

Supportive Housing

Gray Matters Behavioral Health Caucus Supportive Housing

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What is it?

- Permanent Affordable Housing for the very poor—30% of Area Median Income (AMI)
- Connected to the services and treatment that the residents need
- The exit from emergency institutions—Jails, Courts, Hospitals, Shelters, Outreach

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Current Cost to the Public

- Public cost of services are \$863 million
 - 9,000 homeless persons with disabilities
 - 6,400 persons with mental illness in local jails and state prisons
 - 1,275 persons in mental health hospitals
 - 1,312 persons in nursing homes

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Cost to the Mental Health Hospital

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- High use of hospitalization
- High readmission rates
 - All categories higher than the national average
 - 12 times higher for persons over 65 years of age
- Over-crowding
- Mistakes

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If we had 18,000 Units

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- DCA says we could use 18,000 units of supportive housing.
- \$238 million less per year
- \$13,000 less cost per housing unit
- 26% savings

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How do you get more?

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- Supportive Housing comes from the creative combination different sources of:
 - **Capital** at no cost or very low cost
 - **Rent Subsidy** to pay for operations
 - **Services** -- Casework and Supportive Employment that connect people to community resources and independent income

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How do we make a change?

- Prioritize available affordable HUD \$\$\$ers for supportive housing--\$200 MILLION.
- Prioritize HUD rent subsidies—Collaboration with Housing Authorities.
- Apply for HUD rent subsidies for SH.
- Provide the type of services housing developers need.

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Support the Budget

- Dollars give new DBHDD opportunities to change—Opportunity to succeed
- Flexibility puts the \$ers to most effective use
- Move acute care closer to home and patients
- Find the most appropriate settings.

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Specifics SH Actions for DBHDD

- Commit Georgia's National Low Income Housing Trust Fund share Supportive Housing
- Fund 16 Olmstead Housing Support Specialists to provide services for applicants for HUD subsidies—400 subsidies.
- Create 5 SH Facilitators of the Regions
- New Medicaid supported options 1915i plan amendment and reasonable rates.

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Summary

- Treatment works! Support the Governor's Budget
- It is more effective when people are housed
- You can do good while you are doing well
- The current system wastes money without results—jails don't yield recovery
- Housing is Healthcare

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