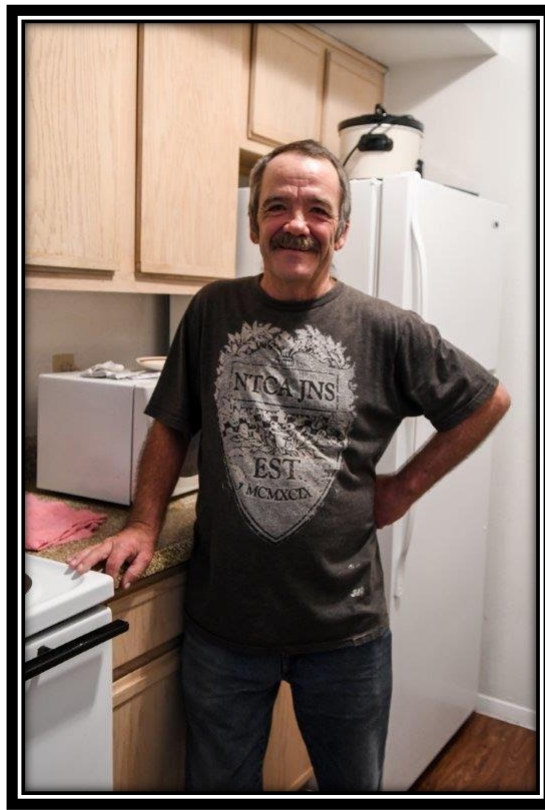# *E Pluribus Unum**
Ending Homelessness Together

Making homelessness in Dallas and Collin Counties
rare, brief and nonrecurring.
David S. Gruber, Development and Communications Director (Updated 6/13/18)

* With apologies to the original user of that phrase

Imagine we could end homelessness. **Not** just help individuals. **Not** just manage homelessness.

Imagine we could eradicate it. **Imagine** we could make this intractable social ill a thing of the past.

What Do We Mean?

We do not mean:	We do mean:
• No one ever becomes homeless.	• Homelessness **rare**ly happens; • When it does it is **brief**; • It **never** happens to that person **again**.

How Many Folks Are Homeless?

	Unsheltered	Emergency Sheltered	Safehaven	Transitional Housing	Total	Change Year to Year
2018	**1,341**	**1,991**	**23**	**785**	**4,140**	**+9%**
2017	1,087	1,861	19	822	3,789	-.5%
2016	739	1,968	23	1,080	3,810	21%+
2015	363	1,748	23	1,007	3,141	

SOHA

Why Are They Homeless?

Yikes!

Could I ever become homeless?

<u>It's Not</u> Poverty.

Of the <u>419,000 people</u> living in poverty in Dallas County, only a few thousand become homeless every year.

It's Not* a Lack of Affordable Housing.

In the United States 8.3 million households are defined as having "worst case housing needs", while only about 554,000 persons are homeless.

It's NOT addiction/substance abuse.

Reliable studies show that 40 million Americans are addicts, and another 80 million are risky users. We do not have 120 million Americans who are or are at risk of becoming homeless.

It's NOT mental illness.

44 million Americans experience mental illness every year. We do not have 44 million Americans who are or are at risk of becoming homeless.

It is NOT lack of religion or faith.

Denmark, for instance, has extremely low levels of religious belief. However, the levels of poverty and want in Denmark are markedly lower than in the United States.

Now, It's Hard to Argue…

With any of these statements:

- Poverty is bad for society
- There is not enough affordable housing
- Substance abuse causes problems
- Folks with mental illness need help
- Faith has positive influences in many people's lives.

They still don't help us answer the most important question…

Why Are They Homeless?

Yikes!

Could I ever become homeless?

Social Network Breakdown…

- Most of us will never become homeless because we would lean on our network of social connections. Our families, friends and social groups would be there for us to call on.

- Homelessness occurs when this **network of social connections breaks down (or was poor to start with) and can no longer be activated.**

The Solution Addresses the Problem

- The way we solve this problem is to put in place a **Homeless Response System**, that steps into the gap created by the social network breakdown, and ideally helps rebuild it too.

- The focus of the 2009 HEARTH Act and **Opening Doors**, the national strategic plan to end homelessness, is on developing an effective and unified homeless response system in every community.

- The focus of **MDHA's work**, in accordance with it's charge by the U.S. Government, is on developing an effective and unified homeless response system for Dallas and Collin Counties.

**We must, indeed, all hang together,
or assuredly
we shall all hang separately.**

If You Want the Right Answer…
You Must Ask the Right Question.

Don't ask…

Do Ask…

~~Will this person be successful in our program?~~

What solutions best match the needs of this person, and will end their homelessness quickly and permanently?

If You Want the Right Answer…
It Matters Who Asks the Question.

Not every program separately…

~~Will this person be successful in our program?~~

Everyone working together…

What solutions best match the needs of this person, and will end their homelessness quickly and permanently?

The Role of MDHA

(and its Counterpart in Every American Community)

Develop and quarterback an effective unified homeless response system, where all homeless services programs work together to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring.

