

One Voice Texas

A Collaborative for Health & Human Services



Behavioral Health: Permanent Supportive Housing

Position Statement Approved by One Voice Texas: August 10, 2012

Issue/Concern:

Many individuals dealing with mental health and/or substance use disorders have difficulty meeting their basic needs, including finding, accessing, and keeping safe and affordable housing. Those who are able to access housing, including emergency and transitional programs, many times are not able to maintain it due to a lack of critical supports such as case management and medical care.

Permanent supportive housing provides housing as well as appropriate, wrap-around services to individuals living with behavioral health disorders, allowing them the opportunity to achieve stability and recovery while become contributing members of their communities.

Specific Policy Recommendation(s):

Support initiatives that fund, create, and expand the availability of permanent supportive housing, including wrap-around services, for individuals living with behavioral health disorders throughout the state.

How Will This Impact State Funding? What Can Be Accomplished?

Individuals living with behavioral health disorders cannot be expected to comply with and be successful in their treatment if their basic need for safe, accessible, and affordable housing goes unmet. Not following treatment recommendations, as well as not having a stable home, many times results in increased rates of recidivism, hospitalization, incarceration, and homelessness. Permanent supportive housing can help ensure better outcomes for individuals living with behavioral health disorders while decreasing their reliance on more expensive publicly funded services such as EMS/police, emergency rooms, jails, and prisons.

Supporting Facts/Research Resources:

According to the Texas Homeless Network:

1. 11% of the homeless in Texas are veterans
2. 21% of the homeless in Texas are chronic substance users
3. 19% of the homeless in Texas have a severe mental illness.

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