

# **SPECIFICS OF ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM (FOR INDIVIDUALS)**

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# HOUSING FIRST IN BRNO

3 – year project

65 small apartments owned Brno (by the city), classic contract to live in a flat for one year with possibility of elongation, in social housing regime

Rehousing in 5 terms – 1. and 2. – 25 clients were rehoused (autumn 2017)

3. term – 13 clients were rehoused (summer 2018)

4. and 5. term - 2019

# TARGET GROUP

2 groups: Young adults (18-26 years old) and adult people 26 years old +

Homeless people or people in a very uncertain, unstable housing (dormitory, Asylum house) or young adults who leave children's homes

People who have current or past experience with long-term residence in the institutional facilities, people addicted, mentally ill, people who forfeited a network of social services.

Groups of people who do not have the possibility of living in a flat or stable accommodation. The project aims at the target group for which the housing in the current situation is least available.

# EIGHT CORE PRINCIPLES OF HOUSING FIRST:

## **Housing is a human right**

Choice and control for service users

Separation of housing and treatment - treatment is not condition for housing

Recovery orientation

Harm reduction

Active engagement without coercion – work with client motivation

Person-centred planning

Flexible Support for as Long as is Required

# SOCIAL WORK— CASE MANAGEMENT

Complex and intensive support - **Regular monitoring of the housing situation of each client**

- regular visits at least once a week

- Practicing skills in a flat - it can be for people who didn't live in a flat very long time or maybe never lived in a flat at all.

- Help with the budget - control over the payment of rent and services, managing the domestic budget,

- Street work - accompaniments, networking to other services, working with the surroundings (family, neighbors)

- Door management- it is possible there's strong relationship with other homeless people and the tendency is to move them to the flat (at risk of neighborly disputes, non-renewal of the contract)

- Focusing on harm reduction— focusing on minimalizing risks - symptoms of the disease, or addiction can be hazardous for both, the client and the housing

# SOCIAL WORKER— CASE MANAGER

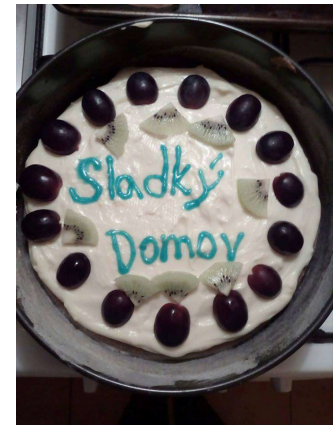
What should a worker be?

Flexibility - Intensity of support is adjusted according to the actual needs of the client

Relationship - Cooperation is in the first phase based on building relationships. Social worker is rather partner than expert.

Creativity – finding new solutions, working with motivation, trying to be always open minded

Passion and empathy - necessary in Housing First



# THE BARRIERS WE WORK WITH:

- clients are afraid of the house and location. This is related to the loneliness they fight with at the beginning,
- stress like reaction on big live change. Some clients can't sleep in new homes during the first months,
- poor technical condition of the houses is also reflected in the apartment (humidity, absence of bells, entrance doors, pollution in the house),
- accessibility of barrier-free flats, flats on high floors. Our clients have a poor health, they usually have to live in lower floors,
- clients are an easy target for some tenants (harassment, attacking, abusive nocturnal rest),
- the problem of prejudice on both sides (Roma, homeless).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

