

Workshop Descriptions

Tuesday, September 17

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Breakout I

Housing stability in rural Minnesota: Preserving 515 properties and rental assistance in Greater Minnesota

Room: Suite 112

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Nationwide, hundreds of thousands of seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals and families live in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Section 515 rental properties, a crucial source of affordable housing in rural communities. Minnesota was an early participant in this program and today has the 7th largest number of Section 515 properties in the United States. However, these vital homes are at risk. As USDA Rural Development loans for these properties expire, more and more buildings are exiting the Section 515 program. Exiting properties may lose rental assistance funding, and some properties are no longer required to keep rents affordable – meaning tenants could face eviction or homelessness. At this session we will: Learn about Section 515 properties and Minnesota residents who live in them Understand strategies for preserving Section 515 properties and the rental assistance that often accompanies these properties Engage with properties owners, and those who work with property owners, who wish to buy or sell Section 515 properties Consider a future vision for Section 515 properties in Minnesota Presenter partners Elizabeth Glidden, MHP (or other MHP staff) (MHP capacity staff are one of 4 organizations selected by USDA to provide technical assistance nationwide to potential purchasers of Section 515 properties; MHP is focused on developing policy options for Section 515 property preservation at the federal and state levels). Margaret Kaplan, HJC (HJC has examined policy and program options for Section 515 property preservation for years, including working with residents on potential legal strategies and engaging with policy development at the federal and state levels). Allison Streich, Carver County CDA (Carver County CDA is in the process of purchasing Section 515 properties with maturing mortgages and developing strategies to proactively engage with current Section 515 property owners).

Elizabeth Glidden, Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP); Margaret Kaplan, Housing Justice Center; Allison Streich, Carver Cty. CDA

New Services to Support Housing

Room: Suite 113

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Minnesota is rolling out new services to help people with disabilities and older adults find and maintain housing in the community. Learn about these new services and how they can help support people in a variety of options. We will provide an overview of Housing Stabilization Services and available housing-related Home and Community Based Services waiver services, followed by case examples showing how these services can contribute to housing stability.

Mark Caldwell, Department of Human Services - Housing Division; Bekah Kaufenberg-Satre, Department of Human Services - Housing Division

Minneapolis Navigation Center - Lessons Learned

Room: Suite 114

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

In this session we will share the story of the Navigation Center in Minneapolis that opened quickly in December 2018 in response to a large encampment at Franklin and Hiawatha. We will share what Simpson Housing Services learned as the shelter provider. Topics will include practices and learnings regarding: harm reduction, low barrier shelter, Native American focused shelter, and service rich shelter environments.

Marian Wright, Simpson Housing Services; Wendy Wiegmann, Simpson Housing Services

Getting to know your CoC (and getting the most out of it!)

Room: Riverview Room A

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Continuums of Care (CoCs) are big players in local and statewide efforts to prevent and end homelessness. CoCs can also be hard to understand. As planning groups, each CoC has a unique flavor that reflects its local membership and community priorities. And, as entities recognized by Federal agencies, CoCs must meet very specific requirements to bring in federal funds for local homeless programs – about \$35 million annually in Minnesota! Whether you're new to CoC or you've been involved in your local CoC for a while, this session will provide background on the basics of CoC requirements, how and why you should be involved, and what impacts we can make together when you engage with CoC as a community member, agency staff person, or CoC program grantee. Attendees will also be invited to ask questions and talk with CoC Coordinators from across the state about local CoC involvement.

Jennifer Prins, River Valley Continuum of Care; Loni Aadalen, Ramsey Continuum of Care Coordinator; Carla Solem, West Central Minnesota Continuum of Care Coordinator

Empowering Youth Leadership Models to Address Homelessness and Social Injustice

Room: Riverview Room B

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Youth who have lived experience of homelessness are often times overlooked for leadership opportunities. This workshop will give participants a chance to see how a youth and adult led nonprofit, The Link, empowers youth leaders in leading the organization's work along with working on local, state and national initiatives to reduce and end youth homelessness. The workshop will be led by youth and adult leaders from The Link.

