



Homebase

ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS

Innovations and Resources

**IMPROVING HOUSING ACCESS
FOR PEOPLE IMPACTED BY
THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 | 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM PDT

LOGISTICS FOR THE DAY

Participation

- Find closed captioning
- Default to microphone off
- Take a break if you need one
 - Ask for help

Convening Resources

- Will send recording
- Will send attendee list

Feedback

- Feedback form
- Email anytime
clsi@homebaseccc.org



Chat



Share Screen



Record



Live Transcript



Reactions



More

ABOUT HOMEBASE

Homebase is

- A public policy nonprofit working at the national, state, and local level
 - To build community capacity to reduce poverty and end homelessness

We launched our Criminal Legal System Initiative in 2019

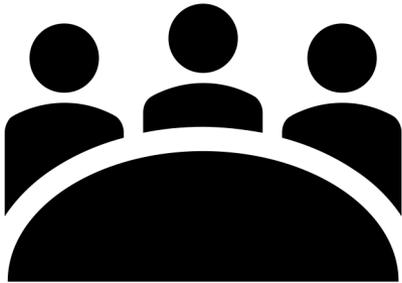
- We provide our services to criminal legal system and housing/homelessness system partners
 - To improve housing access and outcomes for people impacted by the criminal legal system.

A GLANCE AROUND THE ROOM

- Overwhelming interest in the subject
- Across the country, California, and stakeholder spectrum
- Decades of lived and professional experience to learn from and be inspired by



AGENDA



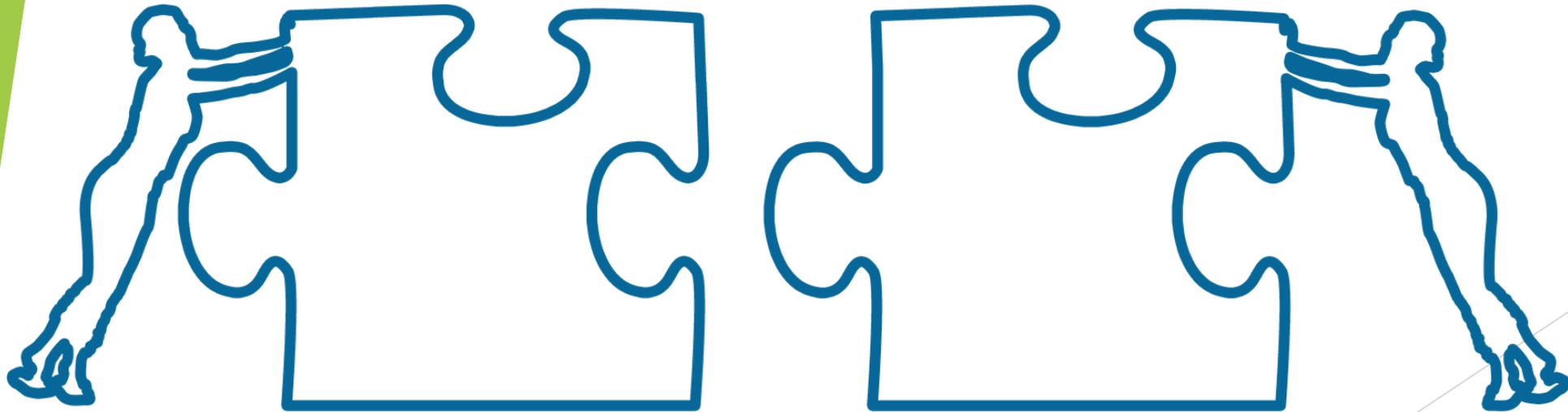
- Introductory Remarks
- Panel One: Innovations
 - Q&A
- Short Break ---
- Panel Two: Resources
 - Q&A
- Breakout Work
 - Facilitated and Collaborative Activity
 - Produce Your Action “Goodie Bag”

COMMITMENTS FOR THE DAY

- Respect thoughts and opinions, even when different from our own
- Work together to ensure the event stays on track and on time
- Utilize resources made available during and after the convening to follow up on ideas or questions
- Be thoughtful around language choices
(e.g., person-first language, use of acronyms, assumptions of knowledge)



Why are we here?



