



## Homelessness and Older Adults in Multnomah County – Status Report

Session Notes

*Provider Conference 6/6/25*

| Topic                         | Notes   |
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| Session Overview              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of older adults in the population is increasing and so is their risk of homelessness</li><li>• Our community needs to address the system now before it gets more challenging for future generations</li><li>• Stats capture older adults experiencing homelessness but do not account for those who are severely rent burdened and are at risk for losing their housing.</li></ul>   |
| Status Report Key Takeaways   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rent costs are outpacing incomes in general but especially for low-income households</li><li>• NWPP's Housing Access Program assesses the housing needs of older adults<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Requests for housing services for older adults is up 30%</li></ul></li><li>• Households may have received short-term rent assistance but the following gets in the way:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Support runs out before they have the time and resources to sustain rent themselves</li><li>◦ People may not have as much opportunity to increase their wages so avenues for sustaining rent independently are minimal</li></ul></li><li>• NWPP is receiving more calls from other providers looking for support<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ More collaboration and more tangible support for participants is needed</li></ul></li><li>• NWPP has a Housing Assessment that is free and anyone can use to support a housing search on their website. The assessment is geared towards older adults but can be used for any population.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <a href="#">Link to Housing Assessment here</a></li><li>◦ NWPP updates the form regularly to be current with annual income limits</li><li>◦ NWPP welcomes feedback, see the session slide deck for contact details or leave feedback via their website <a href="#">here</a>.</li></ul></li></ul> |
| Case Management Status Update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NWPP operates a team of case managers that work with older adults.</li><li>• Common barriers participants experience are low fixed incomes, low opportunity for income increases, ageism,</li></ul>   |

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|                     | <p>managing potential employment based on income and potential loss of benefits, property debts, justice system records, mental health/substance use, physical health acuity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The system is not accessible to those who should be able to access services. There is a lack of places where people can comfortably age in place.</li> <li>• Time is of the essence – participants do not typically have years to wait on waitlists for housing.</li> <li>• NARA works with older populations as well and highlights there is a lot of critical thinking needed to overcome the barriers participants are up against.</li> <li>• Mobility challenges limit where folks can be placed into housing</li> <li>• There is a need for ongoing coordination of services with in-home care processes but there this is missing and an ongoing challenge</li> <li>• Home housing aids are essential for supporting folks with maintaining their housing via helping them pass inspections</li> <li>• Dementia and memory care: This can be a barrier to engagement and acceptiveness of support</li> <li>• Case managers look to provide support where they can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grocery store transportation</li> <li>○ Food box delivery and removal</li> <li>○ Social supports, lunches/dinner, family events, powwows, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Case managers seek to support in building confidence, self-sufficiency, family reunification, and connection to needed care.</li> </ul> |
| Example of Progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tukwila Springs – Gladstone property that has 100% PSH for older adults. IT was built with accessibility in mind and close to transportation.</li> <li>• Service model includes property management and support services on-site. Case loads are purposely low to ensure tenants receive the individualized support they need. Units have kitchenette but many community spaces to promote connection.</li> <li>• Challenges have been a high volume of emergency calls, need for higher levels of care than PSH.</li> <li>• They have experienced 100% retention rate</li> </ul>  |
| Q&A                 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What strategies have been used to better access long-term health screening? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be prepared to push back, follow up, and be persistent. In some cases it has been helpful to give the case manager contact for the screening</li> </ul> </li> </ol>  |



## Homeless Services Department

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|  | <p>scheduling and to be present when it occurs to provide support. Ask questions on why someone may have been denied and seek to be rescreened. Talk to the supervisors and push back on the system.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. Are there in-house mental health specialists at properties that were highlighted in the presentation. Is this happening and would it be a benefit?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In some cases they are able to bring mental health professionals on-site but it can be dependent on the connection to an individual and that can fluctuate as people move on to other roles.</li><li>• At Tukwila Springs, all staff are QMHA qualified.</li></ul></li><li>3. Has there been a challenge in having the smaller units considering larger and multigenerational families?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is something that comes up. In SRO's visitors can visit but cannot live in the unit which sometimes causes risk for potential lease violations.</li><li>• To support, they try to offer services to visitors, try to keep residents informed about the rules of their lease and take a harm reduction approach.</li><li>• Larger units have long waitlists and those are prioritized for larger families.</li><li>• More advocacy needed for older adult households around if modifications can be made to their lease to avoid these potential lease violations.</li></ul></li><li>4. For multigenerational families, would scatter sites or primary leasing be the solution?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes, primary leasing could be a solution where NWPP could rent a building and set the screening to be more flexible. Primary leasing is a large lift.</li><li>• Scattered sites still have property management companies in the mix so there is potential for the rules to be limiting.</li></ul></li><li>5. What is the referral pathway for Julia West?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All referrals will come through coordinated access.</li></ul></li></ol> |
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