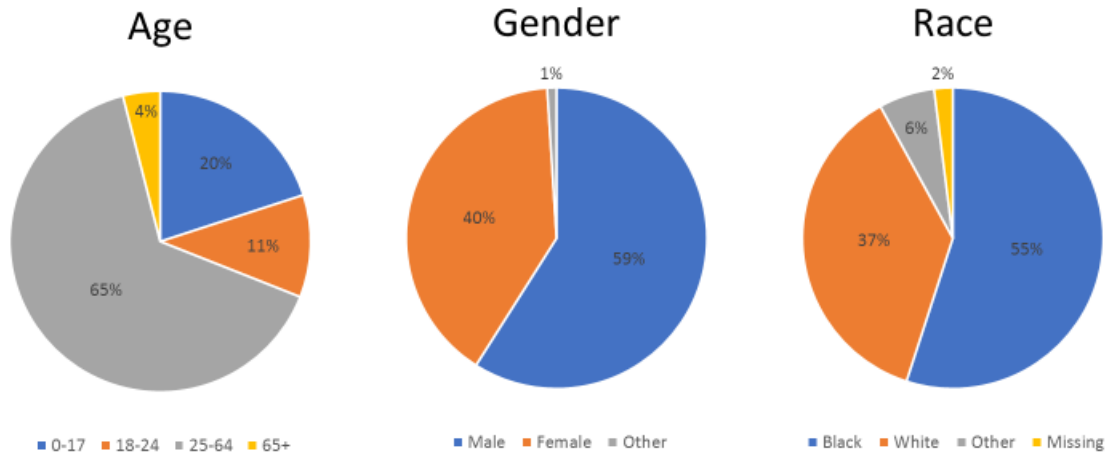
	Units households w/children	Beds households w/children	Beds households w/o children
Pittsburgh	0	0	100
McKeesport	0	0	6

Emergency Shelters:

Shelter Name	Men	Women	Family	Youth-specific	DV-specific
ACTION Housing McKeesport Shelter	X	X			
Alle Kiski Hope Center					X
Allegheny Valley Association of Churches (AVAC) Shelter			X		
Auberle Family Shelter			X		
Bethlehem Haven Shelter		X			
Center for Victims					X
Community Human Services (CHS) Family Shelter			X		
Community Human Services (CHS) Wood Street Commons; Atypical; HAP Crisis	X	X			
East End Cooperative Ministry Men's/Women's Shelter; Orr Center	X	X			
Family Promise			X		
FamilyLinks				X	
Goodwill of Southwestern PA/Pleasant Valley Shelter	X				
Light of Life	X				
Salvation Army Family Caring Center			X		
Shepherd's Heart VA Residential Shelter	X				
Veteran's Leadership Program (VLP) Project Journey for Women		X	X		
Womanspace East		X	X		
Women's Center and Shelter					X

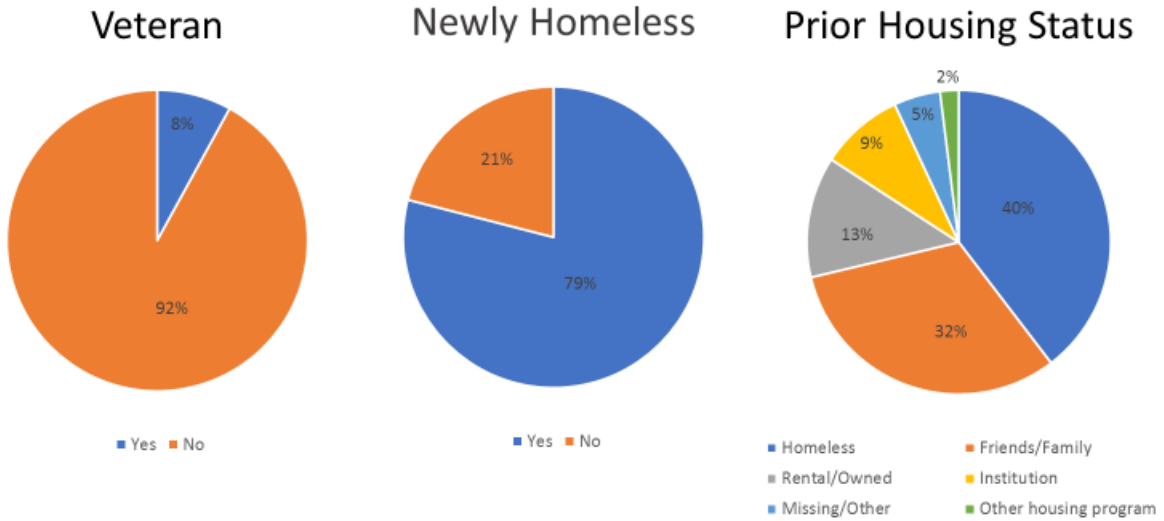
Who stays in our shelters?