Starting Over

- ▶ Starting Over helps some of the county's most vulnerable populations by addressing homelessness, recidivism, and reentry.
- ▶ Starting Over helps homeless men, women and children transition from homelessness — and the often-associated cycles of poverty, drug abuse, mental illness, and recidivism — through education, empowerment, peer support, and civic engagement,
- ▶ Starting Over has helped over 900 men, women, and families since it started. 79% of the people who have gone through Starting Over's transitional program remain housed 1 year after exiting the program.





▶ Poll

Observations

- Convictions and Evictions Impact Some of our Most Vulnerable Families
- Public Safety Demands Housing
- Public Safety is more than Law Enforcement
- Housing Policies are Value Statements

Resources and References

https://www.acslaw.org/issue_brief/briefs-landing/racial-exclusion-through-crime-free-housing-ordinances-2/

<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/09060720/CriminalRecords-report2.pdf>

<https://eji.org/news/half-of-americans-have-family-members-who-have-been-incarcerated/>

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/research/families/>

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/51bb74b8e4b0139570ddf020/t/5e41932d16c3c736370cd9c2/1581355822385/2020_CNA_Incarcerated_Adults_Dependent_Children.pdf

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/12/how-families-pay-the-never-ending-price-of-a-criminal-record/433641/>

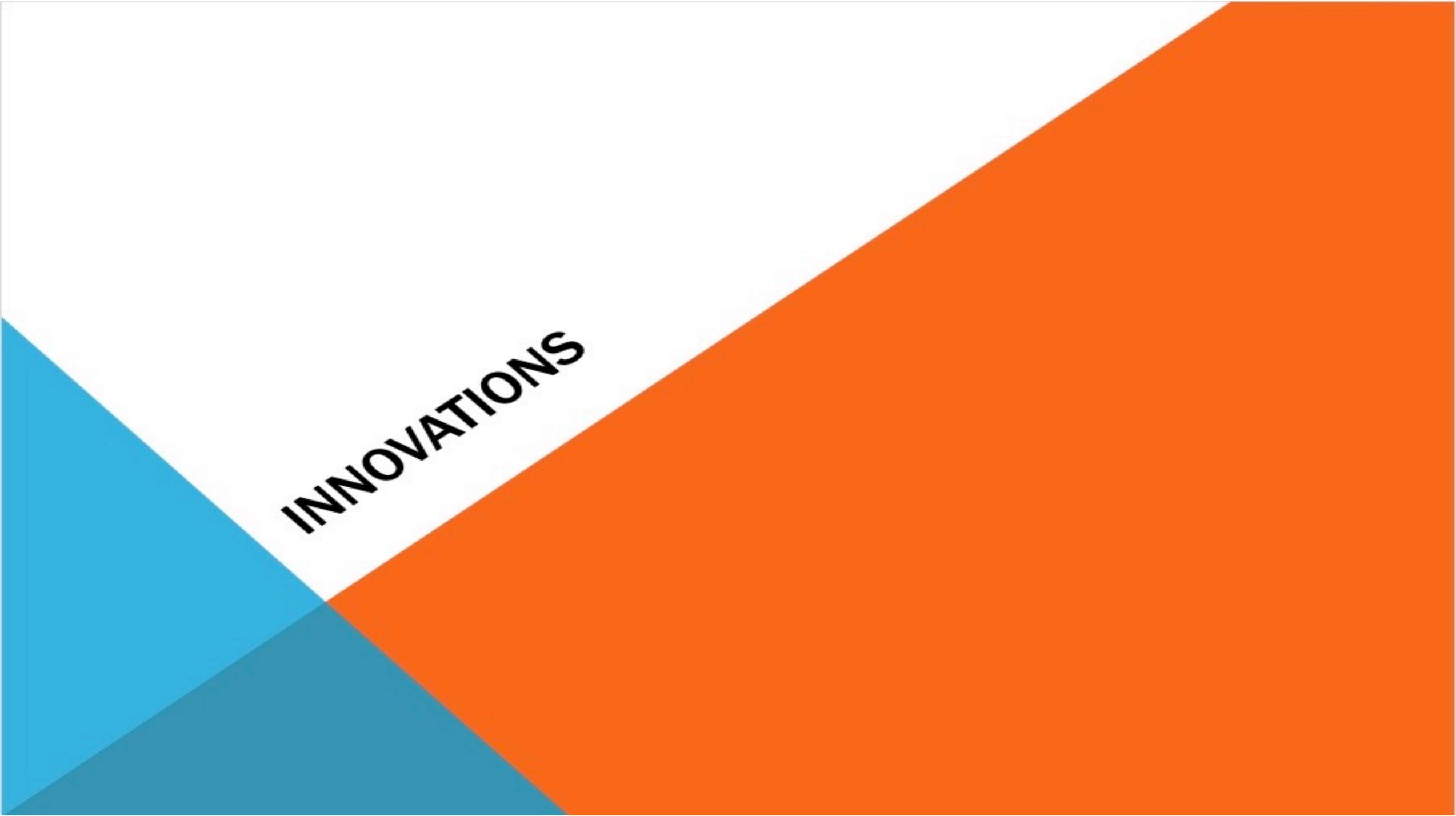
<http://www.crime-free-association.org/multi-housing.htm>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/03/15/post-prison-people-just-want-normal-things-americans-say-thats-too-much-expect/>

