

Downtown Austin Community Court

DACC – Dependable – Accessible – Customer Centered – Collaborative



Item 3a. Coordinated Assessment Data & Process

Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board Meeting
City Hall

June 7, 2019

Pete Valdez III, LMSW – Court Administrator

Jennifer Sowinski, LCSW-S – Clinical Supervisor of Intensive Case Management Program

Robert Kingham – Court Operations Manager

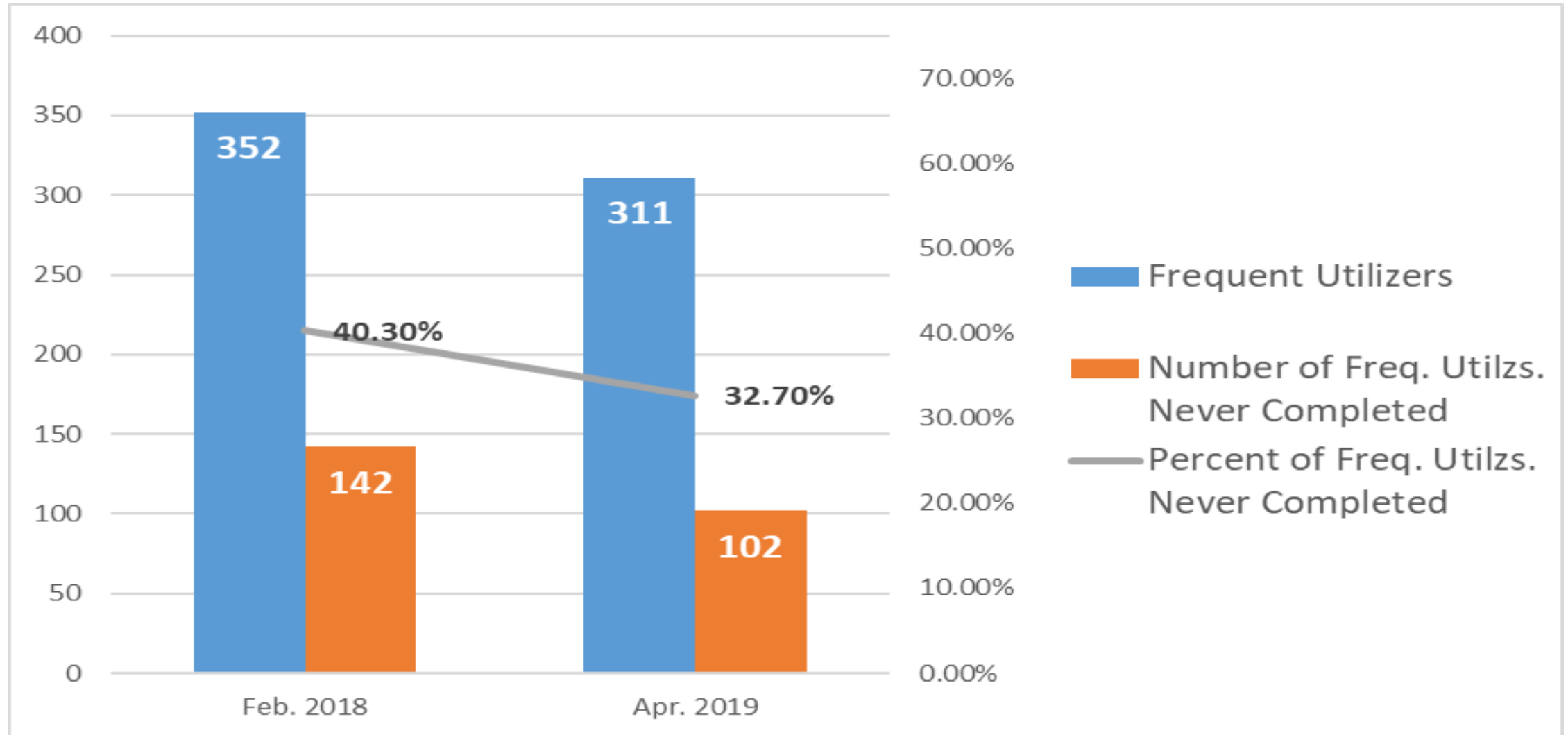
Downtown Austin Community Court (DACCC) Program Overview