Beth Holger, The Link; James Lewis, The Link

Insights from Envision Community: Co-designing with Patients for Health Equity

Room: Riverview Room C1

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

This session draws upon our experience as human centered designers collaborating with people experiencing homelessness within a safety-net innovation center. It will provide an overview of Envision Community, an extremely affordable housing solution designed to build health equity, improve health outcomes, and decrease healthcare costs. This talk will be co-presented by designers at Upstream Health Innovations as well as members of Street Voices of Change (an advocacy group of individuals who are or have experienced housing instability and instrumental partners in this work.) This talk will emphasize:

- Why we need to focus on health equity to provide better healthcare care
- The connection between addressing the social determinants of health and our patients achieving their full health potential
- Why housing alone is not enough to address homelessness and why a self-managed intentional community builds a shared sense of purpose and social cohesion.
- how we've addressed obstacles and resistance associated with tackling a longer-term systemic challenge within a resource-constrained environment
- How to truly bring our patients and community partners to the innovation table as teammates

Attendees will leave with:

- * Inspiration to consider and address health equity / social determinants of health within their work
- * A specific example of how core elements of the HCD process can be applied to address health equity
- * Ideas on how to deal with challenges when working on systemic social issues that impact health

Rome Daring, Street Voices for Change; Dewayne Parker, Street Voices for Change; Junail Anderson, Street Voices for Change; Sherry Shannon, Street Voices for Change; Freddy Toran; Street Voices for Change; William Walsh, Hennepin Healthcare's Upstream Health Innovations

Mile in My Shoes: running together to change perceptions and change lives

Room: Riverview Room C2

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Improving the narrative about homelessness begins with connection to one another: in stories, in person, in conversation. For many Minnesotans, their contact with someone experiencing homelessness or recently released from incarceration has been through acts of charity. Mile in My Shoes (MiMS) brings people from diverse backgrounds together through the power of running. With teams at emergency shelters and transitional housing for men and women re-entering the community from incarceration, our teams of Resident Members and volunteer Run Mentors have run thousands of miles side by side, completing races from one mile to a marathon(!) in pursuit of our vision: to build bonds, boost wellness, and spark social action by bringing the power of running to people experiencing homelessness and other barriers. In this feel good workshop, MiMS participants will share the development of its program since 2014 and how it impacts the wellbeing of all participants. MiMS goals include building healthy relationships to shift perceptions of homelessness, increase positive social interactions, create lifelong runners, increase leadership skills and self-efficacy and expand awareness and participation in political and personal advocacy for people experiencing homelessness. Our panel will lead a discussion on how those connected to the housing and homeless community can think of programming that shifts from traditional charity and connects Minnesotans from diverse backgrounds to build our pool of allies in advocating for all Minnesotans to have a place to call home.

Monica Nilsson, Mile in My Shoes

Partnering with Minnesota's Tribal Nations

Room: Riverview Room D1

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

This breakout will include an overview of tribal sovereignty and collaboration, a snapshot of Reservation study results and how study data is used, the development and work of Minnesota's Tribal Collaborative, and leave time for questions and discussion.

Minnesota Tribal Collaborative

Bringing System Support and Services to the Street: A Comprehensive and Collaborative Approach to Street Outreach Services

Room: Riverview Room D2

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Street outreach is effective when it meets people where they are at, providing ongoing client-centered engagement to ensure survival and optimize a person's well-being until they are able to escape homelessness through permanent housing. Using Housing First and Harm Reduction approaches, the St. Stephen's Street Outreach team is able to greatly magnify their impact through deep, street-based, collaborations with other service providers, such as Healthcare for the Homeless, the Hennepin County Homeless Access Team, and the Diversion and Recovery Team, along with other partners. Together, we are able to provide a full suite of supportive services, from health care to county benefits to housing to SUD support, on the street - in real time. This workshop will offer insight into how this collaborative street outreach model was developed, how it operates, and what makes it so effective.

John Tribbett, St. Stephen's Human Services; Casey Holstrom, St. Stephen's Human Services; Molly Dolan, Healthcare for the Homeless

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Breakout II

The Wall of Forgotten Natives: Lessons learned from the Franklin Hiawatha Encampment. Creating a response during Crisis, Chaos, and Conflict

Room: Suite 112

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

In Spring, 2018, a number of tents began to show up along a soundwall on the east side of Highway 55. Though a few tents along the highway was not unusual, by August 2018 over 50 tents were present. The vast majority of the residents were Native American so this community became known as the Franklin/Hiawatha Encampment, or for some, the Wall of Forgotten Natives, and grew to over 300 tents within a short time. Serving as Chair of the Metropolitan Urban Indian

Directors group, the speaker was involved in both the immediate response at the camp, as well as partnering with multi-level governments and diverse coalitions of non-profit, community, and philanthropic partners to develop short-term, mid-term, and long-term solutions to the underlying causes leading to the encampment. The speaker will talk about her experience in the response, including the internal, external, and personal challenges, controlling the competing narratives, and address the lessons learned.

