Patients Experiencing Homelessness: Best Practices and Resources for Hospitals

September 26, 2018

Agenda

- Welcome
- What is homelessness
- Best practices
- Resources
- Next steps
- Q&A

Webinar

Learning Objectives

- Increase knowledge of best practices and resources for hospital staff to serve patients experiencing homelessness
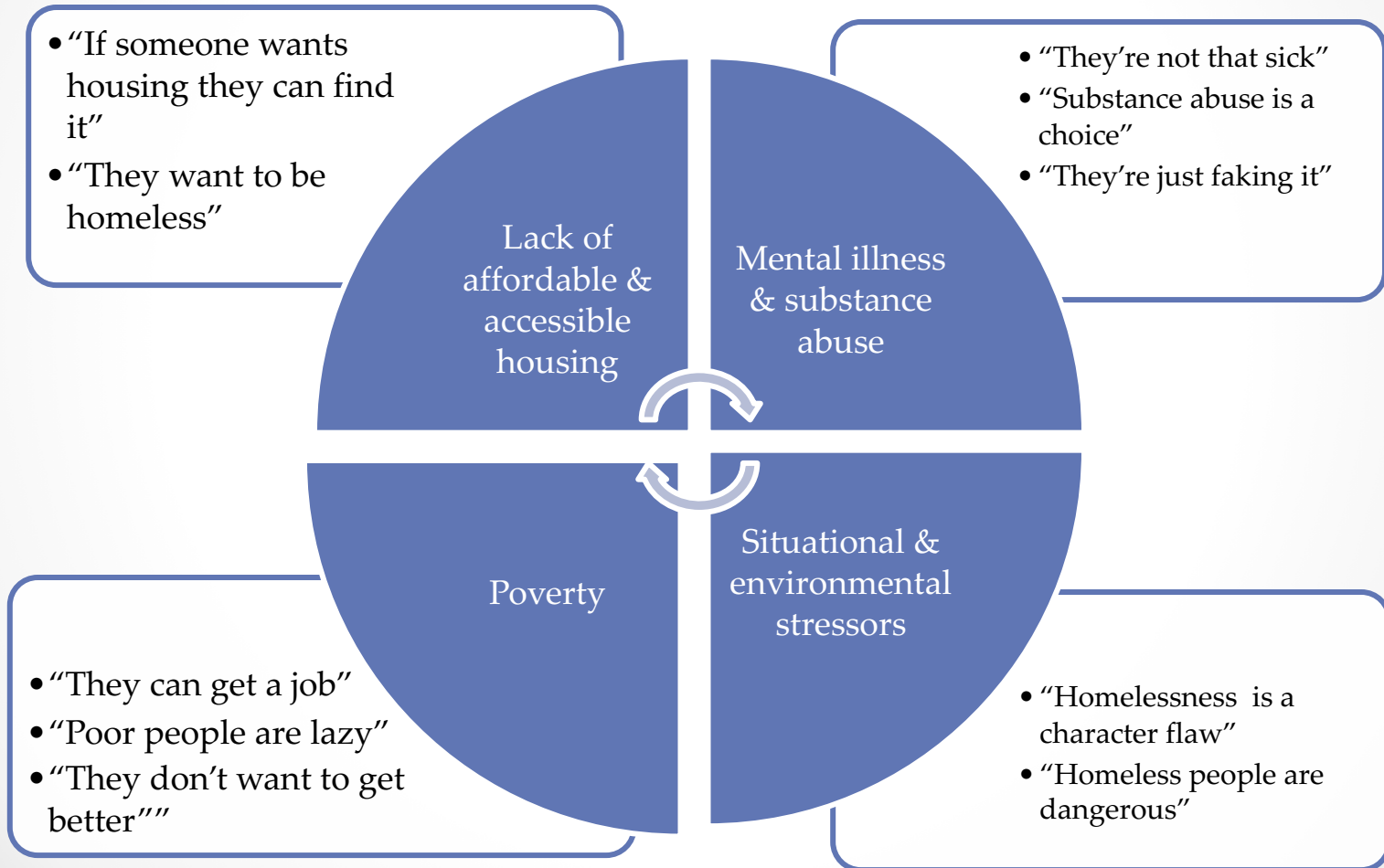
What is Homelessness?

