



# Addressing the Social Determinants of Health

Ann K. Oshel, MS  
Sr. VP Community Relations

# Housing is a Healthcare Strategy

“Access to safe, quality and affordable housing – and the supports necessary to maintain that housing – constitute one of the most basic and powerful social determinants of health.

In particular, for individuals and families trapped in a cycle of crisis and housing instability due to poverty, mental illness, addictions or chronic health issues, housing can **entirely** dictate their health and health trajectory.”

World Health Organization, 2008

# Addressing Homelessness and Housing

- Financial assistance Programs
- Durham DASH and Home Again (PSH Programs)
- Bridge Housing with master leasing
- Recovery Homes
- Capital Investments
- Homeless Care Review

# Health and Housing Program

- In partnership with Duke Health Systems and RHD
  - Began February 2017
  - 13 chronically homeless persons housed with Housing Choice voucher
  - Six persons housed 9-15 months
  - 42 hospital visits six months prior to housing
  - 26 hospital visits since housing (one person accounted for 11 visits)
  - One hospital visit last quarter
  - 75% reduction in ED visits since housing
  - 97% retention rate in housing

# Participants Have Complicated Issues

- Mental illness and substance use

- Bi-polar Disorder
- Schizophrenia
- Cocaine, opioid, alcohol dependence
- Major Depressive Disorder
- PTSD
- Schizoaffective Disorder

- Physical health

- Colon, lung, bladder cancer
- HIV
- Multi-level degenerative disc disease
- Diabetes
- Hepatitis C
- Multiple strokes
- Amputation of lower extremities

# Bridge Housing at Harrington Place

- In partnership with Wake County and RHD
  - Began March, 2018
  - 3-5 month program
  - 12 units
  - Served 17 homeless persons accounting for **1422** months of homelessness
  - Six people successfully housed
    - One person re-arrested, one person hospitalized
  - 14 of 17 people service connected

# What we are Learning about Housing

- It's hard
- It's hard and expensive
- It's not just about affordable housing but safe and decent housing
- It's even harder to do without a case management service definition
- BH providers do not have a proficiency in supportive housing

# Transportation

- Contract with Duke, Lincoln Health Clinic and Go Triangle
  - Peer support specialist embedded in Call Center
- Contract with Logisticare
  - Beginning Nov 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Provide transportation for urgent appointments and follow up after hospital or crisis discharge
- Bus passes
- Real time bus location on Network of Care



# What we are Learning about Transportation

- It's hard
- It's even harder in rural or isolated communities without public transportation
- The solution is not always a bus pass

# What we are Doing Now

- Piloted the Va Commonwealth Social Needs Assessment with internal Care Teams
- Figuring out our data metrics for SDOH
- Researching the Silicone Valley Housing Triage tool
- Working with the Corporation for Supportive Housing
- Convened a SDOH Think Tank