Patina Park, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

Addressing the Elephant in the Room; Understanding Unconscious Bias and how it impacts decision making

Room: Suite 113

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Unconscious Bias is something we all have and it can impact our communication and decision making without us even knowing it. Identifying our own biases and how we can interrupt those biases can be a powerful tool for change. Minnesota has a unique culture and understanding how that culture impacts all we do is critical to creating true access and opportunity for every demographic within our state. Connecting across differences will build stronger and more equitable communities.

Valerie Jensen, Azon Consulting

Trauma Informed Screening for Domestic Abuse and Housing Protections for Survivors

Room: Suite 114

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Best practices for use of trauma informed screening to identify survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking. How effective screening can enhance safety and provide for additional housing protections, reasonable accommodations and address sexual harassment in housing.

Nicole Mourgos, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services; Meghan Maes, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services

Your Cultural Lens: Engaging Communities with Cultural Self-Awareness

Room: Riverview Room A

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Our culture gives us many beliefs and practices that we take for granted. For European Americans, these can become the "norm" that we expect everyone to accept. In this session, we will look at some cultural assumptions that organizations typically operate by, and discuss ways to engage community members in ways that tap into cultural resources.

Janice Barbee, Healing Roots; Sara Axtell, Healing Roots

Reflections from the Field: A Guide to Working with Sexually Exploited Youth

Room: Riverview Room B

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Sexual exploitation is a real and growing problem in Minnesota. Minnesota is considered a national leader in addressing exploitation and trafficking of youth as evidenced by Minnesota's Safe Harbor Law, the Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Sex Trafficking Task Force. As told from the perspective of a survivor of sex trafficking, and a therapist and service provider working in the field, this presentation will illustrate how, despite chances for intervention, service providers can easily fail to identify victimized youth. Sexual exploitation and trafficking can be difficult to detect unless professionals are trained 1) to recognize the signs and 2) on how to interact and engage with potential victims on this sensitive topic. The presentation will use a survivor's personal story as well as additional case examples to reflect on how agency practice can be changed to better meet the needs of victims. This workshop will explore how Olmsted County has responded to the needs of exploitation and trafficking victims and the micro and macro level challenges faced by youth and professionals. Special emphasis will be placed on screening for sexual exploitation through the use of a tool that will be provided to participants. Additionally, participants will receive a case consultation form that promotes rigorous review of case management practices that reflect the added layer of complexity

involved in exploitation cases. Finally, participants will receive resources on nationally recognized “best practices” curriculum for preventing sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Lindsay Arf, Olmsted County; Mollie Kolb, Olmsted County

MN Homeless Study Workshop: Using 2018 Data to Inform Service and Policy Decisions

Room: Riverview Room C1

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

The goal of this workshop is to help stakeholders learn how to use the Minnesota Homeless Study as a source of data to make more informed decisions around serving those experiencing homelessness and creating policy and legislation toward ending homelessness. This workshop will walk through the different types of data that are available from the Minnesota Homeless Study. Participants will engage through activities to learn how to use the data for their own programming, advocacy, strategic planning, and other efforts.

Rebecca Sales, Wilder Research; Stephanie Nelson-Dusek, Wilder Research

You Can't Prevent What You Can't Count: Finding the Homeless in Minnesota's Mortality Data Systems

Room: Riverview Room C2

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

This session will describe the extent to which the homeless are represented in Minnesota Department of Health death data systems, including the CDC-funded Minnesota Violent Death Reporting System (MNVDRS) and the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS). Specifically, this session will explore how different definitions of homeless affect conclusions drawn from the data, and how mortality rates in the homeless compare and contrast with that of the general public. The discussion will conclude with a proposal for a homeless fatality review, based upon findings previous fatality reviews of drug overdose deaths in Minneapolis.

Terra Weins, Minnesota Department of Health

Making your Organization and LGBTQ+ inclusive and Affirming Environment

Room: Riverview Room D1

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Looking for concrete suggestions on how to make your organization and services affirming and inclusive for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ)? Then this is the workshop for you! After setting the stage with some LGBTQ+ basics, this session takes it up a notch by providing attendees with the concrete and tangible tools (you can take with you!) to make striving towards inclusivity a reality in your organization.