Safe Housing Network:

<https://anewwayoflife.org/safe-housing-network/>

Department of Fair Employment and Housing: <https://www.dfeh.ca.gov/>

The background consists of several geometric shapes. A large white triangle is in the top-left. A large orange triangle is in the bottom-right. A blue triangle is in the bottom-left, overlapping with a darker blue triangle. The word 'INNOVATIONS' is written in black, bold, uppercase letters, slanted upwards from left to right, positioned in the white area.

INNOVATIONS

The Homecoming Project

Aishatu Yusuf, Director of Innovation Programs
Terah Lawyer, Program Manager

IMPACT/JUSTICE

A National Innovation and Research Center

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The Problem

Poor Access to Housing for Parolees

Lack of Individualized Care

Increased Risk of Homelessness

Lack of Supportive Reentry Systems

The Homecoming Project

Six months of housing in Host Home
Community Navigator/Case Management
Ongoing program support
Cell phone/Chromebook
Care Packages (food, gift cards, hygiene)
COVID-19 PPE supplies/Testing

Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ CDCR Risk Assessment Tools - Security Level Reduction
- ▶ Sustained Rehabilitation Efforts
- ▶ Eagerness to Lead Productive Lives
- ▶ Transparency of Background Factors
- ▶ Served/Sentenced to 10 years or more
- ▶ Paroling to Alameda County/Contra Costa County
- ▶ No prior sex offense charges

Homecoming Scaling

- ▶ Scaling the Program
 - ▶ New Funding = Growing Pains
 - ▶ Hiring & training new staff
 - ▶ Executing strategic plans
- ▶ Entering Contra Costa County
 - ▶ Cultivating key partnerships
 - ▶ Establishing roots in new county
- ▶ Building a toolkit



San José State University Service Navigation: Mentoring Program

Victoria Kirschner, Lead Mentor
victoria.kirschner@sjsu.edu



Mentoring Program Mission Goal

Peer mentors assist clients in navigating and accessing available resources in the Adult Reentry Network and larger community and by extension, facilitate record expungement and reentry into the community and the attainment of self-sufficiency.



After the mentoring program stabilizes people, they are referred to the Record Clearance Project.

Mentoring Program Overview

Who staffs the program?

- Mentors who have gone through the expungement process themselves

How do people connect with mentors?

- Mentors meet clients in jail and guide them from custody by creating a post-release plan to include immediate needs
- Mentors also work with people who have been released within the past 30 days through the County's Reentry Resource Center (our funder).

Our mentors help clients obtain virtually any resource they need to be successful in reentry.



Our Focus on Housing



We help connect our clients to a wide range of housing programs, including:

- Blackbird House Respite
- Sober Living Environments
 - Our program pays client rent using a step-down model
- Emergency shelters
- Residential treatment programs
- Permanent housing (ex. Section 8 and other voucher programs)



We also use our stabilization assessment plans to guide and support our clients as they achieve housing goals.

Program Challenges & Strengths

Challenges

- Client's trauma from incarceration
- Helping clients build self-esteem
- Finding housing programs for people of all genders
- Finding housing for people on 290 registry

Strengths

- Mentors build unique trust as non-clinicians
- RCP graduates can later be employed as peer mentors
- Our relationship with San Jose State University and students
- Our supportive team members remind us to take care of ourselves as well!

