

# Allegheny County, PA Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness Homeless Advisory Board Meeting

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Howard Burchman



## Team

- Howard Burchman, Suzanne Wagner, Lauren Pareti
- Prior work at CUCS & Burchman Terrio Consulting for 20+ years

## Expertise

- Systems Planning and Needs Assessments
- Homeless System and CoC Support & Transformation
- Creating Coordinated Entry/Access Systems
- Developing, Operating and Evaluating Housing and Service Programs
- Implementing Evidence-Based and Promising Practices
- Staff Training

# Input on Draft Plan

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100 Members of 11 Committees

133 Town Hall Participants

Mayor's Office Staff

Bureau of Police

Dept. of Public Works

Dept. of Planning

38 Survey Respondents



# Strategic Initiatives to Prevent & End Homelessness

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# Year-round Shelter

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- Low barrier
- Focused on rapid return to housing
- Target case management to those with intensive needs
- Support plans to 'self-resolve'
- Determine approach to expand case management (fund individual shelters, centralize at DHS or one or several non-profits)
- Assess utilization of shelters not using low barrier approach



# Centralized Rental Housing Locator (Navigator)

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## **Expand navigation support**

- Assistance becoming 'document ready'
- Relationships with landlords to expand access to units
- Risk mitigation fund

## **Expand housing location support**

- Transportation
- Landlord negotiation
- Preliminary Housing Quality Standards review
- Reducing educational disruptions



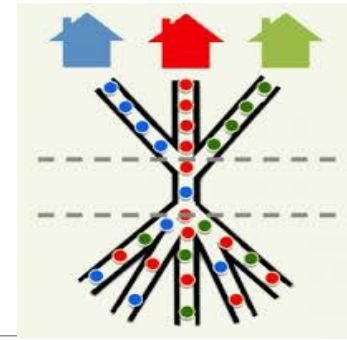
# Centralized Rental Housing Locator (Navigator) - 2

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- Provide supports to all households entering **Rapid Re-housing**
- Extend supports to people experiencing homelessness who have a **Housing Choice Voucher**
- **Centralize supports**
  - provided by DHS
  - or
  - through city-wide or regional contracts



# Centralized Rental Housing Locator (Navigator) - 3



- Use a **Continuous Quality Improvement** approach within Coordinated Entry to ensure targeting of the most intensive resources to the people with the highest vulnerability and greatest need
- Provide **housing stabilization and eviction prevention** services post housing to assist in accessing needed resources and meeting lease obligations
  - Expand resources through **Medicaid** and services from other systems
  - Evaluate and reward success in linking clients to **mainstream resources**



# Increase Supply & Access to Affordable Housing

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- Establish additional **set-asides/preferences** in affordable housing developments, including set-asides in projects developed through the Affordable Housing Task Force initiative
- Establish a **flexible housing assistance fund** to address low-cost housing barriers (furniture, security/utility deposits, application fees, etc.) & administer jointly with housing navigation services



# Increase Supply & Access to Affordable Housing - 2

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- Increase **engagement & collaboration** among homeless service providers and affordable housing sector
- Explore expanded **collaboration with Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)**
  - Engage McKeesport PHA
  - Partner with PHAs to finance permanent supportive housing



# Increase & Expand Outreach Resources

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- Expand street outreach to cover all areas in the county with significant populations of people experiencing homelessness
- Ensure repeated and persistent engagement attempts to get people off the streets, out of encampments and into low barrier shelter or housing



# Increase & Expand Outreach Resources -2

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- Coordinate outreach services funded through different sources
- Use HMIS and coordinated entry to improve coordination
- Coordinate with other systems to prevent discharges to homelessness
- Use data to:
  - Identify the highest cost users of multiple systems and prioritize for permanent supportive housing
  - Identify households at risk of homelessness



# Partnerships to Implement Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

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- Build on existing partnerships to pilot new programs to meet ESSA responsibilities with an initial focus on **transportation coordination**
- Ensure **homeless liaisons** in the educational system understand the process to access homeless services and **school liaisons** in the homeless system understand the process to access services through the educational system



# Partnerships to Implement the Every Student Succeeds Act -2

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- Establish a plan to ensure data reliability and participation by all 43 school districts in the **data warehouse**
- Identify students at greatest risk for literal homelessness, prioritize them through Coordinated Entry for **prevention services**, and provide case management and time limited rental assistance to support housing stability



# Communications Plan

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- Disseminate information about the homeless services system & how to access the system
- Inform the public on progress in implementing the plan & seek ongoing input
- Explore opportunities to remove stigma associated with homelessness



# Contact Information

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