Andrea Simonett, MN Dept of Human Services; Annie Wells, St. Stephen's Human Services

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Lunch, Annual Awards Presentation

1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Breakout III

Beyond a Bed: Supporting Informal Hosting Arrangements for Youth Facing Homelessness

Room: Suite 112

Time: 1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

When a young person, for whatever reason, first can't live at home, they typically approach people they already know, staying with extended relatives, the families of friends, or neighbors. These informal networks, which exemplify the belief that a community has a collective responsibility to care for its young people, are especially strong in rural areas, communities of color, and Indian country. Using the Circle of Support approach piloted by Open Doors for Youth in Elk River, we'll learn strategies to stabilize these upstream intergenerational hosting arrangements, which both young people and their adult hosts often find deeply meaningful, but can easily break down due to financial stress, lack of clarity around house rules, and

other issues. Investing in these caring relationships is a cost-effective way to build on existing strengths in communities that often lack access to expensive housing-based solutions for youth facing homelessness.

Jacqueline White, CloseKnit; Cindy Ley, Open Doors for Youth

From Outreach to Housing

Room: Suite 113

Time: 1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This session will focus on the strategies that Street Outreach workers from the Outside-In team utilize to help their clients experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their journey to stable housing. These include: partnering with Coordinated Entry, lowering barriers to engagement, improving communication with enforcement, service coordination registry and weekly housing planning meetings, assessing and addressing gaps in housing readiness.

David Katzenmeyer, People Incorporated/Outside-In; Alan Ostergaard, Radian Health/Outside-In

Identifying the Experience of Homelessness for Individuals in the Corrections System and the Journey to Solutions

Room: Suite 114

Time: 1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Anecdotally, the narrative for an individual who has experienced homelessness more often than not intersects with an experience with incarceration. Within the past few years the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) began the journey to quantify the problem of homelessness and housing stability for individuals on correctional supervision and those discharging from state correctional facilities. Additionally, the DOC has partnered with the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in the engagement of emergency shelter and housing providers in an effort to improve systemic responses to homelessness for this population. Please be prepared to engage in a dynamic solutions focused discussion in an effort to identify innovative strategies to support providers in doing their best work and support public safety by preventing and ending homelessness for individuals who are transitioning from incarceration and those on correctional supervision across the state.

Kate Erickson, Minnesota Department of Corrections; Katelyn Warburton, Minnesota Department of Human Services; Marcel Urman

Solace

Room: Riverview Room B

Time: 1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Solace Apartments in St. Peter is a 30 unit affordable housing development that is 100% permanent supportive Housing with onsite services targeted towards households exiting the criminal justice or chemical dependency treatment systems, aimed at reducing recidivism and reunifying families. This project was born out of a series of relationships and came to fruition because of cross sector planning. These partnerships continue to drive the success of this project.

Jennifer Lamb, Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership; Cassandra Sassenberg, Nicollet County Health and Human Services

Addressing Suicide Risk in Homeless and Veteran Populations- Public Health and Practical Approaches

Room: Riverview Room C1

Time: 1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Suicide is a major public health crisis in the US and the 10th leading cause of death nationally. Research has shown that risk of or current homelessness significantly increases the risk for suicidal behaviors. Among Veterans, the rate for death by suicide is already 22% higher than in the non-Veteran population according to a 2016 VA published comprehensive report, "Suicide Among Veterans and Other Americans 2001-2014", and 50% of those Veterans were not participating in VA healthcare. To address these issues, Minneapolis VA Homeless Program Social Workers have cross trained with our Suicide Prevention team. This presentation will outline the public health approach being used nationally to reduce suicide, review current data, discuss how homelessness impacts risk, and identify unique assessment and safety planning needs of this population.

Kelsey Place, LICSW Minneapolis VA HUD VASH Program; Larisa Braid, LICSW Minneapolis VA HUD VASH Program

How one man's dream to change started in his community and expanded to beyond Mille Lacs Reservation

Room: Riverview Room C2

Time: 1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sober Squad is a recovery community that originated on the Mille Lacs Reservation. One by one, we connect individuals to the hope of recovery. From accompanying people to meetings to Friday night pizza dinners to public parades. The members of Sober Squad are creating recovery in their communities. Through the efforts Sober Squad now has chapters elsewhere beyond Mille Lacs. When people ask us what authentic peer recovery support services are, or what a recovery community organization does, we now respond with two words: Sober Squad. "Never underestimate the power of someone in recovery who wants to give back," said Colin. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, Sober Squad. You are what recovery looks like.