Data from domestic violence shelters not included.



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Data from domestic violence shelters not included.



Who stays in our shelters?

Data from domestic violence shelters not included.

Persons served in emergency shelters between 11/1/16 – 10/31/17, additional involvement in homeless services post-shelter between 11/1/16 – 10/31/18:

(percentages will not sum to 100% because some persons were served in multiple project types)

Project Type	Percentage
No subsequent involvement	58%
Emergency shelter	21%
Rapid rehousing	18%
Permanent supportive housing	12%
Homeless prevention	10%
Street Outreach	8%
Bridge housing	4%

Who stays in our shelters?

Data from domestic violence shelters not included.

Persons served in emergency shelters in 2018 were at some point in their lives also involved in the following Allegheny County public services:

Service/Program	Percentage
Child welfare – child	21%
Child welfare – parent	16%
Mental Health Services	64%
Substance Abuse Disorder Services (age 14+)	43% of eligible
Intellectual Disability	<1%
Aging Services (persons 55+)	10% of eligible
Allegheny County Jail (age 18+)	45% of eligible
HealthChoices Eligible/Enrolled in Medicaid	83%

How many people do we serve in our emergency shelters?

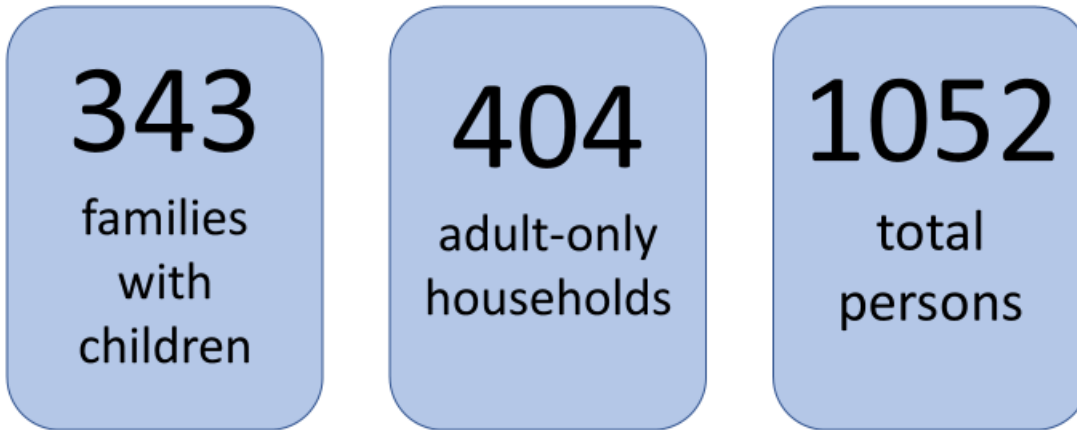
Data from domestic violence shelters not included.

Over the past 12 months, approximately....



