Hamilton County Community Mental Health System

A GUIDE FOR THE HOMELESS CONTINUUM

APRIL 27, 2017
Objectives

- Brief Overview of the community mental health system
- How to access services
- Role of Mental Health Case Manager
- Overview of PATH/MH Connections
Overview of the System

- Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (HCMHRSB) role per ORC 340:
  - Plan, Fund, Evaluate and Manage

- Contract with over 35 provider agencies—Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol (AOD)

  Front Door for Mental Health—MHAP
    - [www.mentalhealthaccesspoint.org](http://www.mentalhealthaccesspoint.org)

  Front Door for Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD)—RHAC
    - [www.addictionservicescouncil.org](http://www.addictionservicescouncil.org)
Access to AOD Services

- **Addiction Services Council- 513-281-7880**
  - RHAC-Recovery Health Access Center
  - Available 24/7
  - Information/Referral
  - Complete assessments, referral and treatment for individual and family (Open Access)
  - Groups offered
How to Access MH Services

- **Mental Health Access Point- 558-8888**
  - Front door to community mental health services
  - Available 24 hours/7 Days a Week
  - Provide information and referral
  - Complete Diagnostic Assessments to determine appropriate mental health services and connect them to those services (Indigent Only)
  - Can provide interim transitional Case management, medication and access to board funded housing
Mental Health Access Point

- **Triage**- authorizes and provides care coordination for housing programs funded by the board
  - *Crisis Stabilization*- short term
  - *Half-way House* - address independent living skills - up to 6 months
  - *Quick Access* - emergency housing up to 45 days

- **Family Care Homes**- MHAP completes an assessment to determine eligibility and appropriate level of care
  - Referrals must be initiated by the MH Case Manager
Case Management (CM)

Role of Case Manager

- Connect client to appropriate services within the community
- Help the client apply for all eligible entitlements
- Coordinate services with all involved parties
- Assist with finding and maintaining housing
- Connect to pro-social activities in Vocational/Employment, Day Program, Peer Activities
- Advocacy
- Symptom Management
**PATH/MH Connections:**

**How can a CM help me help my client?**

- Provide necessary documentation to support their disability
- Help with symptom management/secure regular doctor appointments
- Help with transportation and/or training on how to use public transportation
- Supportive services to maintain transitional or permanent housing
Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services

- Community Mental Health Agency
- Founded in 1971
- Recent Merger with CRC and Lifepoint Solutions
- More than 500 employees
- Serves approximately 14,000 individuals per year
- Services offered:
  - Psychiatric
  - Case Management
  - Specialized Case Management (Homeless, Court)
  - Counseling
  - Vocational
  - Day Program
  - Residential
  - Substance Abuse Services since the merger
What is PATH?

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness

- Federal Program - Stewart B McKinney Act 1987
  - First and only major legislative response to homelessness
  - Focus on Homeless Outreach
  - The goal of PATH is to engage homeless individuals who are mentally ill or dually diagnosed and connect them with mental health, substance abuse, housing, benefits, and other needed services
Hamilton County PATH Program

- Eligible individuals are homeless, are believed to have a mental illness and are not in mental health services.

- PATH workers assist clients in scheduling and attending a mental health or substance abuse assessment and then getting to the intake at the assigned agency.
PATH workers will make other referral to meet urgent needs of their clients such as medical and dental referrals, social security application referrals or housing referrals.

PATH workers use outreach supplies to assist with engagement of their clients.
Hamilton County PATH Staff

- Mental Health Director
- PATH Team Supervisor
- 3 Outreach Workers
- Veteran Specialist
- Substances Specialist
- Peer Worker
**PATH Initial Contact & Assessment**

**Engagement and Outreach**
- Building relationships is critical with this population
- Tell them your name and let him/her know your purpose
- Do not make unfulfilled promises
- Finding out what he/she sees as his/her needs
- Offering services and support based on his/her perceived needs
PATH Initial Contact & Assessment

Good Faith Assessments

• Where have you been sleeping?
• How long have you been there?
• How did you get to be homeless?
• Past Diagnosis, treatment, medications
• Consider histories of trauma/perceptions of others
• Visible Mental Health symptoms
Connecting to Mental Health System

- If the individual has active Medicaid insurance they can direct connect to Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health for case management services

- No insurance – connect to services through MHAP

- In all cases, PATH assists with transition to case management (Homeless/At Risk Clients)
Connecting to Mental Health System

- If the individual has active Medicaid insurance he/she can directly connect to Case Management and Counseling Services in the community
  - CCHB, Talbert House, Central Clinic
  - Homeless Access Team (HAT) with GCBHS
  - Open Access-1501 Madison Rd, Mon-Fri 9a-2p
  - Behavioral Health Counseling w/GCBHS located at McMicken Health Collaborative-40 E McMicken, Mon-Fri 7:30a-4p
Connecting to Mental Health System

- No insurance-connect to Case Management Services through MHAP (Mental Health Access Point)
  - MHAP Appointments scheduled within 1-2 days of initial phone assessment
  - Clients assigned to Case Management Agency within 3-5 days of DAF Appointment
- Individuals in Permanent Housing are ineligible for PATH Program but can still access all services
Contact PATH

- Hamilton County PATH 814-3886
  421-7803 (Fax #)

- Location: Cincinnati Homeless Coalition
  117 E 12th Street
  Cincinnati, OH 45202
Questions