Stepping Up: The Impact of a Good Release

- Kathy Myers, Reentry Program Coordinator – Stepping Up
 - Kathy.Myers@SDSheriff.org
 - 619-258-3239
- San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Supporting Individual Transitions (SIT)

Top 106 List



811 contacts

55% Agreed to Services

48 off the Top 100 List

Coordinated Program Release

Who needs to be involved?

- Reentry Services Division
- Inmate Processing Division
- Medical Services Division
- Providers
- Clients

San Diego County Sheriff's Dept. – Reentry Services Division

Coordinated Program Release

INDIVIDUAL BEING RELEASED

<i>Last Name, First Name</i>	Smith, John
<i>Booking # :</i>	12345678
<i>DOB:</i>	1/1/1980
<i>Date and time of pick-up:</i>	March 31, 2021
<i>CVS location for Rx pick-up:</i>	Pharmacy at 1st and J Street
<i>Client destination:</i>	Mary's recovery program

STAFF PERSON PICKING UP

<i>Agency Name:</i>	Drug Court - MHS
<i>Staff person assigned for pick-up:</i>	Brian Jones
<i>Cell phone of person above:</i>	619-222-2253
<i>Facility:</i>	San Diego Central Jail

Submit

Coordinated
Program
Release Form

What we've learned

- Humanize the process
- If you were given this problem, how would you solve it?
- Start small
- Get a new mailbox and cell phone
- Funding



RESOURCES

Housing First, Jail as a Last Resort

Building bridges from custody to community through the
Safety + Justice Challenge in San Francisco

Homebase Criminal Justice Convening
March 30, 2021



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

About the Safety + Justice Challenge

- A national effort funded by the MacArthur Foundation to reduce the misuse and overuse of jails
- SJC partners take steps to safely and sustainably reduce the jail population and eliminate racial disparities
- SF SJC partners facilitated the public process related to the closure of a local jail in fall 2020

Local Partners:

The Superior Court,
Sheriff's Office,
Public Health Dept.,
Adult Probation Dept.,
Public Defender's Office,
District Attorney's Office,
Community Stakeholders
representing the SF Pretrial
Diversion Project, Family
Violence Council and
Reentry Council

San Francisco SJC Strategies

- **Lead with Race**

Develop new programs and training to address drivers of disparities.
- **Sustain Shared Focus**

Bring partners together to review jail trends and specific cases.
- **Improve Case Processing**

Reduce delays that contribute to lengthy jail stays.
- **Increase Healthy Connections**

Strengthen partnerships with behavioral health and housing.
- **Use Data to Drive Decisions**

Develop strong internal and public data tools to understand progress.

Why talk about housing?

- **The need is great.** Housing is a critical need for many, many people involved in the justice system. Over 30% of people in jail locally identify as unhoused.
- **Housing = public health = public safety.** Addressing the housing needs of people who interact with the justice system is essential in increasing public safety and public health for all San Franciscans.
- **Housing and care first, jail as a last resort.** Partners understand that it is most effective to meet housing and/or behavioral health needs with housing and/or behavioral health supports.
- **Housing can interrupt jail...jail interrupts housing.** Housing helps people find stability and exit the justice system. System interaction often causes issues with finding and keeping stable housing.

But entering the conversation is daunting...

The problem is
SO BIG.

The system is SO
complex...

And we don't
speak the same
language.

NATION

**San Francisco is losing residents
because it's too expensive for nearly
everyone**

Marco della Cava USA TODAY

**How California
America's Housing Market
Nightmare**

"What do you mean,
my client in jail
doesn't count as
homeless?"

Coordinated entry?
Housing referral
status? Problem-
solving status?

+

○

So, what
are you
going to do
about it?

●

First, get some perspective.



Second, try something – and bring something



- Decided to try to build a stronger bridge between systems
- Worked with local funder, community organization, criminal justice partners
- Supplemented with grant funds
- Worked with existing resources and systems
- Used collaborative spaces to problem-solve

And find some good translators...



- Build relationships with people and organizations that could connect across systems
- Provide training and TA to justice system partners/community providers to speak “housing”
- Bring groups of stakeholders into conversation
- Directly involve people with experience in both systems
- Dig deeper into the data across systems

What have we learned so far?

