Evaluating the impact of supportive housing in Ontario
Supportive Housing Common Measures Evaluation Project

North American Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit
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Overview

- History of the project
- Participating Agencies
- Evaluation tool
- Challenges / learning's
- Baseline data collection
- Roles and responsibilities
- Further steps
Participating Housing Providers

- Fife House (Toronto)
- Bruce House (Ottawa)
- John Gordon Home (London)
- AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County
- AIDS Niagara
- LOFT Community Services (Toronto)
- Ontario HIV Treatment Network
History

In 2011, six Ontario AIDS Service Organizations providing housing services agreed to pilot a common assessment tool that could be used by those agencies to better monitor and evaluate the impact of their programs and services on the health and well-being of their clients.
Purpose of Study

• Identifying effective, evidence-informed interventions
• Informing program development and strategic planning
• Demonstrating the impact of supportive housing services on clients’ health and well-being
• Demonstrating that supportive housing interventions reduce the use of more costly services, such as emergency visits, hospitalizations, use of shelters and other justice and social costs
Supportive Housing Impact Assessment Tool

To collect relevant and accurate client-level data, participating agencies developed a tool that collected information on a set of Common Measures covering sixteen broad domains affected by clients current housing status and housing history.
Assessment Tool Domains

• Physical health
• Mental health
• Progression of HIV
• Treatment adherence
• Ability and willingness to utilize and retain access to social and health services
• Problematic substance use
• Employment perspectives
• Community connections
• Involvement with criminal justice system
Assessment Tool Structure

• Demographic information
• Service utilization (self reported)
• Ten validated tools (scales)
• Consent form, allowing to link client’s data with Provincial Health Administrative Database to track health service utilization over time
List of validated tools

- Alcohol AUDIT
- Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST-20)
- Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D)
- Adults AIDS Clinical Trials Group (AACTG) Adherence Follow-Up Questionnaire
- MOS-HIV Social Support Survey
- Quality of Life (SF-12v2TM)
- Sense of Belonging Scale
- The Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K 10)
- Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-2)
- Pearlin Mastery Scale
Challenges / Learning's

• Agency commitment
• Client understanding of the as an agency project
• Balancing a new evaluation/assessment tool with existing mandated tools
• Impacts of front line and management work load
• Client reaction
Process

• Baseline data collection (pilot). The tool was administered to 120 residents in June – August 2013
• Five peer research associates participated in the initial data collection process
• Ongoing data collection 2013 – 2018 will be administered annually by agency staff, trained to conduct the interviews and utilize the data for care and support planning
Ownership/Accountabilities

• The Common Measures assessment tool is developed and owned by six participating agencies
• Ontario HIV Treatment Network hosts the project Steering Committee, stores and analyzes the data, provides technical assistance and coordinates overall project activities based on the Committee’s direction and recommendations
Next steps

1. Baseline data analysis (in progress) – we are looking at service utilization, health outcomes, and time living in supportive housing

2. Ongoing data collection – new clients moving into supportive housing programs will be administered the tool

3. Staff training – how to use the tool to inform care planning
Thank you

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