

Department of Health & Social Services Housing Programs – An Update

DHSS Mission *"to promote and protect
the health and well-being of Alaskans"*

Housing is a Determinant of Health

- As a *social* determinant of health, residential segregation can have a negative impact on one's health.
- As a *physical* determinant of health, access to safe, decent, affordable housing will impact health, functioning and quality of life.

Healthy People 2020.

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/about/DOHAbout.aspx#socialfactors>

Division of Behavioral Health

Integrated Housing and Supports Strategic Approach:

- 1. Permanent Supportive Housing using a “*Housing First*” philosophy**
 - Access to affordable, integrated community-based housing regardless of disability, diagnosis, substance use, current housing status, etc.— This is achieved through our strong partnerships with the Trust, AHFC and other housing providers
 - Access to supports and resources to obtain and sustain housing through partnerships with the Trust and our behavioral health and senior and disability provider networks
 - Rapid re-housing when someone loses housing

Division of Behavioral Health

Integrated Housing and Supports Strategic Approach:

2. Self-sufficiency using an “*Employment First*” approach

- Individual Placement and Supports (a recognized evidence-based practice) where individuals have rapid access to integrated employment at a commensurate wage and the supports that the client desires
- International Center for Clubhouse Development (ICCD) Clubhouse programs where individuals have access to transitional and permanent jobs in integrated settings with supports and resources as needed with no time limits
- Expanded grant-funded Supported Employment programs from 3 to 6 in FY17
- Providing technical assistance to develop other evidence-based, supported employment programs to many other service providers
- Developing a relationship with the Department of Labor that philosophically and fiscally shares in this approach

DHSS housing initiative highlights:

- **Moving Home Program**—a statewide voucher program that is targeted for extremely vulnerable people who primarily are homeless—a huge success with **more than 150 people housed in the state** using these vouchers—partnership with AHFC—This program supports access to affordable housing for some of the DHSS treatment and services provider recipients
- **811 Project Rental Assistance**—a subsidy program for people statewide who are currently using General Relief to pay for residence in Assisted Living Homes to move to more independent community-based housing with supports and resources—partnership with AHFC and behavioral health and senior and disability services provider networks--this should have some participants leased up and connected to supports before the end of the fiscal year—**200 units will be available over a 5 year period**

DHSS housing initiative highlights:

- **PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness)**—a SAMHSA formula-based program that provides assertive outreach, engagement and linkage to housing and services for chronically and literally homeless individuals in Anchorage through ACMHS—**160 individuals served annually**
- **Sitka Place**—a RurAL CAP “Housing First congregate single site style initiative” that has **55 units** available for people with behavioral health challenges who are homeless and/or at risk of homelessness
- **API/ADRD (API-Alzheimer’s Disorder and Related Dementia) Project**—a specialized home for people diagnosed with dementia who have long term and/or frequent residencies at API—a partnership with the Trust, Alzheimer’s Resource Center, AK Training Cooperative, Hope Community Resources—expected first move—in early 2017—awaiting municipality approval

DHSS housing initiative highlights:

➤ **ACT and ICM**—two special Anchorage based programs using a Housing First approach for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with serious behavioral health (mental health or substance use) challenges who are frequent recipients of emergency services, institutional care (API and DOC), Anchorage Community Service Patrol, etc.

1. ACT (Assertive Community Treatment (ACT))—characterized by assertive outreach and engagement, low client to staff ratio, interdisciplinary team, operational 24/7, targeted for people with serious mental illness—service provided through CHOICES—funding from DBH and Trust

2. ICM (Intensive Case Management)—characterized by a targeted case management approach in conjunction with a housing first philosophy with assertive community outreach to help individuals with serious substance use disorders and homelessness access services / treatment and housing—provided through RurAL CAP—funding from DBH

ACT and ICM Preliminary Outcomes

Both programs participate in fidelity reviews specific to their individual Evidence Based Models (ACT and Permanent Supportive Housing -PSH)

Outcomes: 63 individuals permanently housed

29 individuals housed in transitional settings awaiting PSH

ACT Preliminary Outcome Data using the CSR assessment tool (a self-report instrument) that reports on health and substance use

