Housing as a path to prevent maltreatment
Understanding the problem

Housing Opportunities Made to Enhance Stability (HOMES) Vision

Increase awareness of the impact of housing instability on the health and well-being of children, making housing instability a children’s health issue. Collaboratively create evidence informed solutions that address housing needs of families in our programs.
What threatens housing stability?

1. Tenant Landlord disputes
2. Mold
3. Infestations
4. Lead (paint/pipes)
5. Eviction
6. Homelessness
7. Crowding
8. House fire
9. Lack of affordable housing
Programmatic interventions help people beat the odds.
Systemic interventions can help change their odds.

- Karen Pittman
Systemic Interventions

Mark Cabaj, Here to There Consulting Inc
HOMES Strategies

Influence leaderships
Raise awareness

Identify best available evidence based practice and policies in the child welfare and children’s hospital systems.

Advocate for policy changes to support changes in resource flows

Identify and obtain funding for new housing focused initiatives

Create relationship with existing actors in the housing system to inform activities, create collaborative projects, and/or jointly advocate for policy changes.

Develop/adopt programs or practices that change practice on how we identify barriers to housing stability and work with families to resolve those barriers.

Make housing a child health issue, advance possible solutions, and garner support for implementing solutions.

Create best practices around assessing for housing instability, create norms around how housing instability impact executive functioning, and advance housing first principles.
HOMES Activities

**Authority**
- Influence leaderships
- Raise awareness

**Ideas & Knowledge**
- ICFW Issue Brief
- Literature Review
- Data analysis

**Policy & Regulation**
- Family Unification Program
- Medicaid Policy Advocacy

**Resource Flows**
- Family Unification Program
- Medicaid Policy Advocacy

**Structures**
- Build a network
- Expert Interviews
- Collaborative projects

**Relationships**
- New programs:
  - Mobility Mentoring
  - Medical-Legal Partnerships
- Healing Starts...

**Communications**

**Competencies**
- Strategic Framing (CiM): Housing is a child health issue
- Issue Brief
- Infographics
- Community Cafés

**Strategic Framing**
- Brain Architecture Game Trainings
- Strategic Framing
- Human Centered Design
- Strategic Learning
Tool: Human-Centered Design

- **Inspiration**
  - Choose a Design Challenge
  - Plan Research Methods
  - Build Interview Guide
  - Additional Research Methods
  - Capture Learnings

- **Ideation**
  - Generate Ideas
  - Select Promising Ideas
  - Determine What to Prototype
  - Make Prototypes
  - Test & Get Feedback
  - Integrate Feedback & Iterate

- **Implementation**
  - Understand Target
  - Create an Action Plan
  - Launch Solution
  - Keep Getting Feedback and Iterating
  - Scale Towards Impact

4/9/19 www.uwm.edu/icfw
Lessons Learned: Human Centered Design

- Strict adherence to EBIs may steer us away from address problems the families want us to work on.
- Listening to people with lived/living experiences can be more efficient.
- Test small, fail small.

Human Centered Design Field Guide: http://www.designkit.org/resources/1
Tool: Build a network

“There is no collaboration without trust”

• Expert Interviews
  • Human Centered Design
  • Listened, took on their ideas
• Attending open community meetings
Lessons Learned: Social Impact Network

• Content Vs Context Experts
  • Content: Policy makers, researchers, program staff
  • Context: People with lived experience

• Engage to learn, not to tell them what to do or what’s important.

• Define how you would measure strength of your network.

Human Centered Design Field Guide:
http://www.designkit.org/resources/1
Tools: Strategic Communication

- Framing the goal places your aspirations front and center
  - Housing as a child health issue: The Open Children Model*
- Challenges current thinking and forces for resistance
  - Too big of a challenge
  - Not related to our work
  - Would take too much time
  - Would cost too much money

The Frameworks Institute, 2016
Lessons Learned: Strategic Communication

• Housing-focused partners were interested in the child-health implications and explicitly making that connection

• Health systems struggle with housing as a social determinate of health

• Norms around who ‘deserves’ housing is still a challenge.

The Frameworks Institute, 2016
Tools: Data

Measurement is not judgement
- Defines scope of the problem
- Connect various publicly available datasets
- Insert context from your program
- Engage the community on data connections
  - Community Café
  - Data Walk
Lessons Learned: Use data

• Place matters
  • compare data available geographically
• Connects dots across systems
• Collect data on strengths
• The community wants to hear more about data than we anticipated
Building Knowledge for Action

Data
• Has Definition
• Relevance
• Timeframe

Information
• Assumptions
• Patterns & Trends
• Context

Knowledge
• Insights
• Narrative
• Brings meaning
• Compels action

Adapted from: The DAMA Guide to the Data Management Body of Knowledge
The brief version...

- Human Centered Design: For engaging people to address problems without clear solutions.
- Build Relationships: Effective collaboration requires trust
- Strategic Communication: How you frame an issue will influence people’s first reaction and mindset
- Data: Measurement is not judgement, but it can be an important step towards knowledge as well as a tool for engaging others.
The great part about complex problems is that you can start anywhere
Questions
Tools: Strategic Learning

Strategic Learning creates institutional memory, supports just-in-time iteration, and clarifies hypotheses about your work

• Before and After Action Reviews
  • clarify desired results, plan for anticipated challenges, and reflect on what actually occurred to identify potential ways to improve the next time.
  • can be used for everything from major events and meetings—including our staff retreats—to phone calls or writing assignments.
Lessons Learned: Actively Learn

• Learning is an outcome that should be tracked, summarized, and leverage to inform next steps

• Housing is a complex challenge and you’ll have to adapt your strategy routinely.
  • Get rapid feedback
  • Use After Action Reviews to reflect on what works and what doesn’t
  • Consider focusing on a subsystem of housing
Tools: Structures/new programs

• Medical-Legal Partnerships (MLPs)
  • MLPs have operate as a prescription for housing issues. In an MLP, a multidisciplinary team works together to address medical and social/legal problems that aim to improve overall health.

• Mobility Mentoring (MM)
  • MM is based on the assumption that, if individuals can be engaged to optimize their outcomes in the five critical areas of the Bridge to Self-Sufficiency™, they are more likely to achieve economic independence than if they tackle any one critical area alone.
  • Uses long and short-term goal setting and incentives to enhance parent Executive Functioning Skills essential to progress
Lessons Learned: Structures/new programs

• New programs require funding, which can take time to obtain/establish
• There’s a lack of “evidence based interventions” focused on housing specifically because of the wide range of contextual differences
• Cross-section collaborations