

At Home in Medicine Hat: People, Planning, Policy & Politics

AUMA Annual Convention

October 5, 2016

Edmonton, AB



The Vantage Point :

The Medicine Hat Community Housing Society

1. Not-for-Profit + Registered Charity

2. 2 Core Business Functions:

- Housing Management Body (HMB)
- Community Based Organization/CE

3. Funding Investments:

- HMB – AB Seniors and Housing
- CBO/CE – Provincial: AB Human Services **\$2.9M**
 - Federal: HPS **\$320K**

4. The Reach:

- At Home in Medicine Hat: Our Plan to End Homelessness
- Reducing the Cost of Poverty in Medicine Hat
- Affordable Housing Plan

Ending Homelessness

Ending homelessness in Medicine Hat means that no one in our community will have to live in emergency shelters or sleep rough for more than **10 days** before they have access to stable housing and the supports they need to maintain it.

- 1. System Planning**
- 2. Housing and Supports**
- 3. Systems Planning and Prevention**
- 4. Data and Research**
- 5. Leadership and Sustainability**

Housing First –by the Numbers

From Program Inception: April 1, 2009 – September 1, 2016	
<i>*Numbers include 2 Housing First Teams and 1 Rapid Re-Housing Team unless otherwise specified</i>	
Total Housed in Period	1039
Total Individuals Housed in a Period	730
Total Dependents Housed (children)	309
Demographics of Participants Housed in Period**	
Gender	Women: 368 (50%) Men: 358 (49%)
Ethnicity	Caucasian: 532 (73%) Aboriginal: 84 (12%) Other: 54 (0.7%)
Age	<18: 5 (0.7%) 18-24: 158 (22%) 25-35: 218 (30%) 36-50: 233 (32%) 51-65: 109 (15%) 65+: 7 (0.10%)
Chronically Homeless participants housed in period	246 (34%)
Episodically Homeless Participants housed in period	484 (66%)
Veterans	18 (0.3%)
Outcomes	
Provincial Retention Rate Calculation <i>% participants served in period who have successfully exited the program or remain housed as program participants. Calculation excludes exits due to death</i>	75%
Exits in Period	621
Successful Exits in Period	427
Continuing Participants	109

System Utilization

1. It works. We have the **data** to back it.
2. Shelter usage and rough sleeping has gone down significantly over the past 6 years.
3. 75% of the service participants successfully exit the program and maintain their housing stability.

Utilization of Public Systems in Housing First (2009-2016) N=705

	Intake	In Program	Estimated Reduction
Days in Hospital	5,989	4,003	-33%
EMS Interactions	654	625	-4%
ER Use	1,734	1,472	-15%
Days in Jail	11,294	3,050	-73%
Police Interactions	2,160	2,851	+32%
Court Appearances	1,050	1,156	+10%

Note: The data represents 100% of adults housed through the Housing First programs and who have exited the program (successfully and unsuccessfully) and those who remain in program. Assessments are completed at with each adult at 3 month intervals and spans the duration of time in program.

Elements for Success

- 1. Local/Provincial/Federal Leadership and Investments**
- 2. 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness: the Role of Community Based Organizations (CBO) and/or Community Entities (CE)**
- 3. Strategic Areas of Investments**
- 4. Flexibility and Responsiveness to Community Need (versus reactive)**
- 5. Centralized or Coordinated Intake Processes**
- 6. Integration**
- 7. Ego** (Kindly place it at the door, preferable when you walk into a room.)

Contact Info:

Jaime Rogers

Manager

Homeless & Housing Development Dep't
Medicine Hat Community Housing Society

T: 403-528-5183

C: 403-928-1714

jrogers@mhchs.ca

www.mhchs.ca

[@endhomelessness](#)

**“If you want to be innovative, you
have to be prepared to fail.”** Stein.