- **Housing can be enough.** Housing by itself can be all that is needed, as well as the base from which people can access other needed supports.
- **Support matters.** San Francisco needs a diverse portfolio of housing options for people leaving custody, and an array of coordinated wraparound services such as case management and mental health support.
- **More than a bed.** Bridge housing for people leaving custody must be age/gender/culturally responsive, meet the needs of single parents, high quality and designed to reduce isolation.
- **Partnerships are everything.** Strong relationships and communication allow partners to honestly address challenges and solve problems collaboratively.

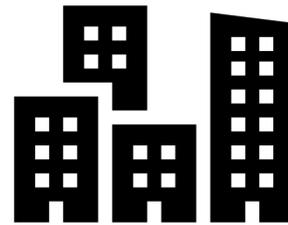
Where next?

- **Bridges must lead somewhere.** Bridge housing and mental health support must lead to subsidized long-term housing and mental health support, for life if needed.
- **Identify and connect.** We have more work to do to ensure that people eligible for long-term housing resources are identified when they come into custody and connected to resources.
- **Credibility matters.** Criminal Justice partners must have confidence in bridge housing supports. And we need to embed peer professionals who understand the justice system for participants to trust programs.
- **Try and try again.** Successfully connecting people to housing benefits from a harm reduction approach, with clear guidelines and an understanding that set-backs are expected.
- **Diversify funding.** Foundation funding can play a critical role in pilot efforts. To sustain efforts, San Francisco must leverage multiple funding sources from housing and the justice system.

Be bold.

There isn't a better time or another option. Though the barriers are real and multiple, we can (and must) build pathways for people in custody to gain housing stability.

Housing = public health = public safety.



THANK YOU!

Josie Halpern-Finnerty

Email: Josie.halpern-finnerty@sfgov.org



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



Housing & Employment: Reentry Program

Jaqueline C. Ramirez, Director Housing & Employment





Vision and Mission

The LifeMoves vision is a community where all of our neighbors have a home.

To achieve this, our mission is to provide interim housing and supportive services for homeless families and individuals in Silicon Valley to rapidly return to stable housing and achieve long-term self-sufficiency.

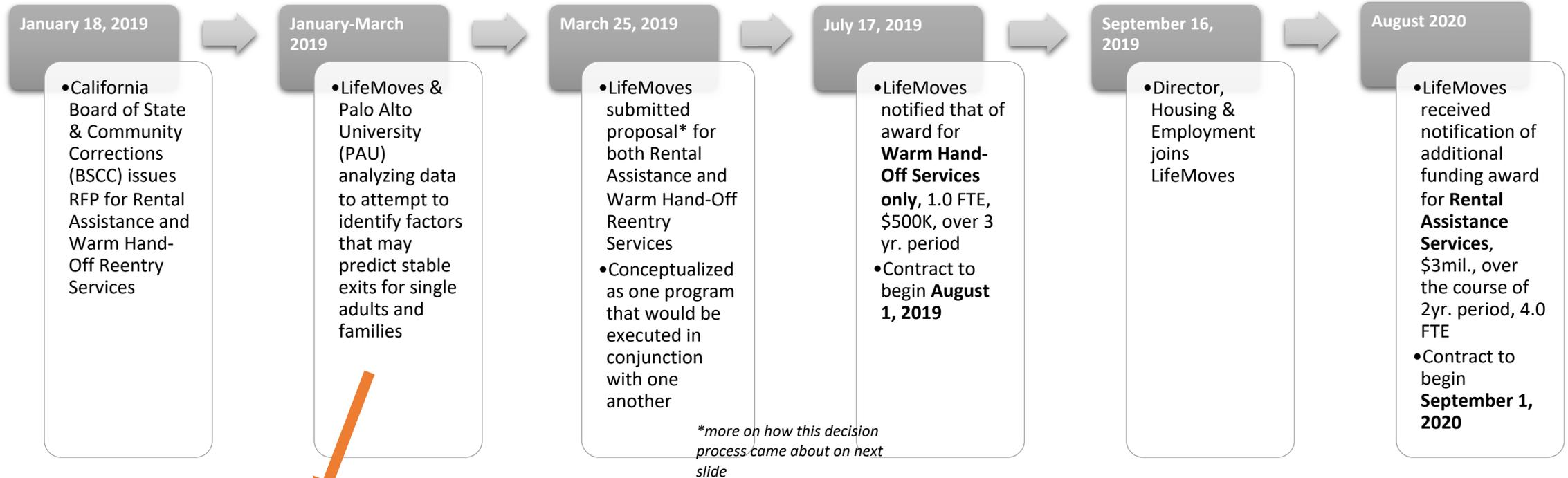
Lifemoves.org

(650) 685-5880

181 Constitution Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025

jaqueline.ramirez@lifemoves.org

Deciding on targeted reentry services



1st shelter stay: single clients who reported probation/parole on the Assessment had **24% lower odds of exiting stable**.
2nd shelter stay: clients who reported prior incarceration had **50% lower odds of exiting stable from that (2nd) shelter stay**

