Protocol for Housing First Baseline Fidelity Assessment – draft Nov. 18, 2013

PHSI Project – Transforming Treatment Services and Housing for People with Mental Illness in Canada: A Systems Approach to Integrated Knowledge Translation

This protocol outlines procedures for the collection of baseline data for the PHSI project – “Transforming Treatment Services and Housing for People with Mental Illness in Canada: A Systems Approach to Integrated Knowledge Translation.” The purpose of the baseline assessment is to: (a) assess the level of Housing First (HF) services currently offered in project-specific partner (PSP) communities/regions; and (b) assess the extent to which current HF services show fidelity to the HF model. Data will be collected at baseline and at a follow-up in year three of the project to determine the growth of HF services in each of the PSP communities/regions.

Baseline data will be collected in conjunction with educational workshops that will be provided to PSPs as part of the project’s integrated knowledge translation activities. Baseline fidelity assessment will be conducted in two steps:

1. Housing and mental health services assessment exercise conducted during the workshop
2. Follow-up administration of HF Checklist with current programs in the community identified as providing HF services.

Housing and Mental Health Services Assessment Exercise during the Workshop

Educational workshops will begin with a description of the key components of HF. This presentation will be followed by an activity that engages participants in a discussion that (a) assesses current HF-related practices in local communities/regions; and (b) identifies key housing and mental health stakeholders believed to provide HF services.

Brief HF Fidelity Checklist

Following the educational workshop, a Brief HF Fidelity Checklist will be administered to those organizations/programs believed to be providing HF services. The checklist is adapted from the larger 38-item Pathways HF Fidelity Scale (Stefancic et al., in press; Tsemberis, 2010), which has been used in fidelity evaluations of established HF programs and other housing programs. The Brief HF Fidelity Checklist is intended to estimate the extent to which current services of PSPs reflect core components of the HF model at baseline. See Appendix A for the Brief HF Fidelity Scale.

Brief HF Fidelity Checklist – draft

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Housing Choice and Structure

1. Do participants choose their residence?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

1. Do participants have ready access to affordable housing through housing subsidies? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
2. Do participants live in scattered-site permanent housing?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

1. Do participants pay 30% or less of their income on rent?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Separation of Housing and Services

1. Does the program offer participants housing without requiring them to meet certain criteria (e.g., sobriety, involvement in treatment)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

1. Are the support services provided by an agency that is off-site (not in the participant’s housing)? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
2. Does the participant hold the lease? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
3. Is the program committed to re-housing the participant if she or he loses housing? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Service Philosophy

1. Does the participant choose the type, sequence, and intensity of services on an ongoing basis? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
2. Are there no requirements that the participant be involved in psychiatric treatment? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
3. Are there no requirements that the participant be involved in substance use treatment? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
4. Does the program use a harm reduction approach?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

1. Does the participant have access to Assertive Community Treatment or case management services? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
2. Does the participant have access to an array of services to meet her or his needs?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

How many units of this type of housing does this agency provide?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix A – an alternative form**

**Baseline Housing First Fidelity Scale**

***Housing Choice and Structure***

1. Do ~~50% or more of~~ participants choose any of the following features of their housing~~, given what they can afford~~ (choose all that apply)?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Neighborhood | Building | Unit | Furnishing | Decorating |
| o | o | o | o | o |

1. To what extent does this program have ready access to affordable housing through the use of housing subsidies?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Program does not have access to housing subsidies or subsidized housing units, and does not provide support for participants to obtain them | Program does not have access to housing subsidies or subsidized housing units, but provides advocacy and support for participants to obtain housing subsidies or subsidized housing units | ~~Program has access to housing subsidies and/or subsidized housing units, but there is a waiting period for participants~~ | Program has ~~ready~~ access to housing subsidies and/or provides subsidized housing units for all participants |
| o | o | ~~o~~ | o |

***Separation of Housing and Services***

1. What requirements do program participants have to meet in order to gain access to permanent housing? (choose all that apply)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Completion of a period of time in transitional housing, outpatient,  inpatient, or  residential treatment | Sobriety or abstinence from alcohol and/or drugs | Compliance with medication | Psychiatric symptom stability | Willingness to comply with a treatment plan that addresses sobriety, abstinence, and/or medication compliance | Agreeing to face-to-face visits with staff | Meeting responsibilities of a standard lease |
| o | o | o | o | o | o | o |

1. Which statement best describes program actions regarding housing when participants lose their housing?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Program does not offer a new housing unit and does not assist participants with finding housing outside the program | Program does not offer a new housing unit, but helps participants find housing outside the program | Program offers participants a new unit if they meet certain criteria, and/or sets limits on the number of relocations | Program offers participants a new unit without requiring participants to meet certain criteria |
| o | o | o | o |

1. Are housing and support services provided by different agencies?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | No |
| o | o |

1. Who holds the lease?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Agency | Co-signed by tenant and agency | Tenant |
| o | o | o |

***Service Philosophy***

1. To what extent do program participants choose the type, sequence, and intensity of services on an ongoing basis?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Services are chosen by the service provider, with little no input from the participant | ~~Participants have some say in choosing, modifying, or refusing services, although program staff determinations usually prevail~~ | Participants have some say in choosing, modifying, or refusing services~~, although participant preferences usually prevail~~ | Participants have the right to choose, modify, or refuse services and supports at any time, except one face-to-face visit with staff a week |
| o | ~~o~~ | o | o |

***Service Array***

1. What types of services does the program offer to help participants? (choose all that apply)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Housing support services | Psychiatric services | Substance abuse treatment | Employment and educational services | Nursing/medical services | Social integration services | 24-hour coverage | Involvement in in-patient treatment |
| o | o | o | o | o | o | o | o |

***Service Structure***

1. What types of services does the program offer to help participants? (choose all that apply)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Priority Enrollment for Individuals with Obstacles with Housing Stability | Contact with participants (Program meets with 90% of participants at least 4 times a month face-to-face) | Low participant/staff ratio  (i.e., 10 or fewer participants per 1 FTE staff) | Team approach (i.e., 80% or more of participants have face-to-face contacts with at least 3 staff members in 4 weeks.) | Frequent meetings (i.e., Program meets at least 4 days per week) | Weekly Meeting/Case Review | Peer Specialist on Staff | Participant Representation in Program (e.g., as peer advocates,on committees, on governing bodies) |
| o | o | o | o | o | o | o | o |

Additional possible question: (raised by Tim) “Are services provided by ACT or ICM teams? (should we drill down here?)”