



Your Way Home System & Partnership Update Report

October 2016

Prepared by Jason D. Alexander, Your Way Home Senior Advisor on behalf of the Your Way Home Operations Team for the Your Way Home Leadership Council

- The Your Way Home Operations Manual was released on July 27, 2016 and can be downloaded here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/45h69u6lg0apkvk/YWH%20Operations%20Manual%20Final.pdf?dl=0>. All core service providers have been trained on the manual. Updates will be published quarterly as needed.
- The Your Way Home Learning Collaborative re-launched in August as a bi-monthly meeting for all core service provider staff. Team leaders from each provider meet alternative months to plan upcoming sessions with co-facilitators Sonia Stamm and Kayleigh Silver. 2016 – 2017 dates and meeting topics include:

TEAM LEADER MEETING DATE	LEARNING COLLABORATIVE DATE	THEME
August 9, 2016	September 20 2016,	Housing First
October 4, 2016	November 29, 2016	Serving the Most Vulnerable
December 13, 2016	January 24, 2017	Consumer Choice
February 14, 2017	March 21, 2017	Strengths-Based Engagement
April 11, 2017	May 23, 2017	Equity
June 13, 2017	July 18, 2017 (or June 27)	Continual Quality Improvement/ Consistency

- On August 18, 2016, Emma Hertz and Jason Alexander facilitated a National Alliance to End Homelessness Rapid Re-Housing webinar entitled: “Lessons from Montgomery County PA.” Watch the webinar or download the presentation here: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/rapid-re-housing-webinar-lessons-from-montgomery-county-pa>
- On August 30, 2016, Your Way Home Montgomery County released a new research report on emergency shelter policies and procedures to guide our partners working to end and prevent homelessness in Montgomery County, PA. Through the generous investment of the HealthSpark Foundation, Your Way Home contracted with Diana T. Myers and Associates, Inc. to research emergency shelter policies and procedures within a coordinated entry crisis response system. Download the report here: <http://yourwayhome.org/sites/default/files/resources-documents/MontCo%20Shelter%20Research%20Public%20Report.pdf>



- On September 13, 2016, the Office of Housing and Community Development submitted the FY2016 HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) grant application in the amount of \$3,031,179.00. Application materials and information can be accessed here: <http://yourwayhome.org/continuum-care>
- On September 21, 2016, Wells Fargo employees prepared “Welcome Home Kits” for Your Way Home Rapid Re-Housing clients at Salvation Army Norristown.
- Effective October 1, 2016, the County of Montgomery renewed its contract with Capacity for Change, LLC for Jason D. Alexander, Principal and Co-Founder, to continue serving as the Your Way Home Senior Advisor reporting to the Office of Housing and Community Development and serving as a member of the Your Way Home Operations Team. Beginning this year, Jason will also help to lead the County’s annual HUD Continuum of Care grant application process.
- On October 4, 2016, Your Way Home hosted a Trauma 101 workshop presented by the Institute for Family Professionals and sponsored by the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey. The Trauma 101 was attended by 32 Your Way Home system leaders and will be followed shortly by the launch of two six-session courses on “Enhancing Trauma Awareness” taught by the Institute for Family Professionals for 30 core Your Way Home service providers.
- The Your Way Home monthly e-newsletter currently has 753 subscribers. The Your Way Home Facebook page has 310 followers.
- As the lead agency for Your Way Home, the Office of Housing and Community Development is partnering with the Offices of Mental Health and Children and Youth with support from the entire Department of Health and Human Services on two exciting planning initiatives that will expand and enhance Your Way Home’s impact and partnership. First, the Offices’ are partnering to submit an application to HUD for a Youth Demonstration Program Grant. Even if the grant is not received, the County will have a unified vision for how to better address youth homelessness and housing instability in the future. Second, the three Offices are working on a joint strategic framework and Request For Information to expand and enhance street outreach services for people experiencing homelessness.
- In October, Your Way Home launched a new Hospital and Homelessness Advisory Team co-chaired by Jess Fenchel of Access Adult Mobile Crisis and Kayleigh Silver to improve coordination between systems and organizations. More information is available here: <http://yourwayhome.org/your-way-home-hospitals-homelessness-advisory-team>.
- As of September 30, 2016, the Your Way Home Initiative Fund at the Montgomery County Foundation, Inc. has an available balance of \$158,412, the vast majority of which is for consumer assistance, basic household goods and landlord engagement.



- The Montgomery County Foundation, Inc., has retained Fonta Reilly to serve as the new Your Way Home Grantwriter. Fonta's start date is pending the award of her state fundraising counsel license. Fonta will work directly with the Philanthropic Partnership Advisory Team with support from Foundation staff and the Operations Team.
- Beginning November 1, 2016, Your Way Home Community Update meetings will now be held monthly on the first Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. at the Human Service Center Community Room, 1430 DeKalb Street, Norristown. Attendees will receive Your Way Home and Continuum of Care updates and have the opportunity to provide input.