In addition to being a mission driven, client-centered organization; **LifeMoves has a strong data culture** & for the last 2 years has been working to increase exits to stable housing for single adults. We have *not* seen a decrease in outcomes over the last year.



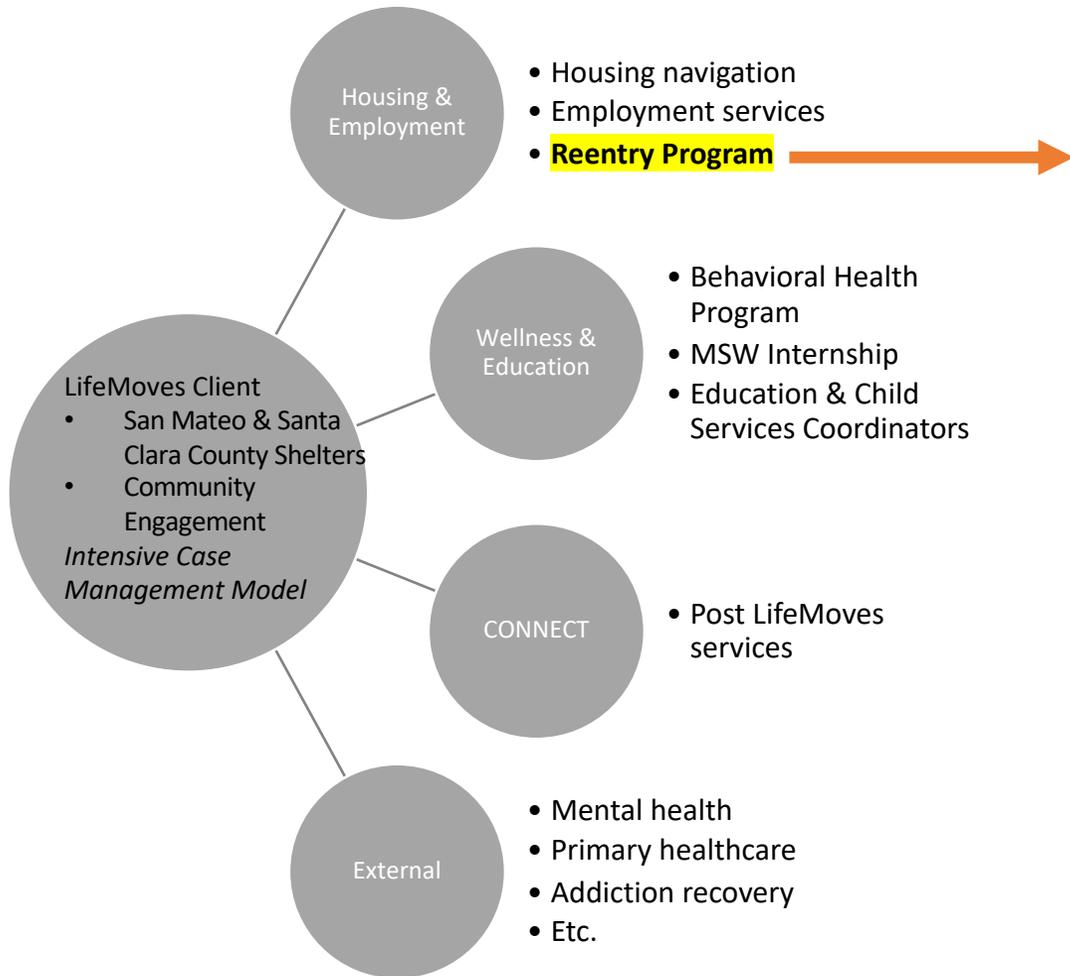
Identifying funding

- **California Grants Portal:** <https://www.grants.ca.gov/>
- **LOTS OF LISTSERVS!** – This one came from an email from Santa Clara County, Office of Reentry Services.
- **LifeMoves Development Team – Director of Grants & Contracts**
 - Subscribes, keeps an eye out, screens, etc.
 - Is aware of agency priorities – Senior Leadership Reviews and Strategic Plan along with Chief Development Officer's regular updates
 - Brings opportunities to weekly "Kick-Off"

