

Alameda County in the National Spotlight

This past September, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) hosted two HEARTH/Homeless Management & Information System (HMIS) Training conferences, one in Denver, the other in Atlanta. Alameda County was one of just a dozen communities held up as local models for innovations in implementing the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) and local planning for implementation of the HEARTH Act. EveryOne Home staff presented at both conferences on two different panels. HPRP project manager, Katharine Gale, served as a panelist for “HPRP Implementation: Promising Practices in Rapid Re-Housing.” And Executive Director, Elaine de Coligny, spoke at “Emergency Solutions Grant Program: Transition Issues Workshop.” In addition, speakers in multiple other workshops pointed to our work in Alameda County on systems transformation, outcomes evaluation, and the use of HMIS for HPRP program evaluation. (To view Power Points from the conferences visit www.hudhre.info/hearth and scroll to the bottom of the page.) The National Alliance to End Homelessness has also featured our work on HPRP and systems change at their national conferences, webinars and their Community Spotlights.

When asked why Alameda County is getting so much recognition, EveryOne Home Executive Director, Elaine de Coligny says it is simple, “The providers and local governments in our county are

committed to building systems through genuine collaboration, use of data, and the application of best practices. Our success is the result of the hard work they do day in and day out.”

The Priority Home Partnership, Alameda County’s HPRP program, is an excellent example of those principles at work. It is a collaboration of

over 30 non-profits and local governments combining federal resources from HUD and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). It applied the best practices of a single point of entry, a common intake/assessment form, and specialized

re-housing services. Assessment data was integrated into our HMIS from the beginning in part to equip us with the information to evaluate whether households served with lower incomes and more risk factors would have different outcomes or cost more to be permanently housed. Preliminary data after one year is encouraging. As the table below indicates, higher risk households have been housed at the same rate for the same cost with only slightly longer stays in the program than lower risk households. Next spring EveryOne Home will be following up with households that were last assisted twelve months prior to assess both groups’ housing stability and see if differences emerge at that time.

“The providers and local governments in our county are committed to building systems through genuine collaboration...”

	Lower Risk Household	Higher Risk Household
Days In Program	46	56
Average Assistance	\$1,670	\$1,637
Exits to Permanent Housing	98%	98%



THE PRIORITY HOME PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATES ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION!

The county-wide program that features a centralized intake system and local referral for financial/service assistance has concluded one year of operation. It is truly a county-wide collaboration whose implementation would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the following service providers and local governments. EveryOne Home applauds their fine work!

Non-Profit/Community Partners:

- ABODE Services
- Berkeley Food and Housing Project
- Building Futures w/ Women & Children
- Catholic Charities of the East Bay
- Covenant House
- Davis Street Family Resource Center
- ECHO Housing
- Eden I&R
- East Oakland Community Project
- First Place for Youth
- Fremont Family Resource Center
- Horizons Family Counseling
- LifeLong Medical Care
- Operation Dignity

Local Government Funders/Partners:

- Alameda County Social Services Agency
- Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services
- Housing and Community Development Department
- Oakland Housing Authority
- The Cities of
 - Alameda
 - Albany
 - Berkeley
 - Dublin
 - Emeryville
 - Hayward
 - Fremont
 - Livermore
 - Newark
 - Oakland
 - Piedmont
 - Pleasanton
 - San Leandro
 - Union City

Lisa Celebrates 1 Year in Housing with Berkeley Food & Housing Project

On September 18, 2010, Lisa and her boyfriend had officially lived in their apartment for one year. A few short years ago, Lisa was living on the street and couch surfing among friends and family members' homes. Now, she not only has a roof over her head, but has her own keys to her own front door of her own apartment. "It makes you feel good about yourself", Lisa says about her independence as a renter.

Lisa is one of 160 persons that Berkeley Food and Housing Project (BFHP) helped move into permanent housing last year. This year, there are 180. BFHP is a multi-service agency providing: emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, case management, a hot meal program, and housing placement services. Executive Director, Terrie Light, says that programs like the Priority Home Partnership (that BFHP is a partner in implementing) are helping to put people straight into permanent housing, including those in North County with compound issues: poor credit, evictions, lack of income, criminal records, etc.