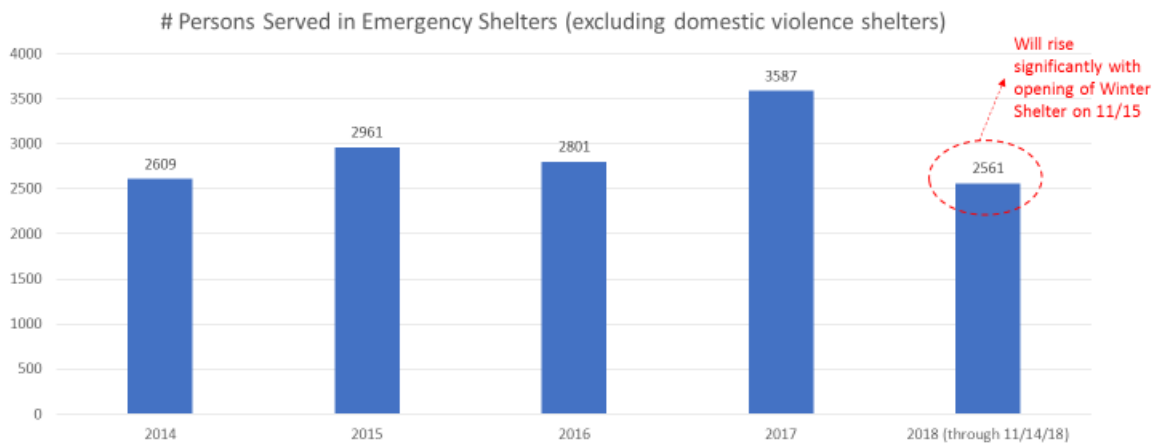
How many people do we serve in our domestic violence emergency shelters?

From 7/1/17 – 6/30/18:



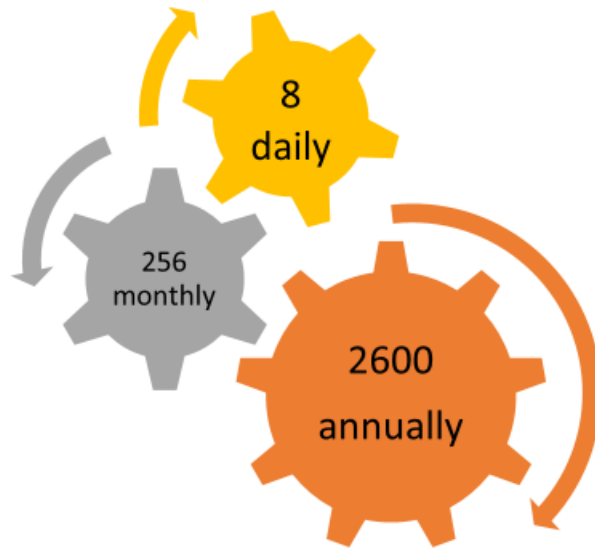
How many people do we serve in our emergency shelters?

Data from domestic violence shelters not included.



What is our shelter “churn rate”? (# of persons)

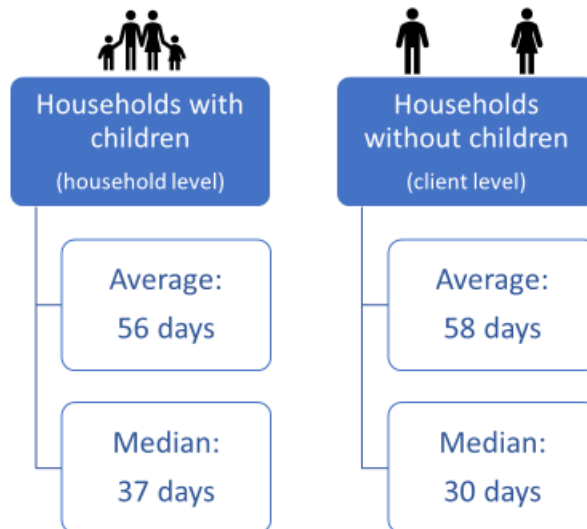
Data from domestic violence shelters not included.



How long do people stay in shelters?

Data from domestic violence shelters not included.