HUD Programs

- People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelters, in transitional housing, exiting an institution where temporarily resided, and fleeing domestic violence and no other residence or support.

McKinney-Vento

- Homeless children or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

Myths and Misconceptions

- "If someone wants housing they can find it"
- "They want to be homeless"

Lack of affordable & accessible housing

- "They're not that sick"
- "Substance abuse is a choice"
- "They're just faking it"

Mental illness & substance abuse

- "They can get a job"
- "Poor people are lazy"
- "They don't want to get better""

Poverty

Situational & environmental stressors

- "Homelessness is a character flaw"
- "Homeless people are dangerous"

South Carolina By the Numbers

2018 PIT Count

- 3,933 total persons
- 510 total children
- 686 chronically homeless
- 355 mental illness
- 260 substance abuse

HMIS (CY 2017)

- 18,340 total persons
- 4,060 total children
- 1,896 chronically homeless
- 2,277 mental illness
- 1,115 substance abuse

Best Practices in the Field of Homelessness
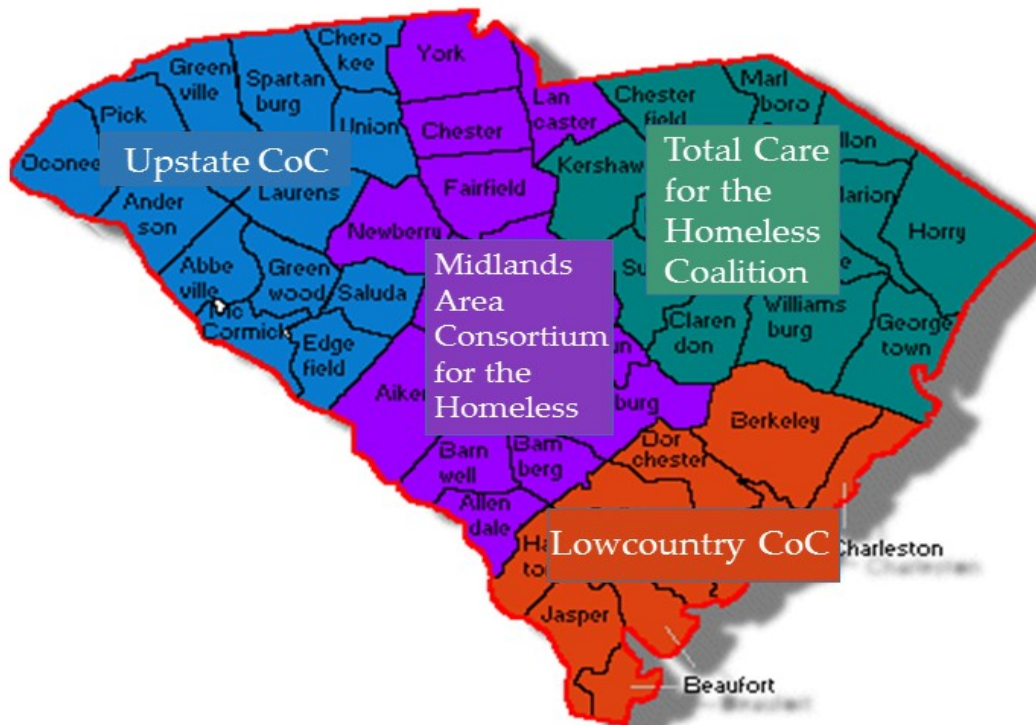
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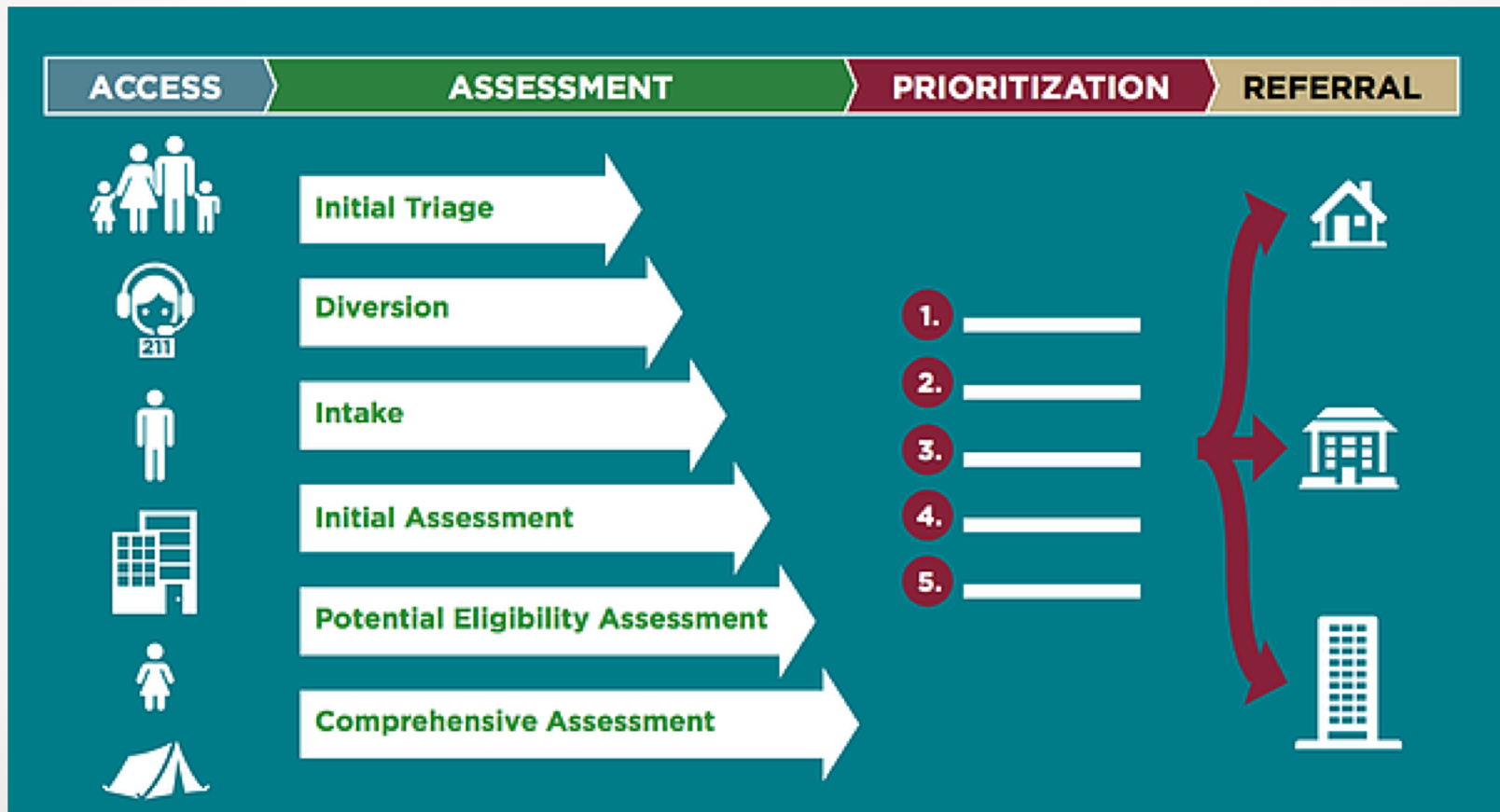
Programs & Practices

HUD Continuum of Care (CoC)

HUD CoCs in SC

Coordinated Entry System (CES)

