



October 2024 Newsletter

Explore new training and resources from HHRC and our partners!

New Release!



Understanding and Supporting Residents with Serious Mental Illness

OCTOBER 2024

INTRODUCTION: This fact sheet helps housing providers better understand and recognize the symptoms of three of the most common serious mental illnesses: schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depressive disorder. The guide also describes best practices for supporting tenants experiencing a mental health crisis and how to connect them with support.

What is serious mental illness?

Mental illness includes disorders that impact the way that individuals think, feel, and act. Mental illness varies in severity. Serious mental illness lasts for at least a year and significantly impairs the individual's ability to function.

Why should housing providers be aware of serious mental illness among residents?

It is estimated that just under 1 out of every 4 individuals who have experienced homelessness may have a serious mental illness. When left untreated, serious mental illness can be very difficult for the individual. It may also impact other residents if a neighbor engages in disruptive behaviors (e.g., becoming agitated or talking to individuals who are not there). For some, experiences with serious mental illness may lead to behaviors that impact the quality of the unit (e.g., breaking walls, hoarding) or an inability to pay rent.



HOMELESS AND HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER

Understanding and Supporting Residents with Serious Mental Illness | 1

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[Download the Fact Sheet](#)

Upcoming Webinar



REGISTER TODAY:

Identifying and Addressing Behavioral Health Needs in Encampments

NOVEMBER 13, 2:00PM-3:30PM ET

Identifying and Addressing Behavioral Health Needs in Encampments

November 13, 2:00-3:30pm Eastern Time (11:00am-12:30pm PT)

People experiencing homelessness experience higher rates of behavioral health conditions, and many symptoms can be caused or exacerbated by their living situations. As communities across the country change how they respond to and interact with encampments, outreach workers, community health workers, and peers continue to be essential team members who foster relationships and trust with encampment residents. These front-line professionals are often first to notice the onset or changes in behavioral health symptoms and serve as trusted individuals who can help support a person across a spectrum of behavioral health needs. This webinar will discuss core principles and engagement techniques for providers to serve as a bridge to care for mental health, substance use, and medical needs.

Participants will hear from community health workers and be able to ask questions before and during the session.

This webinar will be recorded and live Spanish interpretation, ASL interpretation, and captioning will be provided. Certificates of participation will be provided to those who complete a post-event evaluation, but no CEUs are included in this event.

[Register for the Webinar](#)

Launching HHRC's New Job Board!

Is your agency currently hiring for a position serving people experiencing or at risk of homelessness? Are you looking for your next role? We invite agencies to submit open job listings to be advertised on the HHRC website!

Positions **must relate** to supporting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have serious mental illness, substance use disorder, or co-occurring disorders. HHRC staff will review incoming listings for appropriateness and contact agencies with any questions.

[View and Submit Open Roles](#)

Recognizing Substance Use Prevention Month



October is substance use prevention month! In addition to supporting recovery, SAMHSA aims to prevent substance use in the first place, prevent the progression of use, and reduce harm. Prevention Month lifts up the national conversation and showcases prevention's positive effects on communities across the country.

Read more about collaborative efforts to prevent substance use in [SAMHSA's blog](#).

Partner Resources

USICH: Ending Homelessness Before It Starts: A Federal Homelessness Prevention Framework

The [framework](#)—informed by people with lived experience of homelessness—is an actionable guide for a wide range of partners. The framework:

- Details steps for developing a community-wide, cross-system approach to homelessness prevention
- Defines categories of homelessness prevention
- Shares promising practices for homelessness prevention programs
- Lists federal resources that can be used for homelessness prevention

SAMHSA: FindTreatment.gov is now available in Spanish!

Designed to serve Spanish-speaking communities, [FindTreatment.gov/es](#) offers confidential and anonymous access to a comprehensive list of certified substance use and mental health treatment facilities, certified community behavioral health clinics, opioid treatment programs, buprenorphine practitioners, and healthcare centers across the United States and its territories.

NASTAD: The Role of Housing in Improving Health Outcomes and HIV Care Continuity for People Who Use Drugs: Narratives and Recommendations from Lived Experience

Completed with support from SAMHSA and the [Opioid Response Network](#), this [document](#) presents first-hand narratives, research, and recommendations to understand and explore housing provision as a comprehensive health and overdose prevention strategy.

Housing Equity Framework: State and Local Policy Levers to Prevent and Address Homelessness

This [resource](#) includes a non-exhaustive list of policies and strategies that can play a critical role in preventing and addressing homelessness, promoting public and community health, and advancing racial equity. It highlights key questions stakeholders should consider as they seek to advance housing access and stability for all community members.

National Council of Urban Indian Health: Investing in Wellness: Financing Behavioral Health Toolkit

This [toolkit](#) provides key information and resources to develop applicable and practical financing strategies for Indian Health Care Providers to strengthen access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services for Indian Health Service beneficiaries. Discover valuable insights and resources to enhance behavioral health programming and initiatives through sustainable financing opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Partner Webinars

- Webinar: [Prioritizing Access to Education and Supportive Services for Student Parents/Expectant Parents of Infants and Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness](#)
November 12, 3:00pm ET. SchoolHouse Connection
 - Webinar: [White Faces, Black and Brown Lives: Understanding Racial and Ethnic Trends in the Fourth Wave of the Overdose Crisis](#)
November 19, 4:30pm ET. NASTAD
 - Webinar: [Best Practices in Interpretation Services for Latine Communities in Need of Behavioral Health Services](#)
November 21, 11:30am ET. Hispanic/Latino Behavioral Health Center of Excellence
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Please direct questions or concerns about HHRC training events

to: info@hhrctraining.org



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