Colin Cash, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Welcome Home! Collaborating across Difference for Equitable Housing and Inclusive Community-Building

Room: Riverview Room D2

Time: 1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The session we are providing tips, tools and techniques for better collaborating across difference to effect meaningful policy and community-based change across the housing continuum. We will explore a range of factors influencing access to affordable housing such as personal and collective identity (race, gender, age, etc.), transportation, employment equity, and childcare — all over a vibrant vegan-to-carnivore feast. During our time together, we will engage in active practices that participants can take back to professional or personal networks for more effective collaboration and strengthening of cooperative relationships for transformative change in housing and community connectedness. Together we can do more!

Marnita Schroedl, Marnita's Table

3:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Breakout IV

Maximizing Landlord Relationships

Room: Suite 112

Time: 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Solid relationships between housing programs and landlords are the key to linking participants to housing. These relationships help to encourage them to take a chance on a participant who has high barriers or prevent a landlord from terminating a participant's lease early. This workshop is a facilitated conversation around how best to connect with rental opportunities and property management. Keith Nance will join Warren Duncan as co-facilitator and will share his extensive experience working with landlords throughout Minnesota for over 20 years. The goal of this workshop is for attendees to better understand the motivation of landlords and adapt aspects of mindful communication and person-centered skills to fit working in the private rental assistance market. The presenters will facilitate a discussion about ideal relationships with landlords, and strategies to improve these relationships to maximize opportunities to work together, as well as provide tips and advice. The conversation will center around cultivating a network of landlords and improving relationships to have a strong partnership. The session will also involve role plays to practice responding to push back from landlords when renting to participants.

Warren Duncan, Hearth Connection; Keith Nance, Ujamaa Place

Criminal Background: How much does it matter to housing success?

Room: Suite 113

Time: 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wilder Research recently completed a collaborative research project with four of Minnesota's leading housing nonprofits, Aeon, Beacon, CommonBond Communities, and Project for Pride in Living. This workshop would review the findings of the research project, review an implemented criminal history matrix to screen more applicants into housing, support services approach to appeals and residency preparation, and have a discussion with the attendees about trends they see and what more we could do to decrease this barrier.

Jessie Hendel, CommonBond Communities; Sarah Koschinska, Project for Pride in Living; Dustin Mackbee, CommonBond Communities; Annie McCabe, CommonBond Communities; Joseph Schmid, CommonBond Communities

Partnering with schools to support children and youth experiencing homelessness

Room: Suite 114

Time: 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Children and youth experiencing homelessness have unique needs and rights whether they are with a caregiver or on their own. And children who experience homelessness are more likely to experience it again as adults. School staff and homeless programs are tasked with preventing and ending homelessness for children and families, but they have limited resources to assist students and families to connect to resources and find or keep stable housing. When schools and homeless service programs work together, however, children and youth (and their families) have a chance to move more quickly to stable housing and maintain school and social connections that children need. This session explores the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness, and shares some ways that local schools and homeless service programs can begin to work together more intentionally to end homelessness for children and families.

Jennifer Prins, River Valleys CoC; Melissa Brandt, Rochester Public Schools

Extending Power Sharing into Housing and Homeless Intervention Practices

Room: Riverview Room A

Time: 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Solving homelessness through a power sharing approach optimizes self-determination of our participants, strengthens the long-term results of intervention work, and leads towards increased client engagement that is intrinsically motivated. Together we will explore the core components of power sharing that are researched based. Enrich evidence based practices through utilization of Participant Advisory Members in program development and service delivery. The goal of power sharing is achieving collective growth and increased collaboration to build community. This dynamic approach turns the deficiency based work of intervention right side up in strength based engagement that promotes autonomy, competence and relatedness. Join us for an interactive session that will refresh the way we think about and approach intervention work as community members and practitioners.

Jennifer Horton, The Link; 2 Youth Advisory Members and 2 Case Management Staff, The Link

Navigating the Domestic Violence Housing Experience through the Lens of an Immigrant Survivor

Room: Riverview Room B

Time: 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Standpoint is a statewide non-profit whose mission is to promote justice for domestic and sexual violence victims. This workshop is being led by Standpoint attorney, Rachel Kohler, and advocate, Traci Thomas-Card, who will be facilitating an interactive exercise about how and why immigrant survivors of domestic violence might make certain choices in response to the abuse they've experienced—especially in relation to housing. This workshop hopes to provide participants with a better understanding of the sometimes hidden reasons a survivor might choose to respond to abuse in a particular way.