"If you have someone in a program you can really talk to, it makes a difference... This is a program that really works."

Light says that the traditional mental health model focuses on clinical services first, and housing second, but many consumers need both at once. Fifty percent of BFHP Women's Center clients have long-term mental health issues, and it is BFHP's mission to address people where they are, for who they are, and to respond to what they truly need. In Lisa's case, BFHP did not stop working with her once she had a roof over her head, providing food baskets for holidays and microwaveable dinners when her gas had been turned off. BFHP case managers assist consumers in developing spending plans, saving money, finding child care, paying electric bills, and finding employment even after they are housed. Many families receive life skills training in cooking, housekeeping and nutrition. BFHP's approach is to find services in tandem with housing that help people to retain that housing in a functional capacity.

This September, BFHP hosted their second annual Client Success Event, celebrating clients who, like Lisa, had remained in permanent housing placements for over a year. Lisa says, "It feels good to complete something-learning to follow through. On the street you



start but you don't follow through. BFHP is someone who helps you follow through." Next year, she hopes to enroll at Berkeley City College to pursue her aspirations in the social work field. She remains in touch with BFHP, continuing contact with her case manager Kendra to help manage finances and remain in this apartment, and by attending weekly bible study at the shelter where she encourages others not to give up. She feels that it is important for her to give back. Because of her positive experience and her connection with staff, she has started a ministry to persons in jail, who she refers to BFHP if they need assistance. "If you have someone in a program who you can really talk to, it makes a difference. The first step is within. This is a program that really works".

Meet our new staff members!

EveryOne Home is excited to welcome **Lauren Baranco** and **Julia Nagle** to our team.



Lauren is our part-time program associate and will be providing support to EveryOne Home committees and office systems. She has already become an invaluable asset

to the Property Management Committee where she assisted in finalizing tenant screening tools that are currently being piloted by local property managers. Lauren returns to the Bay Area from

the East Coast where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies at Columbia University and a Master of Public Administration from New York University.

Julia is interning at EveryOne Home working specifically on a project to identify EveryOne Home unit production (past and current) and individual (Alameda County) city goals. This research will provide valuable information in formulating how Alameda County will reach our goal



of ending homelessness by 2020 by identifying 15,000 housing opportunities for very-low and extremely-low income earners. Julia is currently a student of the Goldman School of Public Policy earning a Master of Public Policy at UC Berkeley. She is a graduate of Columbia University, completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies.

EveryOne Home is so pleased to have Lauren and Julia as part of our team and we are confident that the skills they bring will enhance the work we do and continue to move us forward.

Homeless People Count – Census 2011

The Homeless Census is fast approaching! Set for the last week of January 2011, this census will statistically enumerate the literally homeless in Alameda County. Data gained from the 2011 Census will help us stay on track in our efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

Different from the last census in 2009, the 2011 Census will be focused only on the literally homeless, individuals and families sleeping in shelters and transitional housing, or places not meant for human habitation. Due to budget constraints, it will not give us an estimate of the hidden homeless (doubled up households, couch surfing, etc), a population that had tripled between 2003 and 2009. The literally homeless numbers can still indicate if our efforts to rehouse the hidden homeless through the Priority Home Partnership has helped to keep them out of shelters and off the streets. We know the recession created housing crises for many who had never had them before, but has it increased the numbers of literally homeless? In 2009 we saw that our focus on permanent housing solutions to homelessness reduced our census. Did that hold up as the recession lingers? These are questions the census will help to answer.



To be a success, the Homeless Census 2011 needs you! This will again take the efforts of generous volunteers throughout the County. EveryOne Home is looking for volunteers to donate packages of tube socks- these are our thank you gifts to individuals who participate in our census interviews and are very useful to those without a home this winter; to be an interviewer, to participate in a training and conduct interviews at the end of January 2011, and to assist with assembling and delivering materials at sites across the county where interviews will be conducted. There is a place for every level of commitment you are willing to give. Please don't hesitate to contact Sabrina at 510-670-9796 to volunteer now!