- **Intensive Case Management**
 - **Clients with tri-occurring issues**
 - Physical, mental health, and substance use issues
 - Developmental disabilities & traumatic brain injuries common
 - **Client-centered and housing-focused approach**
- **Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST)**
 - Includes DACCC Case Manager
 - HOST referrals prioritized for Intensive Case Management

DACC Partnership with ECHO & Participation in Coordinated Assessment (CA)

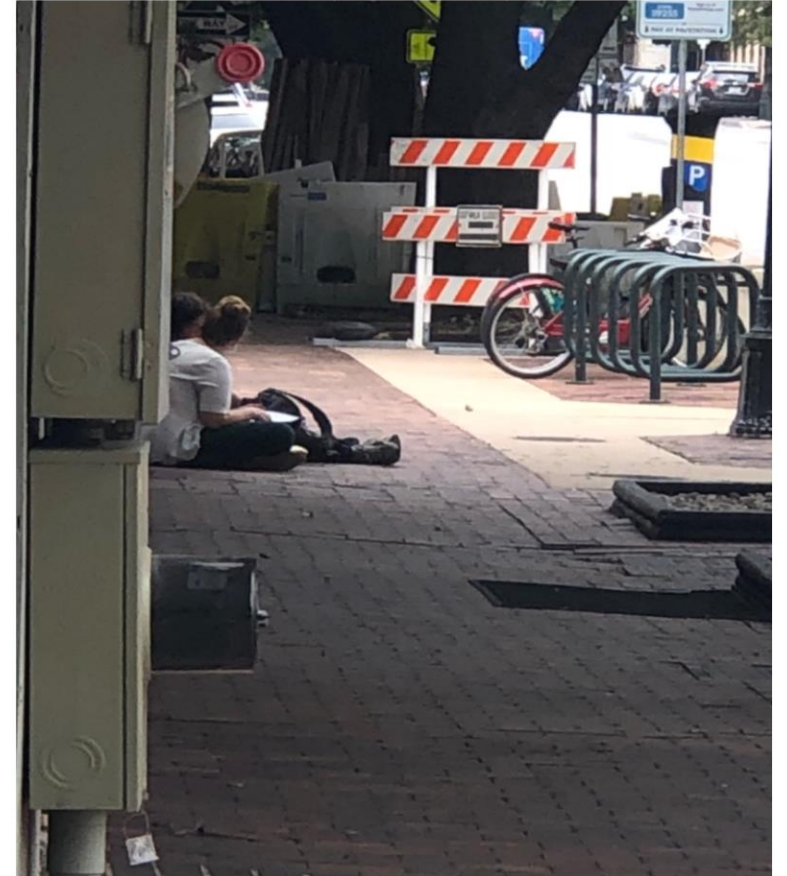
- **Case Management Staff trained as CA assessors**
 - **Attempt at CA completion is first part of client engagement**
 - **324 CAs completed at by DACC Staff since 2016**
- **Walk-in hours Wednesdays for anyone wanting to complete a CA**
- **DACC offers community service time for CA completion**
- **DACC accepts CA referrals through ESG Grant**

