EVANSTON ILLINOIS

2015 Human Services Priorities & Strategies for At-Risk Populations

Staff Overview

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September 15, 2014
ENGAGED CITY DEPARTMENTS

- All hands on deck approach
- Evaluated existing resources
- Developed priorities
YOUTH SEGMENT
AGES 0-15

- A valuable resource to coordinate services within the City and with external partners.
YOUTH SEGMENT KEY PRIORITY

• To expand and deepen engagement with Evanston/Skokie School District 65 and local childcare providers to coordinate programs within the schools and the library during “out of school” time.
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SEGMENT
AGES 16-24

• Services and resources are wide and vary
  – Mental health
  – Academic
  – Employment
  – Substance abuse
  – Social Services
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT PRIORITIES & STRATEGIES

• Staff identified a number of priorities:
  – Increase staffing and improve case management
  – Expand workforce partnerships and outreach
  – Develop public education
  – Align city resources and external partners
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

5 KEY STRATEGIES

1. Employ more social workers for case management to triage and manage services.
2. Expand Youth & Young Adult program outreach efforts and increase private sector support.
3. Work with community stakeholders to establish a workforce training and development service continuum between National ABLE (18+), Youth Job Center (14-25), the EPL and the City.
4. Create an expanded public education campaign to address the various substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases/infections and mental health issues that are prevalent among the target demographic.
5. Align resources with EPL, Parks, Recreation & Community Services programs and School Districts 65 and 202 to address growing literacy issues among target demographic.
ADULT SEGMENT
AGES 25-54

• Many similar needs to Youth & Young Adult segment
• Challenging because the needs are combined with a lack basic resources such as:
  - housing
  - healthcare
  - food access
ADULT SEGMENT
KEY PRIORITY

• Central Case Intake & Management
  - Utilize universal tracking system
  - Establish a continuum of care service agreement
  - Additional staff support needed
SENIOR SEGMENT
AGES 55+

• The Levy Center and its services have become an even greater resource for seniors and their adult children.
• Staff identified two key priorities in 2015
SENIOR SEGMENT
TWO KEY PRIORITIES

• A centralized case management system to classify needs, identify resources, and track clients.
• Development of a comprehensive housing strategy and a single fund to assist with all housing needs for seniors.
JOINT PRIORITIES IN 2015

• A joint priority for youth, young adult and seniors focuses on outreach and education.
• The community needs to know and understand what services and resources are available to them.
NEXT STEPS

• City Council discussion and guidance of priorities
• Final recommendations will be in the 2015 budget

• Thank you!