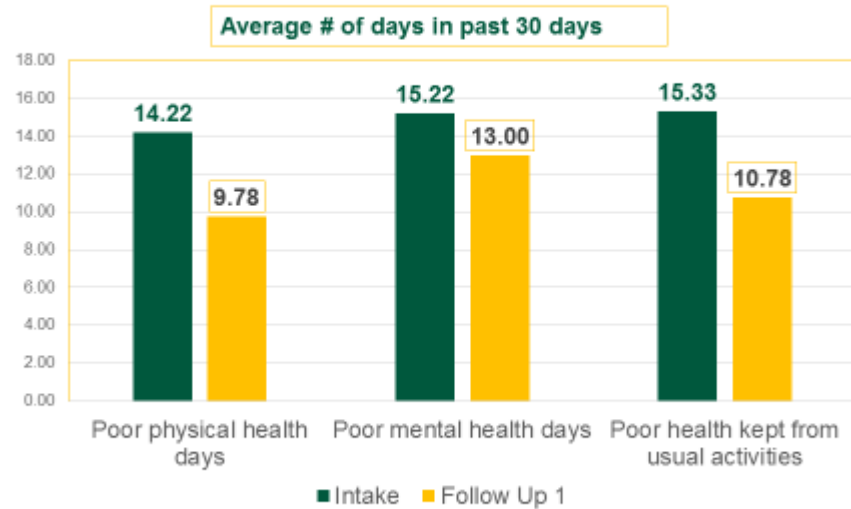
Participants surveyed reported:

- ✓ A decrease in poor physical and mental health days**
- ✓ A decrease in alcohol and illegal drug use**

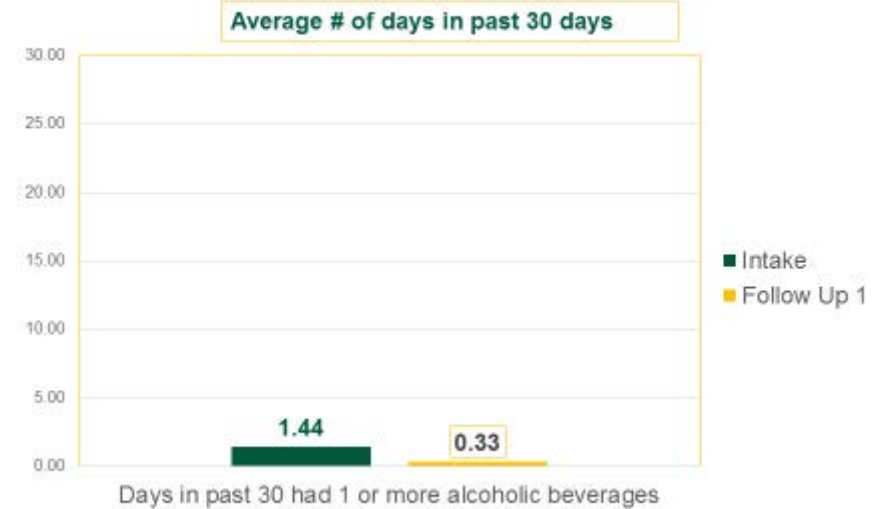
(From Preliminary Outcome Data using the CSR as reported by the UAA Justice Center evaluator Marny Rivera)

ACT Outcomes

ACT: Physical and Mental Health



ACT: Alcohol Use

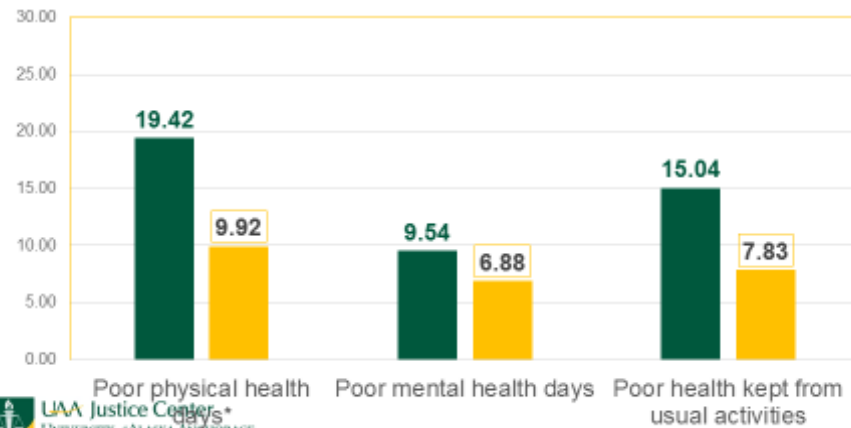


ICM Outcomes

ICM: Physical and Mental Health

Average # of days in past 30 days

* $t(46) = 2.85, p < .05$



ICM: Illegal Drug Use

Average # of days in past 30 days