Lessons learned from funding

- ✓ Working with a new government agency – the BSCC
- ✓ Having a plan B – Warm Hand-Off & Rental Assistance
- ✓ Ramp up period – hiring & program creation
- ✓ Limitations on funding – prisons vs. jails
- ✓ Projected spend down – build in more cushion





Our Services
Currently Serving ALL LifeMoves clients who were once incarcerated in a <i>California State Prison</i>
Referrals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred by Case Managers
Housing Specialist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing navigation, client advocacy & landlord facilitation
Employment Specialist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase income
Case Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide warm hand-offs to other re-entry support services in community • For clients who receive financial assistance, post-placement case management
Client Assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides extra support to help client maintain housing and be self-sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides financial assistance

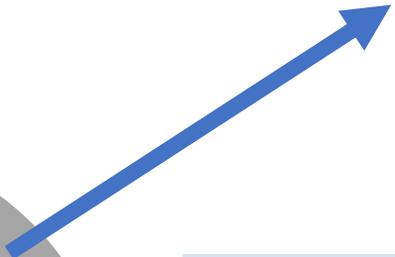


Program Workflow

INTAKE & SCREENING

- Intake Coordinator confirms former incarceration (calls CDCR)
- Confirms receipt of all requested documentation
- Together with Program Lead to determine which reentry service client should go to

IDENTIFYING CLIENTS
 Primary CM identifies potential client
 OR
 H&E identify potential client through mainstream referral system



Could be enrolled in one or more service simultaneously.

Employment	Housing Navigation	Client Assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly client meetings • Provides client with employment support before and after getting housed • Rapport building with clients • Communication with client’s primary Case Manager • Cover letter & resume building • Interviewing skills • Job searching • Employment leads • Refer back to Intake Coordinator for client assistance eligibility • Data entry • <i>When not employment “ready” refers to Benefits Specialist</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly client meetings • Support client with housing search • Cold calling/landlord outreach • Send out housing leads • Schedule viewings • Rapport building with clients and future landlords/property managers • Open communication with client’s primary Case Manager, Re-Entry Case Manager, and client • Refer back to Intake Coordinator for client assistance eligibility • Data entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 types of client assistance: Shallow rent subsidy, one-time deposit assistance, move-in costs, other (credit repair) • Provides client with extra support before and after getting housed • Supports with housing search • Rapport building with clients • Communication with client’s primary Case manager, Housing Specialist and Employment Specialist, if applicable • Ensures client eligibility • Weekly client meetings • Data entry • <i>If client not initially eligible for client assistance, can become eligible later on</i>

LifeMoves Reentry Program

Staff

- **5.5 FTE + supervision**
 - 5 out of 6.5 staff have lived experience directly related to the criminal justice system
 - 3 out of 5.5 staff are bilingual
 - All staff trained on housing first approach – Reentry Program & other Housing team staff
- **Hiring challenges:**
 - Experience
 - Comfort with population—290's
 - Fast ramp up time
 - COVID

Program Metrics

- Housed: **16**
- Employed: **5**
- Job offers: **2**
- Total clients served by WHO YTD: **70**
- Total clients served by Client Assistance: **40**

Housing:

- All have been rentals by client in-county (SMC&SCC), mainly studios & 1 bedrooms
- 5 clients housed are receiving rental assistance through this program

Employment:

- 20 total referrals, 12 currently enrolled
- 6 of 12 have had recent interviews

Types of client assistance:

- Transportation costs: car repairs, DUI classes, bus passes, etc.
- Storage
- Housing applications
- Gift cards to assist with home set-up
- Grocery gift cards