DACC Frequent Utilizers with Completed CAs

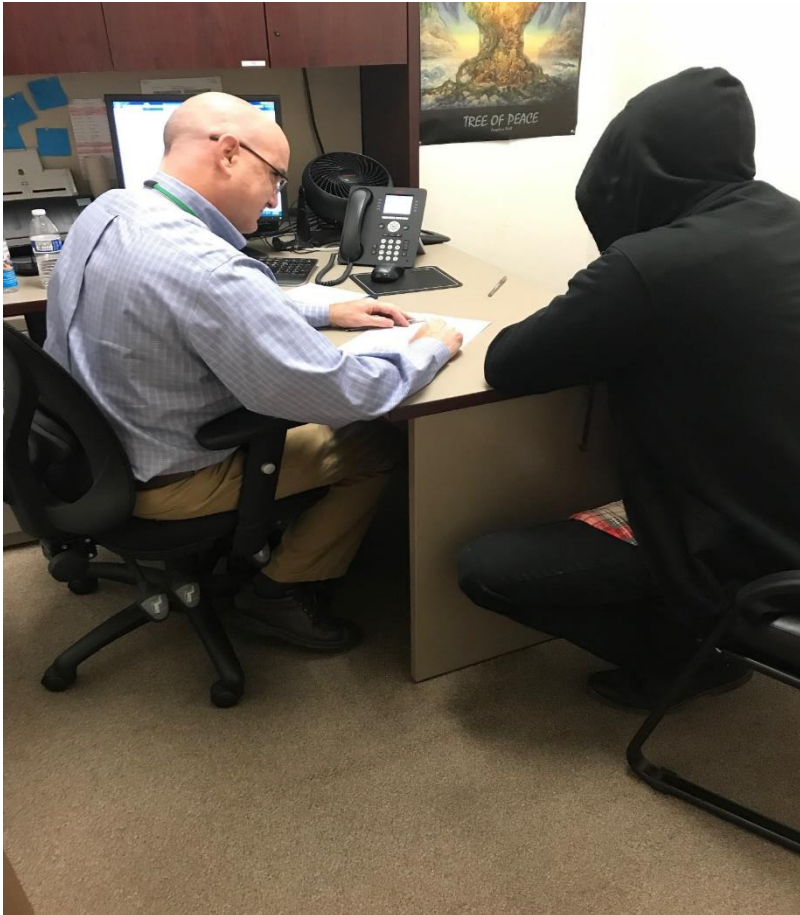


Current Status of Assessment & Reassessment

- From DACC's Frequent Utilizer List of 311 individuals:
 - 102 need to complete a CA
 - 78 could benefit from CA reassessment
 - DACC Staff believe clients' self-report during CA don't accurately reflect acuity



CA Scores & Housing Programs



- **Rapid Rehousing (RRH)** recommended for CA Score between 0-7
- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** recommended for CA Score between 8-17
 - Communitywide, 4 to 5 individuals with a 16 or 17 CA score are being housed each month
- **DACC client CA scores** consistently average around 12 based on self-report

Coordinated Assessment Process Concerns

- **Individuals scoring in PSH range can opt into Rapid Rehousing programs**
 - Inadequate services and financial supports provided
 - Clients with high acuity can end up with evictions and loss of homeless designation
- **Heavy reliance on self-reports**
 - Results in artificially low scores
- **Loss of homeless designation after stabilization services or incarceration for more than 90 days**
 - Cannot be housed through CA w/o homeless designation
- **Leaves clients with high acuity without options**

Housing Data for DACC Clients

- **DACC connected 140 clients to housing between January 2016 and May 2019**
 - **56 were housed based on their CA score**
 - **84 clients were housed through other means such as HACCA vouchers, CFV, Foundation Communities, and self-pay**
 - **46 were frequent utilizers of DACC**
 - **5 were frequent utilizers of Municipal Court**

Local Housing Programs not Reliant on CA for Eligibility

**Programs may enter data from CA scores, but
CA is not sole eligibility determinant:**

- Austin Homeless Veterans Initiative
- Austin Public Health agreements :
 - Terrace at Oak Springs – Integral Care
 - Arbor Terrace PSH – Foundation Communities
- Community First Village
- Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) Team
- Vouchers through the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA)
- Pay for Success
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

DACC's Philosophy & Approach to Service Delivery

- **Critical Time Intervention**
- **Focus on assisting individuals experiencing homelessness to gain long term stability**
- **Housing individuals after months or years of stabilization services**
 - **High levels of acuity at start of services**

Conclusion

- Ongoing opportunities for partnerships and process improvements
- DACC serves as a safety net for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness
 - Finding solutions for those without other options
- DACC will continue to balance:
 - Participation in CA process
 - Serving highly vulnerable individuals through Critical Time Intervention approach