Building a Unified Homeless and Housing System in 2014

The Homelessness Task Force (HTF) is a regional coalition of community partners with an interest or concern about those who are served by or who serve in the homelessness system.

In 2014, the Kansas City region will work towards building a more unified system.

The expected outcomes include: community agreement and commitment to common principles, strategies, protocols, metrics and training; coordinated system entry and assessment tools; and a shared data information system.

Management Information System: Web-based "cloud" technology will be necessary to effectively implement and monitor the metrics of a unified system at individual, agency, county and regional levels.

Rapid Re-Housing moves homeless persons into scattered site housing within the community before providing any services. It assists people with mid-range needs and is temporary.

Transitional housing provides programs and services to all levels of need, along with temporary housing in scattered site housing or congregate living. Upon completing programming, participants are assisted into permanent housing.

Permanent Supportive Housing houses high- to severe-need persons in scattered site or congregate living before providing services. It is partnered with intensive case management or assertive community treatment.

KCMetroHousing.org

Services Ahead
- Recovery
- Employment
- Life Stability
- Education

HOUSING OPTIONS

Rapid Rehousing	Transitional Housing	Permanent/ Supportive Housing
Low- to mid-level needs	All levels of need	High complexity of needs

← Services Ahead

Services as determined by the common assessment tool are still available for these at-risk individuals and families, even if they were diverted from the housing system.

Temporary Shelters

Diversion is a standardized strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking housing support by helping them stabilize their current situation or identify immediate alternate housing arrangements. If necessary, they are connected to services and financial assistance.

Street Outreach
Schools
At-Risk Families
Foster Care
Faith-Based Organizations
Prisons/Jail

Coordinated Entry Point

Diversion and Prevention

Common Assessment and Coordinated Access

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS
YOUTH
VETERANS
FAMILIES
CHRONIC HOMELESS

A **common assessment tool** standardizes service prioritization, which allows for the most efficient use of resources and improves consumer access to support. Coordinated access makes the system easier to navigate by leveraging the strengths of individual service providers.

Housing Triage

Housing Triage helps the community "yield" to more vulnerable individuals by focusing limited resources on the most appropriate people or families using a standardized assessment tool and set protocols. This tool assesses level of acuity (or vulnerability) and prioritizes the most effective housing option.

MARC MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL

HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE of Greater Kansas City
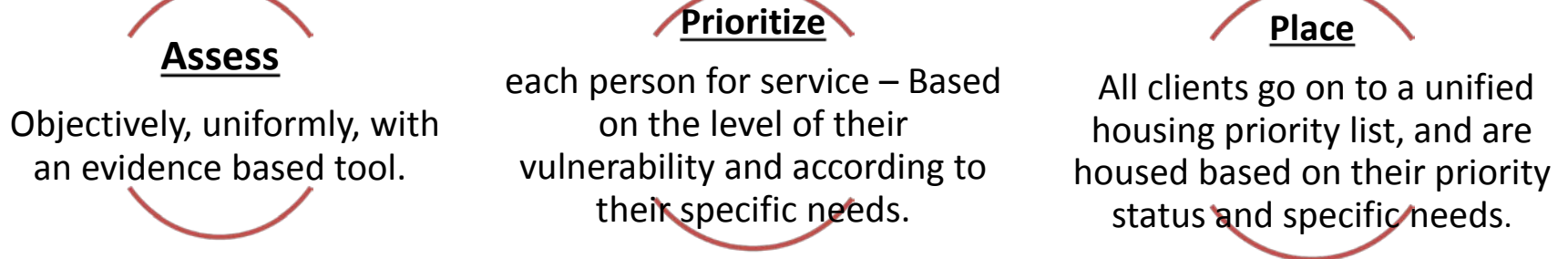
marc.org/community/htf

1. Try to **Divert**!

Homelessness is not homogeneous, rather is on a continuum

Many of those, who seek our help, have the capacity to self resolve, with the help of mainstream resources, or "light touch" one time assistance

2. Assess, Prioritize, Place

The system has one entry point only.
No placements are made in **any**
program without...

Assess

Objectively, uniformly, with an evidence based tool.

Prioritize

each person for service – Based on the level of their vulnerability and according to their specific needs.

Place

All clients go on to a unified housing priority list, and are housed based on their priority status and specific needs.

SO Street Outreach	ES Emergency Shelter	SH SafeHaven	TH Transitional Housing	Jail	Hospital

COORDINATED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Triage	HUD Intake Assessment	Assessment (SPDAT)	Documentation of Homelessness	Documentation of Disability

Documentation of Priority Status – *Housing Priority List*

PSH/RRH Bridge/OPH with Supportive Services (*High Vulnerability*) $$$	TH/RRH w/ limited supports (Mid-Low vulnerability and subpopulations) $$	RRH / Self-Resolve Diversion, Private Housing, Prevention (*Low and Very Low Vulnerability*) $

3. All Roads Lead to **Housing**

The **entire system** is oriented towards housing (using a Housing First approach).

There is a **sense of urgency** in getting everyone, and first and foremost those who are high on the housing priority list, into housing, **as soon as possible, with as few barriers as possible.**

In the meantime, individuals, who need it, are offered **temporary shelter**, with the constant ever-present expectation that they be moved into housing as soon as possible.