OFFICE OF DIVERSION AND REENTRY

Homebase Convening

Ryan Izell, LCSW

Director, Housing

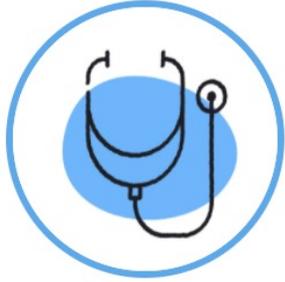
Rizell@dhs.lacounty.gov



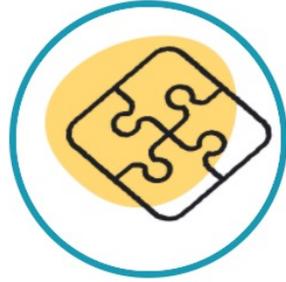
Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

<https://dhs.lacounty.gov/odr>

ODR's Areas of Work



Jail-
Based/Clinical
Diversion



Harm
Reduction
And
Community-
Based
Diversion

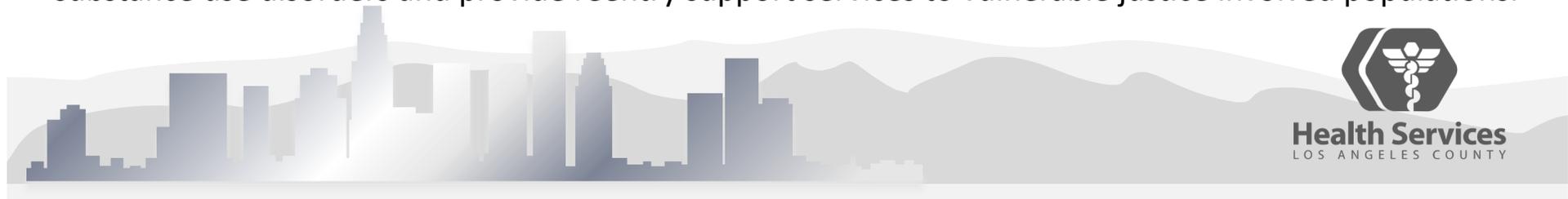


Reentry



Youth
Diversion And
Development

Develop and implement county-wide criminal justice diversion for persons with mental health and/or substance use disorders and provide reentry support services to vulnerable justice involved populations.



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

A Different Approach to Interim Housing/Shelter

- Small home-like settings in residential communities
- Efficient and scalable (leased, by right)
- Different types of sites and levels of care – housing matches the client
- On-site clinical services
- Internally managed referrals and dedicated beds (necessary to receive persons directly from custody)
- Flexible contracting allows ODR and providers to pivot to meet changing needs
- Dedicated access to PSH resources



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Interim Housing

Services	Diversion	Reentry
On-site case management	X	X
On-site medication management (LVN)	X	X
On-site Activities/Programming	X	X
Basic needs assistance	X	X
24 hour staffing	X	X
On-site Mental Health/SUD clinicians	X	
Psychiatry	X	
ODR consultation and support	X	X



Typical Homeless Services Programs



Flexible Braided Funding Centered Around the Client

- Primary Funding Sources
 - AB109
 - SB678
 - MHSA
 - HUD/CoC/PHA
 - LA County (local)
- Plug and Play based on eligibility & availability
 - Housing
 - Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool
 - Services
 - Per client per month rate
- Resource Management
 - Most restrictive to least restrictive
 - Individual Tracking and Allocation
- Acknowledging
 - Requires ample funding/infrastructure
 - Commitment to each/every client
 - Closed system
 - Certain funding is very restrictive



Probation Funded Rapid Rehousing

- Partnership between LA County Probation and Department of Health Services, Office of Diversion & Reentry
- Rapid Rehousing + Employment
- Probation funds the program, and refers clients
- ODR contracts with CBO, manages the project, and leverages housing/services infrastructure
- Piloted via Hilton Foundation funding prior to Probation recognizing the value and funding the project
- New funding via BSCC Adult Reentry Grant



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY





Thank you

Breakout Session Activity (25 minutes)



Goal:

- Identify actionable ways to start/continue better meeting the housing needs of people impacted by the criminal legal system;
- **Stop** practices that hinder access to safe and sustainable housing for people with criminal legal system exposure

Breakout Session Activity (25 minutes)



START



STOP



CONTINUE



SHARE BACK AND CLOSE OUT

- Using the chat box, share a reflection about the breakout session
- We  feedback
- Post-event follow up – what to expect
- Stay in touch!
 - CLSI@homebaseccc.org