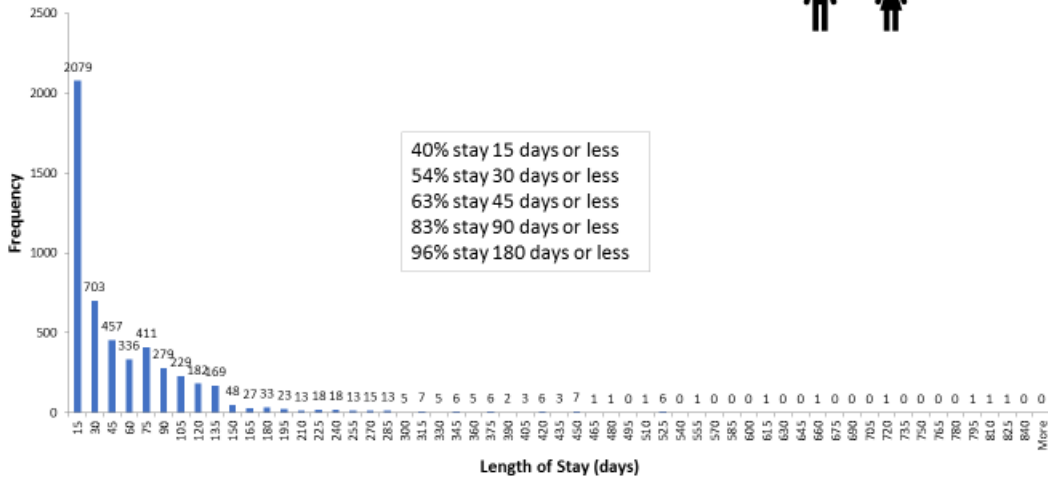
Over the past 12 months:



Data from Winter Shelters not included.

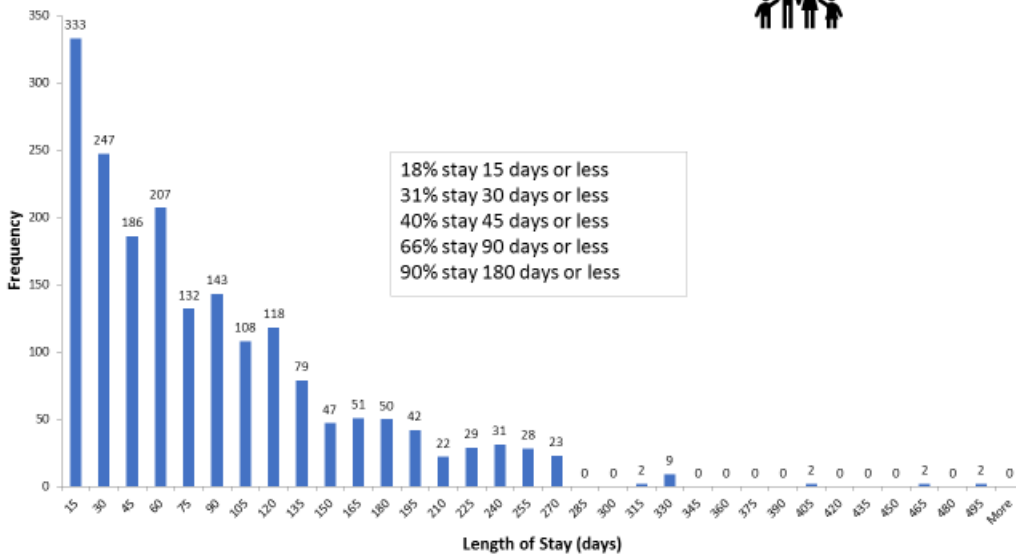
Emergency Shelter Length of Stay for Households WITHOUT Children, 6/1/16 - 6/15/18

Data from domestic violence shelters not included.