Rachel Kohler, Standpoint; Traci Thomas-Card, Standpoint

Supporting young children in accessing early care and education

Room: Riverview Room C1

Time: 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Participants will learn about two state programs for young children. These programs increase the opportunity to attend a quality early care and education program that best fits their family's needs while experiencing housing insecurity. Goals of the session include: 1. Learn about changes to the child care assistance program and how to help families get assistance. 2.

Learn about early learning scholarships and how they can be layered with other funding sources, including child care assistance to maximize access. 3. Provide feedback on possible enhancements and changes that help mitigate barriers to accessing child care assistance for families experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness.

Stacia Rosas, MN Department of Human Services; Sandy Myers, MN Department of Education; Akemi Mechtel, MN Department of Human Services; Kisha Dixon, Department of Human Services

Best Practices Working with Safe Harbor Youth

Room: Riverview Room C2

Time: 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The state of Minnesota passed the Safe Harbor law back in 2011, protecting youth under the age of 18 from being charged with participating in prostitution. Since then Minnesota has implemented the No Wrong Door Model and worked to raise awareness of this issue across the state in grand strides. We aim to educate on these laws, changes in mandated reporting, and help professionals understand not only how to work with these youth, but also how to first identify someone involved in commercial sexual exploitation. We will look at the issue from a dual perspective, utilizing both law enforcement and advocacy to showcase best practices for professionals.

Kate LePage, Lutheran Social Services; Nick Riba, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

How proactive culturally capable mental health services meet the challenges of communities of color experiencing housing and economic insecurity and the change makers that serve them

Room: Riverview Room D1

Time: 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This workshop will share emerging research on the benefits of proactive culturally capable mental health services for people experiencing housing and economic insecurity. It will take a deeper dive on research that shows that communities of color are more likely to receive corrective, punitive responses to behaviors that may be better addressed by mental health services. Services which this community either has limited access to and or a reluctance to use. Come learn about life coaching and how this proactive mental health model resonates with communities of color and has been able to reduce the stigma of receiving mental health services. Change makers will also have an opportunity to develop their own professional capacity to manage stress and trauma and learn valuable self-care skills.

Carl Young, Increasing Life Chances 4 You; Linda Roberts, Increasing Life Chances 4 You

Centering Power in Community to Advance Intersectional Solutions

Room: Riverview Room D2

Time: 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Only by centering power in community can we get to the root cause of intersectional issues such as food and housing and move toward equitable, just solutions for all of us. We'll start by sharing some inspirational stories from the food justice movement emerging across Minnesota. You'll learn how communities have been able to weave their unique, community-based approaches with existing systems to build power and advance change. Building on these examples from the food justice movement and attendee knowledge of the affordable housing landscape, we'll complete a power mapping exercise to identify pathways to building power together. This session will serve as a catalyst for working across focus areas, which will continue at a food access gathering later this fall where a similar session is planned, and will then be shared back with all interested in further collaboration.

Leah Gardner, Hunger Solutions; PH Copeland

PERFORMANCE: A Prairie Homeless Companion

Room: Arena

Time: 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

We know people don't fit into just one box-- housing and food are basic needs we all share. As we come to understand root causes of current inequities, we can create a common vision and move towards collective action. This session will be a chance for all of us to identify what we know and how we can better work across focus areas.

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – *MCH Networking and Social Hour at Twigs Tavern and Grille*

Wednesday, September 18

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Breakout V

Current Trends in Affordable Housing Research

Room: Suite 112

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

MHP will give an overview of research trends in affordable housing, and provide insights on those trends. With research expertise on NOAH, evictions, housing supply and more, MHP will give a high-level view of how we use research in the affordable housing sector and what that research tells us.

Gabriela Norton, Minnesota Housing Partnership

Overview of key findings from the 2018 Homeless Study: discussion of characteristics, trends, and what's new

Room: Suite 113

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

On October 25, 2018, Wilder Research and its partners conducted 4,279 face-to-face interviews with adults and unaccompanied youth in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, transitional housing, and in non-shelter locations such as encampments, hot-meal programs, and other drop-in service sites. This presentation will highlight the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness on that day, as well as important trends that Wilder Research has seen over the course of conducting the Minnesota Homeless Study.

Michelle Gerrard, Wilder Research; Brian Pittman, Wilder Research

Connecting Homelessness and Food Justice: Strategies for improving food security and housing security through interconnected strategies

Room: Suite 114

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Homelessness and food insecurity are problems commonly faced by the most marginalized members of our community. They are also problems often solved using temporary band-aids -- like food shelves and homeless shelters -- as opposed to more sustainable solutions. This sessions explores ways in which these problems are being addressed using interconnected approaches that improve both housing and food security.

