Center for RespiteCare

Homeless Medical Recovery

Restoring Health, Transforming Lives

The mission of the Center for Respite Care is to provide quality, holistic medical care to homeless people who need a safe place to heal, while assisting them in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Hamilton County Senior Services Tax Levy Funding

October 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021

Debra Martin, CFO

Monday, February 7, 2022

Thank you so much for your support of the **Center for Respite Care**—your funding has been vital to us in providing quality, holistic medical care to people experiencing homelessness who need a safe place to heal, while assisting them in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Your support provided the following services for Hamilton County residents:

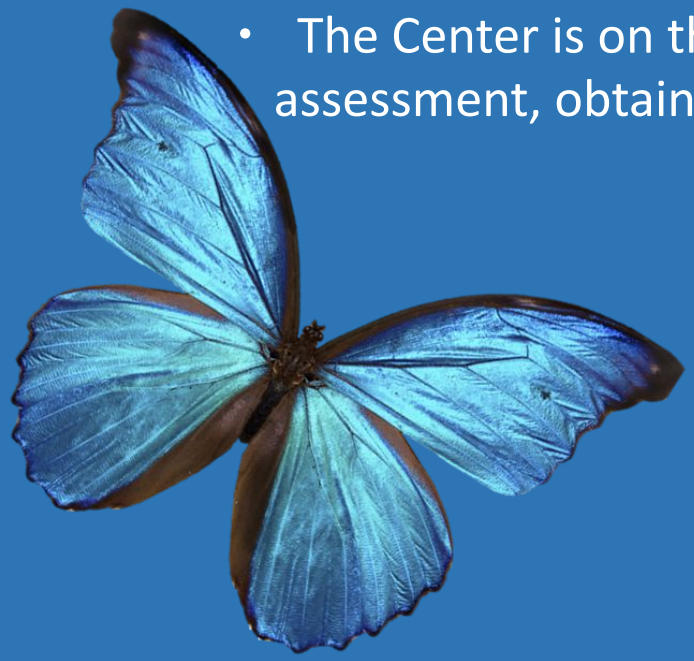
- 20% of the agency's overall budget
- Care for 55 senior clients from October 2018 to December 2021 for 2,897 bed nights
- Medical supplies, food & beverages, personal care items, basic clothing & footwear
- Client transportation: Metro bus cards, bus transfers & other transportation needs
- Medical Recovery Staff partial wages
- Case Managers partial wages
- Related facility and associated personnel costs

The Center's *Medical Recovery to Independence* program provides crucial interventions:

- Meeting the immediate needs of individuals experiencing homelessness & illness
- Medical care
- Targeted case management
- Coordination of community services & support to assist in the transition to self-sufficiency

Coordinating community services and addressing mental health issues and trauma:

- Essential to long-term prevention of individuals returning to the streets after medical care.
- Medical respites - key component of health care nation-wide to lift burden on hospitals and provide personalized care.
- The Center is on the cutting edge of treating the entire person, beginning with a social needs assessment, obtaining IDs and benefits, and addressing mental health needs as well as illness.



The Center for Respite Care is part of the St Anthony Center & shares services with other organizations that also serve our population. This includes feeding, clothing, caring for and giving basic services like showers, laundry & foot care.

Components of coordinating community services include:

- Caring & personalized treatment plan, with long-term treatment options, reducing returns to hospital emergency rooms. Costs for the community & medical care institutions are lessened.
- Equipping clients to be self-sufficient through vital social services and mental health referrals.
- Teaching clients about resources that enable a productive life.
- Instructing clients about vital life skills necessary for overall health and well-being.
- Giving clients who have lost their way a helping hand in bridging back to independence & healthier living.

Targeted Case Management: Key in preventing a return to the streets

- Low case management to client ratio allows intensive personalized care to help client overcome common barriers to preventing homelessness.
- Providing after care and peer support groups for solving issues & concerns as clients leave our care and transition back to independent life.
- Coordinating pastoral care, therapy groups, alcohol & drug addiction treatment groups as needed.
- Research shows tailored & personalized care teams create a more positive & long-term solution for people experiencing homelessness.
- Establishing a medical home & primary care crucial to maintain stable housing. Overall poor health contributes greatly to homelessness.

Outcomes

1. Senior clients received 2,879 bed nights of :

- 24/7 medical care
- Case Management
- Social Services

2. Average cost per bed night for 3.25 years: $240

3. Overall average clients discharged to stable placement
   2021, 2020, 2019: 75%

4. Contract $ expended:

2021	$250,000
2020	$184,517
2019	$247,948
4th qtr. 2018	$10,951 out of possible $30,000

Total percentage of contract expended over 3.25 years: 89%

Challenges

- Client average length of stay increased from 45 days to 55 days over the length of the contract, primarily due to the pandemic.
- Clients were more difficult to place in 2021 & 2020 due to the pandemic—housing opportunities limited.
- Center required to maintain 2 quarantine rooms during the pandemic (4 beds), reducing total # of clients.
- Overall, we're seeing clients that have more serious illnesses—upon admission, they may have one health challenge, but as they are treated, often multiple or more serious diseases become evident.
- Housing challenges due to multiple client felonies.
- Homelessness tends to reduce life expectancy—adults 50 and older who are experiencing homelessness have mortality rates 4x higher than the general population. Studies also show they age prematurely 10 to 20 years. Please see this link for additional information: Aging on the Streets: America's Growing Older Homeless Population | Simmons Online.
- Average age of clients admitted is 50, ten years less than the 60 and over required by the tax levy.

Conclusion

The Center is very grateful for the support of Hamilton County and requests entry into the 2022 levy as well as an extended one-year term on the current contract, if appropriate.

Age limit of 60 and over does limit the number of clients we can bill to the County under the senior services levy.

The Center respectfully requests consideration of a lower age under the senior services levy, due to the reduced life expectancy of people experiencing homelessness or possible consideration for the indigent care levy.

"After this hospital release, I had no where to go. It was also what we learned to be the start of the coronavirus, a frightening time. The hospital staff told me about The Center for Respite Care. My ending up at the Center saved my life. In the middle of a scary personal situation and a worldwide pandemic, I was introduced to people who cared. During my time here, the staff has taken care of my health, helped me get my disability checks and created an environment that includes fun in our days. We have art classes, hear live music, watch movies and congregate with an amazing staff and others like me."- **Herbert**

"For nearly 3 months, the Center gave me a clean, safe, calm place to sleep. They fed me daily, managed my medications, and allowed me to visualize a future, to plan for it, to get my act together. They treated me with dignity, respect, kindness, and compassion at all turns. It is no exaggeration to state that without the Center's material and personal support, my life would be intolerable right now. They helped me get housing - finding me a really good apartment. They made sure that I was able to transition to a place in my life where I could deal with my health problems and work towards self-sufficiency confidently, and with restored pride in myself and a sense of gratitude that will never leave me."- **KMS**

Client Testimonials

"I need to take a lot of medication. I was in the hospital for my heart and kidneys and I'm diabetic. Those ladies behind the glass (the Center's nurses' station) really educated me. Shayla took a magic marker and wrote the time on each of the bottles so I could keep it straight. Next month I am starting to take classes in diabetes management. I can't even begin to tell you how it felt when I found out I was approved for my apartment. I suppose I could have gone to live with family for a while but that can only last so long, you know. I'm 46 years old and need to be in my own place. Now I have my own key to my own door and a place to sit and look out my own window. Right now, I don't have much. I guess I'm at zero, but I know I'm not losing, I going to gain."- **Brandon**

Client Testimonial