Homelessness & Health Care

Social Determinants of Health

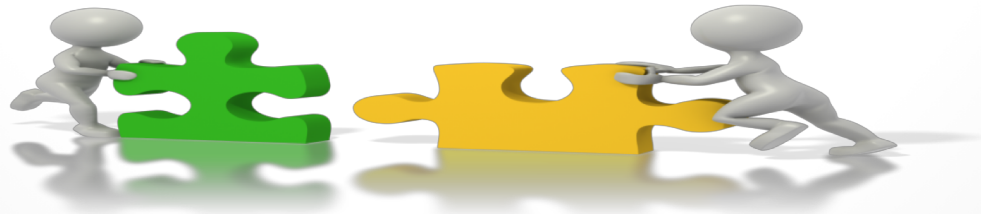- Housing is an important social determinant of health

How to Ask if Someone is Experiencing Homelessness

- Where did you stay last night?
- Where will you stay tonight?

Discharge Planning for Persons Experiencing Homelessness

o Connect with the local Continuum of Care to learn about housing resources

o Establish protocols for linking patients to local coordinated entry system

Resources
CoCs in South Carolina

START where you are
USE what you have
DO what you can

Lowcountry Continuum of Care

LOWCOUNTRY COC

o Geographic Area - 7 Counties: Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, and Jasper

o Lead agency – One80 Place

o www.lowcountrycoc.org

o Heather Carver, Program Director
hcarver@one80place.org

Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH)

o Geographic Area – 13 Counties: Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, and York

o Lead agency – United Way of the Midlands

o www.midlandshomeless.com

o Andy Pope, Homeless Coalition Director
apope@uway.org

Total Care for the Homeless (TCHC)

- Geographic Area – 13 Counties: Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Kershaw, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, and Williamsburg

- Lead Agency – Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization (ECHO)

- www.echomeless.org

- Ann Gowdy, Director of Supportive Services
  agowdy@echomeless.org

Upstate Continuum of Care

o Geographic Area – 13 Counties: Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Edgefield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda, Spartanburg, and Union

o Lead agency – United Housing Connections

o www.upstatecoc.org

o Daniel Cooper, Director of Strategic Initiatives dcooper@uhcsc.org

Success

A Hospital Social Worker's Perspective:

Jennifer Spires, LMSW
AccessHealth Mountain Lakes
Baptist Easley Hospital

Next Steps

o Get involved with the CoC in your area
  - Join the CoC
  - Participate in CoC membership meetings

o Identify hospital point person/liaison to the CoC

o Participate in the CoC Coordinated Entry System
  - Become an Access Point
  - Partner with an Access Point agency

o Use ICD-10 Code (Z59.0) to identify patients who are homeless

South Carolina Resources

- [South Carolina Interagency Council on Homelessness (SCICH)](#)
- [South Carolina Primary Health Care Association](#) – Click on Find a Health Center
- [South Carolina Voucher Program](#)
- [VA Southeast Network](#)
- [South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families](#)
- [Palmetto Project](#)

South Carolina VAMC's Homeless Program Webpage Links

Homeless Veterans - Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VAMC
Intake: (803) 776-4000 x5190 or x4773

Homeless Veterans - Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center
Intake: (843) 789-6804

National Resources

- [Center for Evidence-Based Solutions to Homelessness](#)
- [National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH)](#)
- [National Health Care for the Homeless Council](#)
- [Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Homelessness Programs & Resources](#)
- [True Colors Fund-LGBTQ Youth Homelessness](#)
- [United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)](#)

National Resources

- National Association of Community Health Centers
- National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
- Young Invincibles
- Safe Housing Partnerships-Domestic & Sexual Violence

Presenters

- Michele Murff, Housing and Homeless Program Director, SC Department of Mental Health, michele.Murff@scdmh.org

- E. Ann Gowdy, Ph.D., LISW-CP, MSW, Director of Supportive Services, ECHO (Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization), agowdy@echomeless.org

- Frances Pope Hewitt, LPC/S, LAC, LCAS, MAC, Clinical Director, MIRCI (Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc.), FHewitt@mirci.org

- Bruce Forbes, Special Projects Coordinator, SHARE and Circles Greenville County, bforbes@sharesc.org

- Jennifer Spires, LMSW, AccessHealth Mountain Lakes, Baptist Easley Hospital, JSpires@ghs.org

Questions & Answers