Pushing the Harm Reduction Envelope

NEXT STEPS IN THE EVOLUTION OF HARM REDUCTION HOUSING
Who is in the room today?
Where are you in your Harm Reduction practice?
What are your thoughts on drug use?
Change is hard!
As Program Director, in 2011 Desirie led SRHAC to adopt the Housing First/Harm Reduction Program Model and begin transitioning the organization.

This two-year process resulted in sustainable housing for the homeless population and a new Interim Housing Program on Chicago’s West-side.
As Director of Crisis Intervention and Supportive Services, in 2016 Desirie began conversations with SSPADS Emergency Shelter Site Managers regarding denying entry to guests due to inebriation.

These conversations partnered with buy-in from the Board of Directors and Executive Director, SSPADS no longer support the use of breathalyzing to deny entry to their overnight shelters.
Thresholds

As a residential Program Director:

Discontinued use of breathalyzer and urinalysis.

Initiated availability and distribution of Naloxone.

Pushed for fidelity to Housing First and Harm Reduction principles.

Provided training agency wide on Harm Reduction and Naloxone.

Initiated monthly team consultation with MHRI.
As the Director of Programs:
Initiated Naloxone trainings and distribution.
Initiated safer injection kit distribution.
Purchased and distributed safer crack smoking kits and pipes.
Provided free HIV rapid testing and HCV rapid and confirmatory testing events.
Initiated monthly training schedule.
Advocacy and Education with Stakeholders

Ongoing Education/Training is pertinent

Baby-steps and Bite-sized changes are a great start

Participants and other key stakeholders buy in
Who we serve....
Chicago Recovery Alliance table at Trilogy health fair
Resource Sharing

**HEARTLAND ALLIANCE HEALTH**

**MIDWEST HARM REDUCTION INSTITUTE** offers assistance to Chicago area permanent and supportive housing providers committed to adopting the Housing First approach based on the philosophy and practice of harm reduction.

Check out: [http://www.heartlandalliance.org/mhri](http://www.heartlandalliance.org/mhri)

**Sertome Centre** offers FREE: Mental Health Awareness Programs: QPR for Suicide Prevention, Mental Health Overview, Hearing Voices, Mental Health First Aid, Motivational Interviewing and other services.

Contact **Gia Washington**: 708-748-1951 ext.418
Pushing Your Practice Further

Safer Crack Smoking Kit
Naloxone Access

**INDICATION:** OPIOID OVERDOSE

**ANTIDOTE:** NALOXONE

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Overdose Prevention Society
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Xk1VmoHny8
Safe Consumption Sites
Activism
Portland Hotel Society
https://vimeo.com/91135617
Where to Start

- Gaining knowledge
- Knowing your audience
- Focus on why the change is important
- Finding allies and champions
- Celebrate small steps
- Tap into resources and examples of successful change
Questions?
Contact us!

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