Adam Pine, University of Minnesota Duluth

Leveraging Earned Media for Advocacy

Room: Riverview Room A

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Learn how leveraging earned media can help you tell your story and encourage others to pay attention and act.

Amanda Horner, Catholic Charities and Homes for All Communications Co-Chair

Changing how homeless families are served in Dakota County – Blending private and public funding for diversion, prevention and landlord engagement

Room: Riverview Room B

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Dakota County recently redesigned how it serves homeless families in response to success from two recent grants from the Pohlad Family Foundation. These grants supported creation of new diversion and intensive support program for families on the shelter waitlist, which included two new Housing Social Workers and funding for a landlord risk fund paired with a new County funded Landlord Engagement position. Faced with a growing family shelter waitlist and extremely tight rental market, this targeted approach to support homeless families has been successful in diverting families from shelter and moving people more quickly from homelessness to housing. Learning from this experience, along with capacity gained through the grants, we refocused staff on prevention and diversion rather than past practice of supporting families while in shelter. By utilizing landlord engagement to help identify and connect families to financial and service needs early, we have also been able to prevent homelessness with quick intervention and preserve landlord relationships. Throughout these grants, we have been tracking data carefully and have seen improvements in diversion from shelter, reducing days on the shelter waitlist and increased housing stability. Challenges continue due to the lack of rental assistance and affordable rental units to meet the needs of homeless families with barriers. Our presentation will discuss our experiences with both successes and challenges.

Terri Lazaretti, Dakota County ; Madeline Kastler

How Your Congressional Office Can Help With Housing

Room: Riverview Room C1

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

This session will involve a discussion focused on the ways in which Senator Smith's office can help you with housing issues and a brief update on federal housing work.

Katie Kottenbrock, U.S. Senate; Osman Ahmed, U.S. Senate

Changing Outcomes for Child Welfare Involved Families who are Housing Unstable

Room: Riverview Room C2

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Lack of stable housing is often a precipitating factor for a family's involvement with the child welfare system, a significant impediment to ending a family's involvement, and a threat to child well-being. As many as 30% of children in foster care are primarily there due to a lack of housing, with homelessness or lack of stable housing as the most frequently cited barrier to reunification for families where children have been placed in out-of-home care. Children and youth who have a reliable place to call home spend fewer days in foster care, experience a reduction in subsequent abuse and neglect cases, and increase their school attendance. Families are more likely to remain stably housed over time and children flourish in their development and are healthy later in life. Far too often, the child welfare and homeless and housing sectors don't connect or partner effectively despite working with many of the same families. CSH has begun tackling this divide at a national and local level to increase housing options and supports for the families who need it the most. Come hear about current strategies to connect across systems to stabilize child welfare involved families across the State, including work we are doing in partnership with Minneapolis Public Housing Authority and Hennepin County.

Leah Lindstrom Rhea, CSH; TBD

Policy Practice Among NASW-MN Members

Room: Riverview Room D1

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Past research reinforces limited engagement in policy practice from licensed social workers both nationally and cross-nationally. This study looks into policy practice among NASW-MN members to determine predictors, barriers, and motivators for policy practice. A Political Activities Scale will determine which activities members are currently engaged in. While Verba and colleague's Civic Voluntarism Model is used to predict policy practice by measure of social worker resources, engagement, and recruitment networks.

Magdalena Unger, Augsburg University

Working together and working differently with Public Housing Authorities to create change and increase housing stability for the lowest-income Minnesotans

Room: Riverview Room D2**Time: 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.**

Beginning in September 2018, CSH pulled together a Voucher Utilization Work Group made up of Housing Authorities, Counties, Service Providers, Developers, Minnesota Housing and HUD to focus on strategies to increase Housing Choice Voucher utilization in the 7-county Twin Cities metro area. The 11 Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) in the 7 county metropolitan area make up the largest percentage of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) in the State. Increasing the utilization rate of these 11 PHAs will reduce the numbers of Minnesotans unstably housed and homeless, while positioning the region to draw down more federal dollars to house even more Minnesotans. This Voucher Utilization Work Group combined all of their collective knowledge with data, and best practices to co-create a work plan that they have been pursuing over the past year. The work plan outlines activities that will advance work in 5 main areas: 1. Close the gap between housing, child welfare and supports 2. Respond to the Issue of Low Vacancies and High Rent 3. Increase the Capacity of Housing Search Experts in the Field 4. Increase Landlord Engagement and Retention and Address Voucher Stigma 5. Create solutions to house those with eviction histories, criminal histories and bad credit Come hear from Voucher Utilization work group members on what they have accomplished so far, what they've learned along the way, and strategies you can move forward in your own communities to change the discussion and create new partnerships to increase housing stability in your region.

