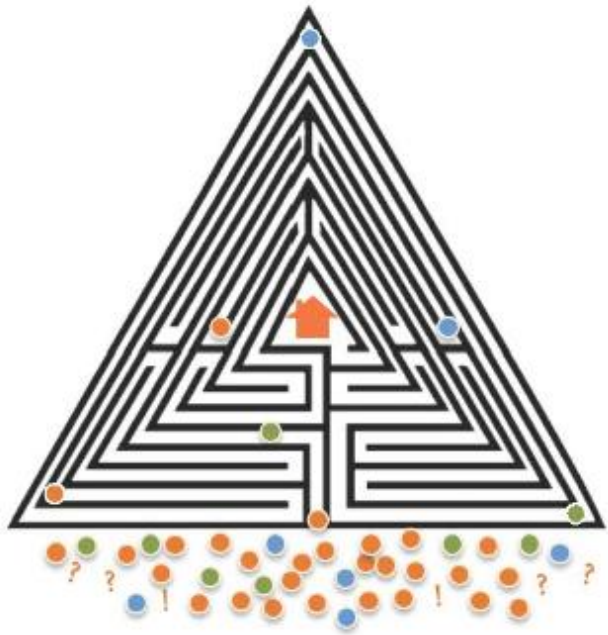ECHO

FIERCELY COMMITTED TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition

What is ECHO?

- Ending Community Homelessness Coalition
- Lead agency for the Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care (CoC)
- You may know us from:
    - Annual Point in Time Count
    - NOFA Applications
    - Homeless Management Information System (HMIS, or ServicePoint)
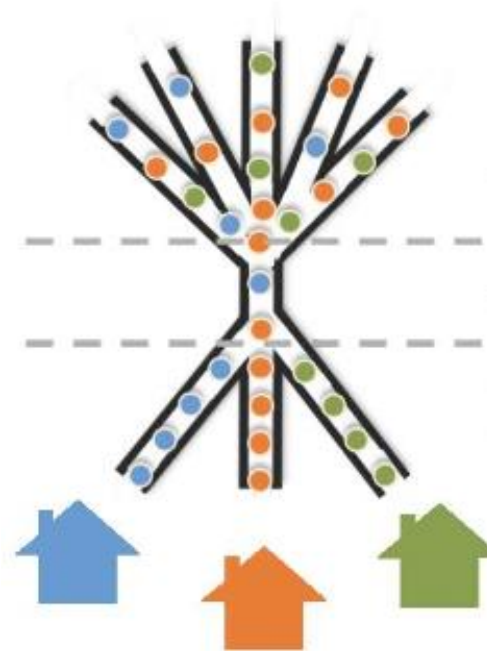   - Coordinated Entry/Coordinated Assessment

What is Coordinated Entry?

What are the principles behind Coordinated Entry?

- Housing First – Housing is a basic human right, not a privilege or a reward for good behavior.

- Client Choice – Clients are the expert on their own experiences and needs, and most people experiencing homelessness today do NOT want to be homeless.

- Human Dignity - All people deserve to be treated with respect, empathy, and personal autonomy, regardless of past or current behavior.

- Equity – Systematic privilege is real and pervasive, and we must take affirmative steps in systems design and implementation to achieve equitable outcomes for groups who are systematically oppressed.

Coordinated Entry

▶ **Common Access**

    ▶ No Wrong Door approach

▶ **Common Assessment**

    ▶ Eligibility and Vulnerability

▶ **Common Assignment**

    ▶ Prioritization and Referrals
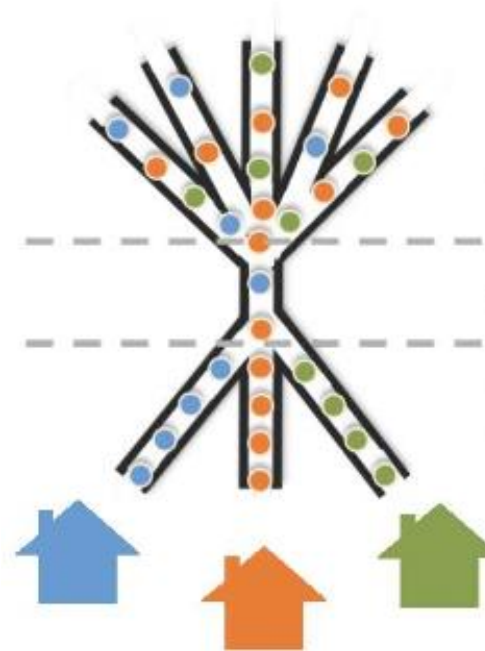
Common Access