My Housing Plan

What is _YOUR_ housing plan?

We got housing...
You can, too!!!

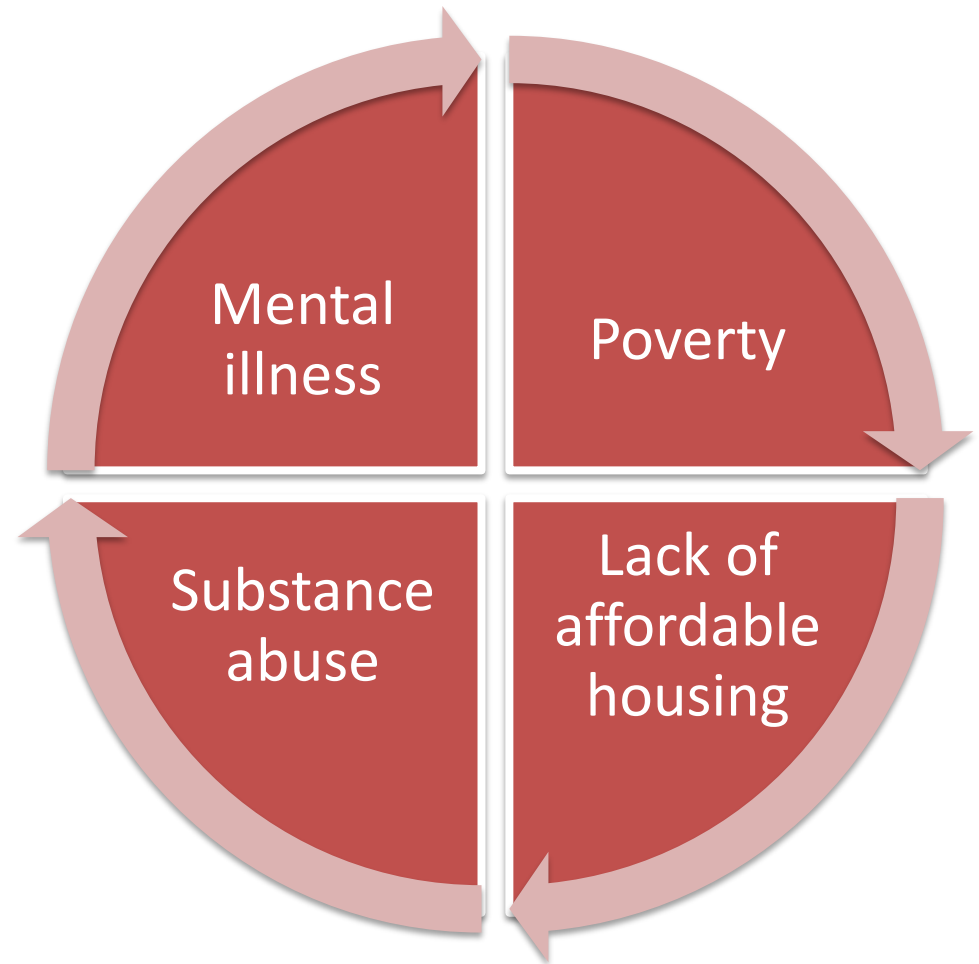Housed through Healthy
Community Collaborative

4. Transparency

Every program that serves the homeless needs to report, in real time, into **one central HMIS data system**, managed by MDHA, **without exception** (barring issues of safety).

This is the **only way we can know** if and how much progress we are truly making.

More importantly, this is the **only way we can improve** and self-correct , where we are not.

What problems will this not solve?

Mental illness

Poverty

Substance abuse

Lack of affordable housing

Our Priorities

**FY2017
$3.98 Trillion**

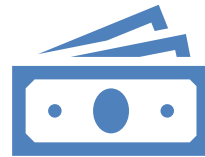**CoC
$2 Billion**

HOUSING

- 30 units of affordable housing available for every 100 very low income people

- 1 in 4 people who qualify for housing assistance actually receive it

- 8.3 million very low-income people paid >50% income for rent

- In Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington area: there are 365,000 very low-income households—1/2 pay >50% on rent

Don't tell me what you value.
Show me your budget,
and I'll tell you what you value.

Joseph R. Biden, Sr.

CVN-78 (Holds 4,500 people)

Our Priorities

CVN-78 $13 Billion

CoC $2 Billion

What Do We Need from the Community to End Homelessness?

Donate to MDHA

Volunteer for the Homeless Count – January 24, 2019

Advocate for what works

Advocate for more housing (The best homeless response system can't make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring, if we lack affordable housing.)

"I've been thinking," said Pooh… "You have a house, Piglet, and I have a house, and they are very good houses. And Christopher Robin has a house, and Owl and Kanga and Rabbit have houses, and even Rabbit's friends and relations have houses or somethings, but poor Eeyore has nothing. So what I've been thinking is: Let's build him a house."

"That," said Piglet, "is a Grand Idea."

(from "The House on Pooh Corner")