BOSS Honors EveryOne Home with a Transformation Award

On October 7th EveryOne Home was one of six community leaders being honored by Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (BOSS). The event was a celebration of our collective work to transform lives, policies, and systems in ending homelessness in Alameda County. BOSS's Sesa Woruban event was held at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland and attended by over 150 program participants, social justice leaders, service providers, elected officials, and faith partners. EveryOne Home Executive Director, Elaine deColigny, accepted the Transformation Award on behalf of EveryOne Home for our transformative work with our 15 Year Plan to end homelessness, bold initiatives around 'Rapid-Rehousing' and fostering better cooperation among community stakeholders. We are proud to be recognized for the collaborative work EveryOne Home represents. To learn more about this event and BOSS please visit www.self-sufficiency.org



Top: BOSS Executive Director Boona Chema; Bottom: Dancers from the Fua Dia Congo provided entertainment.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Homeless Census Needs Volunteers!

We need:

Interviewers - sign-up for a training (refresher training offered for previous volunteers)

Supply-Packers and Runners - contact us at everyonehome@acgov.org

Tube Socks - Donate a package of Tube Socks! It's our way of saying thank you (and are very appreciated) to individuals who participate in our census interviews. Call 510-670-9796 for donation locations.



Free Film Screening

EveryOne Home is hosting a free film screening of the award winning documentary, *Empress Hotel*. Join us for an evening of provocative film making, free treats, prizes, and help end homelessness in Alameda County!

Thursday, Dec. 2nd
Doors Open: 6 pm
Film Screening: 6:45 pm

At the newly renovated, historic Piedmont Theatre 4186 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA 94611
For more information about the event or film visit www.everyonehome.org



New Tenant Screening Tool being Piloted

The EveryOne Home Property Management Sub-Committee of the Supportive Housing Committee is excited to announce the launch of its Property Management Partner Pilot program!

This Pilot works with affordable housing managers to improve application and leasing practices in ways that are more inclusive of neglected and often disenfranchised populations, like those who are homeless or have had bad credit or housing histories due to a disability. The Property Management Committee has introduced strategies to expand application to members of these vulnerable populations who can request accommodation and prove eligibility for more affordable housing opportunities. The Committee is providing property owners with a sample application, accompanying guidelines, and a statement of

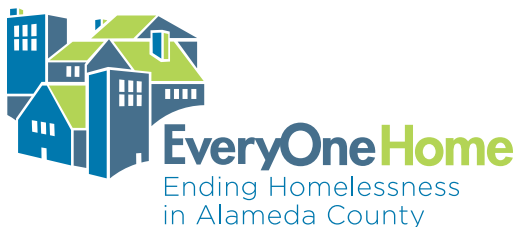


commitment to the program. In order to become a Property Management Partner, EveryOne Home asks Property Owners to make three fundamental commitments in their leasing policies and practices:

1. **Assess the individual circumstances of each applicant** rather than to categorically deny those who are homeless, have negative or non-existent credit history, evictions in their past, and/or criminal backgrounds.

2. **Encourage applicants to request a reasonable accommodation** and/or present evidence of mitigating circumstances at the beginning of the application and/or interview/eligibility review process, rather than after a denial and subsequent appeal of the decision.
3. **Use the Everyone Home Property Management Partner Guidelines** for advertising units, the content of the application packet, screening practices, and the appeals process.

The EveryOne Home Property Management Program pilot began on October 29, 2010 and is excited to see preliminary results of implementation. If you are a property owner and would like to participate in the pilot please contact Lauren Baranco at 510-670-5933.



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EveryOne Home would like to thank the following contributors for making this issue possible:

Terrie Light, Executive Director and Staff, Berkeley Food & Housing Project; Lisa, client success, Berkeley Food & Housing Project; boona chema, Executive Director and Staff, Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency. If you would like to contribute in a future newsletter, please contact EveryOne Home at everyonehome@acgov.org.

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