

HEALTHCARE AND HOUSING (H²) SYSTEMS INTEGRATION INITIATIVE

ATHENS, GEORGIA

Action Plan Overview

ATHENS, GEORGIA H² ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW¹

Goals and Strategies: Athens, Georgia has identified four goals, each of which focuses on a key area of activity essential to achieving their vision of improving health and housing stability for Athens' neediest residents.

Improving Data Utilization

- Create H² Data Work Group.
- Conduct point-in-time count more than once a year to improve usefulness of data.
- Determine how to align data systems within both the health care system and housing system to identify people in need of housing and decent health care.
- Use Fanning Institute grant/JMHCP work to develop a definitive cost analysis similar to the one conducted in 2007.
- Maximize utility of HMIS and emerging Coordinated Entry System.

Integrating Housing, Health, and Other Services

- Create PSH collaborative with special needs housing/health coordinator to lead partner agencies.
- Monitor ARCH program.
- Increase number of units controlled by CoC agencies.
- Facilitate increased access to non-CoC-agency controlled housing.
- Determine what additional parties need to be at the table.

Closing Gaps in Access to Services and Treatment

- Identify a special disability determination service (e.g. Division of Aging Services) and build expertise working with target populations (i.e. people experiencing homelessness and persons living with AIDS).
- Supplement existing Medicaid enrollment system to process new application by raising private money for a community based organization (CBO) contractor to do work in a more timely fashion.
- Launch robust PATH-funded program in Clarke County linked to Athens Nurse Clinic, Advantage Behavioral Health, hospitals, and the diversion program currently under development.
- Support diversion program Advantage is developing under DOJ grant; focus on hospital and ER participation linked to housing, along with jail discharges.

¹ The Athens, Georgia H² Action Plan Draft is currently being finalized by the Leadership Team, and therefore the Goals and Strategies presented here are subject to change.

HEALTHCARE AND HOUSING (H²) SYSTEMS INTEGRATION INITIATIVE ATHENS, GEORGIA

Action Plan Overview

- Develop a supportive housing/employment collaborative.
- Discuss whether to revisit an Athens Service Network-type website to keep providers/system informed about resources throughout the community and eligibility/access requirements to access each resource.
- Increase access to appropriate health care.
- Address barriers created by HUD third-party documentation requirements for Chronic Homeless.

Maximizing Resources

- Educate consumers who may be eligible for Medicaid of its existence and resources to assist with enrollment (e.g. AmeriGroup and Wellcare occasionally come to shelters and set up booths to assist with enrollment).
- Identify among homeless and HIV/AIDS populations, who are receiving services at hospitals and clinics, eligibility under existing Medicaid waivers.
- Support re-funding Athens Health Network to build capacity to train client service workers in basic medical care.
- Review Hospitals' Community Health Needs Assessment for involvement in housing by health care providers.
- Explore and pursue Medicaid amendment and/or waiver options.
- Develop partnerships between Advantage and other housing agencies to allow Medicaid billing.
- Work with state Medicaid to address slow reimbursement times and denials.
- Explore feasibility of Social Impact Bonds.
- Maximize use of SOAR.
- Build capacity of health care workforce.
- Monitor VI-SPDAT pilot program to determine whether focus in Athens should be more on Rapid Re-Housing than Permanent Supportive Housing.