Amy Stetzel (CSH); Bryan Hartman (Bloomington HRA); Tina Johnson (MPHA); Brandon Crow (MPHA); Julie Grothe (Guild Inc.), Sue Speakman Gomez (HousingLink), Nicole Randall (St. Louis Park HRA), Eric Gustafson (Family Housing Fund).

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. - Keynote Presentation by Theater of Public Policy in the Arena

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. - Lunch in the Arena

2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Breakout VI**Aging in Community: The Impact of Elder Homelessness****Room: Suite 112****Time: 2:00 p.m. -3:15 p.m.**

Older adults experiencing homelessness face a host of needs and challenges unique to this population, and are one of the fastest growing groups of people who are homeless. They are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, have higher medical needs, and often have lower income than others experiencing homelessness. Catholic Charities' Homeless Elders program has been serving elders experiencing homelessness for over a decade, assisting our participants with obtaining housing, benefits, and stability. In 2017, Catholic Charities received a Live Well at Home grant from DHS to expand our small program to increase our impact in the community. We hope to share the knowledge and expertise of our staff with others who can also have an impact on our homeless elders in the community. This presentation will cover the issues of poverty and aging in place which includes the reality of senior homelessness. There are many challenges in finding appropriate housing options, as well as lessons learned by our Homeless Elders program from the Live Well at Home grant activities.

Melea Blanchard, Catholic Charities

Creating Lasting Change and Ending Homelessness with Community Engagement - Lessons from Heading Home Dakota**Room: Suite 113****Time: 2:00 p.m. -3:15 p.m.**

Many acknowledge community engagement is important, however what does it take to actually successfully build meaningful community engagement and create lasting change? Heading Home Dakota has had an active Community Engagement workgroup, led by volunteers and supported by Dakota County staff. This partnership has been successful in creating meaningful engagement opportunities and implementing community projects focused on homelessness. In this session, we will talk about our experiences in Dakota County with a variety of topics such as volunteer led meetings, special events, donation drives, recruiting volunteers for projects such as homeless surveys and supporting the development of emergency shelter and multi-family developments. We will also include time to discuss challenges with attendees.

Rebecca Bowers, Dakota County; Jean MacFarland, Chair, Heading Home Dakota Community Engagement

Homework Starts with Home: Building Collaborations to End Student Homelessness

Room: Suite 114

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Come to this session to learn more about Homework Starts with Home, a new collaborative approach for solving student homelessness by creating partnerships among housing and homeless service organizations, local governments, and schools. This session will share what we know about student homelessness, how five communities are working to address it, and what opportunities exist to apply this approach more broadly. Every student needs a home to do their homework!

Eric Grumdahl, Minnesota Office to Prevent and End Homelessness

Developing Grant Proposals that Make Our Programs Shine - Improving the Competitiveness of Rural Programs

Room: Riverview Room A

Time: 2:00 p.m. -3:15 p.m.

Smaller rural homeless programs don't always shine when compared to larger homeless programs in the State. There are basic strategies that all staff (and volunteers) who write grants for homeless programs can use to improve the quality of their proposals so that program excellence shines. Becky recently reviewed ESG proposals for the State and noted some very basic improvements that every grantwriter can implement. Join Becky in this session to learn her top 6 grantwriting tips, learn from other providers, and share your ideas.

Becky Schuller, NW Minn Continuum of Care

It's OK To Call Us Queer And Other Things To Know About Us

Room: Riverview Room B

Time: 2:00 p.m. -3:15 p.m.

This presentation is part of educational outreach done by Lutheran Social Service's "Together for Youth"---a social support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, two spirit and allied youths. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the challenges LGBTQ+ people face, from living life in the closet to being out and proud. In addition to personal stories, topics covered may include presumed heterosexuality, heterosexual and cisgender privilege, homophobia and transphobia. Micro-aggressions and micro-affirmations will be covered as well as the important role of allies. Emphasis will be placed upon transgender identities (binary and non-binary), policy protections and more considerate workplace practices.

Kathy Hermes, Lutheran Social Service

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - *Heading Home Together Leadership Circle Meeting in Suite 112*