

5/4/16: Housing and Second-Chance Initiatives

Presenters:

- Kristin Miller, Director of the NY Greater Metro Region, CSH, kristin.miller@csh.org
- Andy McMahon, Managing Director for Gov Affairs & Innovation, CSH, andy.mcmahon@csh.org
- Chief David Rausch, Knoxville Police Department
 - Point of Contact: Deputy Chief Gary Holliday, gholliday@knoxvilletn.gov

Relevant Attachments:

- Family Re-entry Pilot Program Brochure

Kristin Miller, Section 8 Housing Choice

Key Takeaways: CSH, the Vera Institute, and New York Housing Authority (NYHA) have piloted a second chance project in which individuals who have been released from jail or prison can reunite with a family member in a NYHA single family unit, coupled with case management services.

CSH, in partnership with the Vera Institute and the New York Housing Authority (NYHA), has created a pilot project focused on individuals who have been released from jail or prison within the last three years and who have a family member with whom they can reunite in a NYHA single family unit. Participants agree to a minimum of six months of case management services to help ease their transition back into society and they have the option of living in a NYHA housing unit with their immediate family. This second chance initiative is made possible with a provisional waiver of assisted living housing to residents with prior criminal convictions. After two years of successful participation in the program and without incident, the resident is permitted to live in the units indefinitely.

Andy McMahon, Section 8 Housing Choice

Key Takeaways: CSH has an online toolkit focused on engaging public housing agencies.

CSH offers an online toolkit around engaging public housing agencies that can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.csh.org/phatoolkit>. While participating landlords are committed to second chance initiatives, the toolkit provides methods of minimizing risk such as government backed underwriting of unpaid contractual breaches by the occupant. The toolkit showcases models and templates to help communities successfully work with their public housing agencies.

Chief David Rausch, Knoxville Police Department, Knoxville, TN

Key Takeaways: Implementation of Housing First programs have been extremely successful in keeping residents housed and reducing recidivism in Knoxville.

Knoxville's second chance initiative with a housing focus is a key component to tackle homelessness and functions to reduce recidivism among the most vulnerable in our community. Individuals with mental health, substance abuse, or co-occurring issues find themselves involved in criminal activity and have higher vulnerability to victimization, creating a public safety challenge. VMC is a housing service provider that works closely with the Knoxville PD, providing Housing First approaches as well as other programs to treat highly vulnerable

homeless people and working to proactively deter crime and recidivism. Since the implementation of Housing First, Police interactions with the homeless population on the criminal level has since reduced significantly and the program has experienced a 93% success rate in keeping residents housed.