- "No Wrong Door Approach"
  - Walk-in Centers
  - Navigation Centers
  - Street Outreach
  - Emergency Shelters

- Active Agencies Include:
  - ECHO
  - DACC
  - HOST
  - Integral Care
  - Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Sunrise Navigation Center
  - LifeWorks
  - Community Health Paramedics
  - The Salvation Army

Common Assessment

- **Also called "the Coordinated Assessment"**
- **Eligibility**
  - Intervention eligibility
    - PSH vs. RRH
  - Program-specific eligibility
- **Vulnerability**
  - VI-SPDAT
  - Subpopulations
  - Chronic Homelessness
  - Length of Time Homeless
  - Unsheltered vs. Sheltered
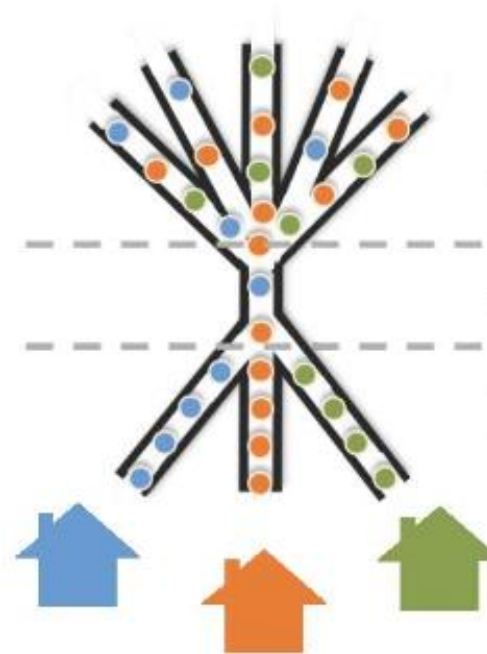
Common Assignment

- **Prioritization**
  - Intervention prioritization
    - PSH vs. RRH
  - Program-specific prioritization
- **Referrals**
  - Navigation
  - Outreach
    - "BOLO" and "Intensive"
  - Coordination and Tracking

Evaluations and Equity

- System Performance Measures
  - Successful Referrals/Enrollments
  - Exits to Housing
  - Housing Retention
- Equity Analyses
  - Equity in Assessment and Assignment
  - Equity in Enrollments and Exits

- Past and Current Steps
  - VI-SPDAT V1 and V2 Analyses
    - Affirmative Access
    - Increased Reliability
    - New Version Adoptions
  - Equity Task Group

Currently Participating PSH Programs

- Capacity
  - Approximately 1100 participating PSH Beds
    - Approximately 165 openings per year
  - Program-specific Eligibility
    - Veteran-Dedicated Beds
  - Prioritization and Resource Advocacy

- Participating Agencies
  - HUD VASH
  - Integral Care
  - HACA
  - Caritas
  - Front Steps
  - HATC
  - AIDS Services of Austin

PSH Housing history

- Participating PSH Programs housed 131 clients in last 12 months

  - 70 placements were Veteran-specific through VASH

  - 61 were non-Veteran households across all other programs

  - Of the non-Veteran households, 18 were Frequent Utilizers

- Frequent Utilizers make up less than 5% of the total non-Veteran population

- Frequent Utilizers made up 26% of non-Veteran PSH move-in's prioritized through Coordinated Entry

DACC PSH Program Ask

- 72 frequent utilizers on the PSH List;

- 11 of those Frequent Utilizers scored at the highest possible vulnerability range (16 and 17)

  - For an equity breakdown, by client self-report:

    - Five of these clients are Black/African American (45%)

    - Four are White, Non-Hispanic (36%)

    - Two are Hispanic/Latinx (18%)

- I would like to request that DACC affirmatively offer PSH services to these 11 highest acuity cases with their new housing program before moving on to other potential participants.

- Clients will not be penalized for the decision either way. If DACC elects not to serve these clients, they will be assigned in priority order to the PSH programs currently voluntarily serving highest acuity Frequent Utilizers.

Additional Questions?

▶ I can also always be reached for questions at prestonpetty@austinecho.org

▶ THANK YOU for your time and attention.