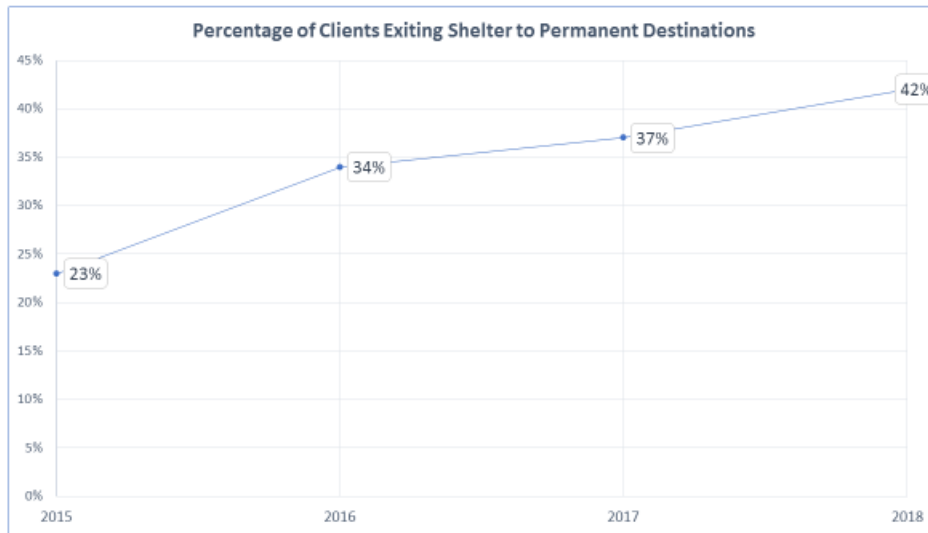
Emergency Shelter Length of Stay for Households with Children, 6/1/16 - 6/15/18

Data from domestic violence shelters not included.



How are our shelters performing?

Data from domestic violence shelters not included.

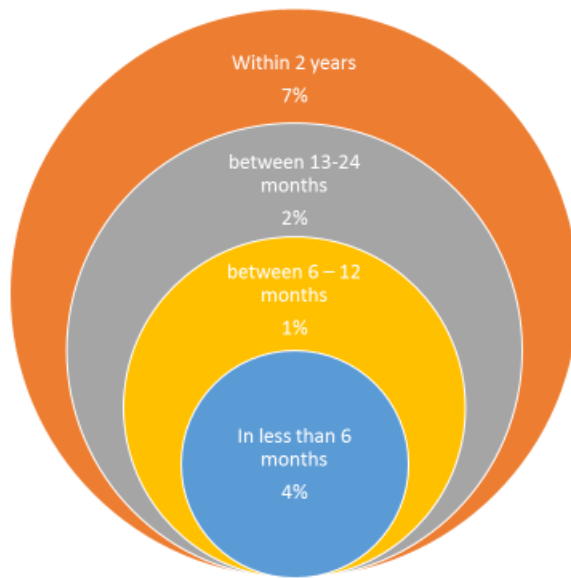


How are our shelters performing?

Data from domestic violence shelters not included.

Returns to homelessness (recidivism)

October 2017 – September 2018



Reminder: Use the public homeless dashboard on the Allegheny County Analytics website

<https://www.alleghenycountyanalytics.us/index.php/2018/07/26/clients-using-allegheny-county-homelessness-programs-interactive-dashboard/>



Questions?

Andy Halfhill

Manager of Homeless/Housing Analytics, DHS
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Appendix B



ADJUSTING EARLY LEARNING IN PA TO BETTER SERVE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Former: Separate and Unequal

- ▶ Child Care Works – child care subsidy system administered by 42 Child Care Information Services organizations
- ▶ Keys to Quality – increase quality in child care programs administered by 5 Regional Keys across the state

Current: Unity in 19 ELRC's



A SHIFT IN STRATEGY TO A SINGLE ACCESS POINT FOR FAMILIES AND PROVIDERS



CORE ELRC SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Subsidized child care program
- ▶ Resource and referral services for families
- ▶ Administer Keystone STARS program
- ▶ **Regional coordination and collaboration of early childhood initiatives**

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WHAT WILL BE HAPPENING IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY?

- ▶ Currently – YWCA holds CCIS and is providing quality services
- ▶ When? 7/1/2019
- ▶ Who? 12,325 CCW children / 697 providers (as of 5/2017) / Host of partners convene around early learning initiatives via an **Early Learning Resource Center Leadership Council**
- ▶ What? 87 FTE staff +
- ▶ Where? Downtown hub and 6 satellite locations
- ▶ How? Partnerships! Alliance = CCW and Trying Together = Keys to Quality
- ▶ **Why? Single point of contact for ALL families with key service connections in early childhood!**