

What is Diversion?

- A necessary component of any strategy to end homelessness
- A structured approach to work off the by-names-list, that is complimentary to the existing system of housing programs
- Typically occurs at the point at which people become homeless, or at imminent risk of homelessness
- Applications for diversion practice vary (ex. Discharge planning, from shelters, from the system of housing programs, as well as extending into prevention work)





Why is it important?

 Most individuals who experience homelessness are able to self resolve

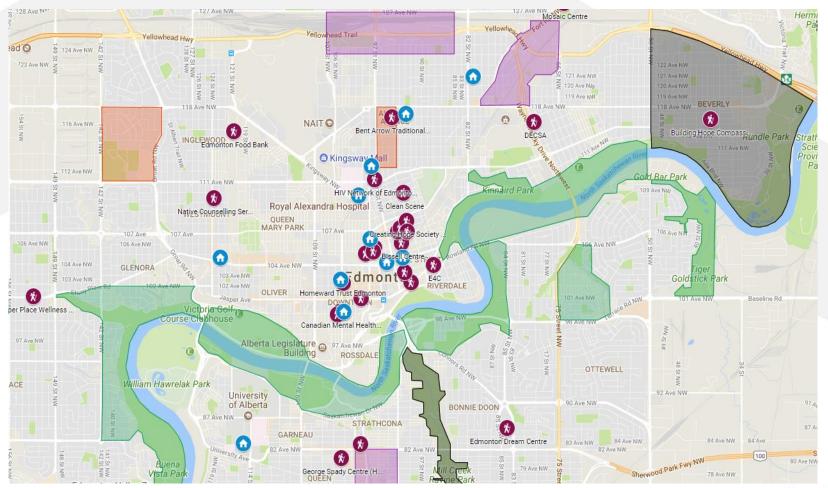
 All permanent housing needs cannot be the long-term responsibility of the homeless serving system

Stimulates system collaboration and change





Coordinated Access Points







By-Names-List Total

TOTAL	1,504
Singles	1,135
Youth	257
Families	112





Starting Point

Consistency

Provide options first

Collaboration and mutuality

Duplication





Transparency and Availability

Build based on evidence

Office Hours & Workshops

Referrals from internal & external

Ready to Rent classes





Diversion Script

"What brought you in today?"

"Where did you stay last night? Are there any reason why you can't stay there longer? Is there someone else you could stay with temporarily?"

"What have you tried before?"

"Do you have other ideas that you haven't tried yet?"





Diversion Script, continued

"What is making it difficult for you to find housing or connect to other resources to help you? "

"What resources do you have right now that could help you to find a place to stay temporarily &/or find permanent housing?"

"Is there anything else I haven't ask you, that it would be important to be aware of?"

"Now that we've had this meeting, what is your housing action plan?"





Examples Include

Housing vacancies

Provision of financial, utilities etc.

Short term case management

Connection to mainstream services





In Practice: Action Centre

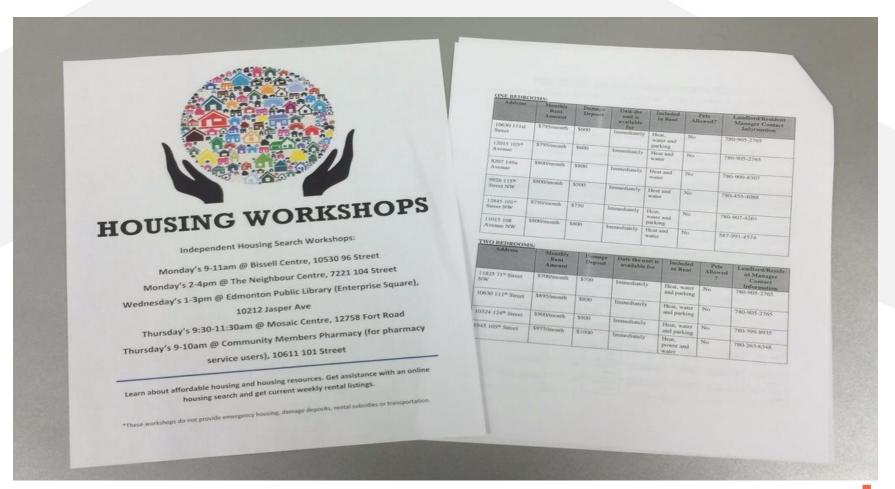








In Practice: Housing Workshops







In Practice: Co-Location of Services

'Hotspot' Events

Meeting participants where they are at

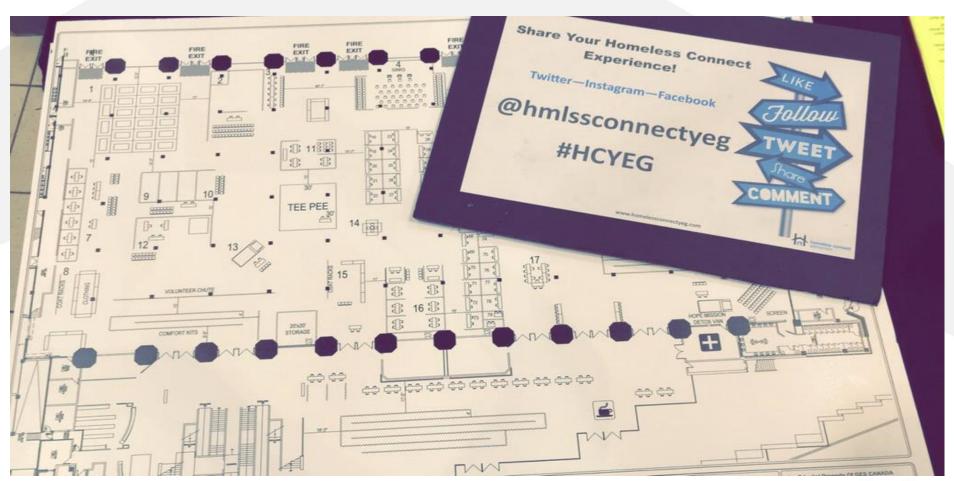
 Collective effort between coordinated access, housing first agencies, shelters, and outreach teams

 Co-location of diversion work, screening activity, housing first intakes, and housing planning work.





In Practice: Events







Determining Success

Data Collection systems & picking only 1 or 2 goals for the team

Closing the loop to know if intervention was successful

Emphasize continual growth and team impact





Future State

Tracking of activities need to be configured to track diversion efforts

 Community wide performance benchmarks are needed to determine how often diversion is completed, and its success rate

 Communication across system of care is needed to decrease duplication of efforts and increase information and data patterns





