

Report to Albany City Council:
April 2015-June 2015

Activities To-Date

The program has continued providing case management/housing maintenance assistance to clients this quarter. The Albany Case Manager, Carmen, continued to primarily provide services to the 4 distinct households of Albany clients that have been the focus of case management attention for the past year. Two additional households of former Bulb clients, a total of 5 individuals, who had been less engaged with the program in the past year have re-engaged with the program in Q2 of this year and several former Bulb clients who remain homeless have increased their contact with the program in recent months.

This quarter saw some shifting in the configuration of former Bulb clients occupying shared housing as some households disbanded and individual clients left to either live on their own or joined other former Bulb households. While many former Bulb clients continue to have a preference for living with people from their former community, for some, it has proven better than they live on their own.

Successes in Quarter One

- The program hired a part time Albany Case Manager in April. The new person has spent much of the quarter getting to know the clients of the program, and getting trained on all aspects of the program with an emphasis on developing skills as a housing specialist - locating units and forming relationships with landlords.
- The program located housing for 7 people this quarter - housing 5 new Project Hope clients and re-housing 2 existing Project Hope clients who were losing their current housing.
- The City of Albany made referrals of 3 non Albany Bulb related clients to Project Hope. All three clients were successfully housed. One client passed away shortly after being housed.
- A second, former Albany Bulb client was able to use his City of Berkeley Shelter plus Care voucher in this quarter. The Albany Case Manager put extensive time and effort into both his housing search and the Shelter plus Care paperwork process. He moved out of a shared Bulb household that was becoming increasingly chaotic and unsafe and is now living in a 1 bedroom apartment in Oakland. He continues to be case managed by the Albany Case Manager as part of BFHP's Shelter plus Care program.
- An Oakland household that had transitioned fairly smoothly to each member having his own lease in January overcame some significant challenges in this quarter. One member of the household went to jail and his girlfriend refused to vacate the unit until the landlord went through formal eviction proceedings against her. The landlord also became very concerned about the state of the unit and was threatening eviction of the three remaining members. The Albany Case Manager provided support to both the residents and the landlord through the eviction process of the girlfriend and later brought cleaning supplies to the household and cleaned with them/taught them cleaning skills until the unit was

brought back to a standard that was acceptable to the landlord. The case manager helped to move in a new 4th member of the household so that the landlord was able to receive complete rent for the property. The new household member is another former Albany Bulb client who had been living in a different household of former Bulb residents and needed to move. All member of this household are on enhanced GA with pending SSI and all of them are contributing 30% of their income to their rent.

- The family household which was helped over the past year with a variety of subsidy funds continues to be a part of the Berkeley Shelter plus Care program and has remained stably housed. This stability has allowed one of the adult members of the household to regain custody of his two children from a previous relationship. These two children now live with him, his current partner and their baby.
- A household of 4 former Bulb residents that has been disconnected with the program since moving into housing in the spring of 2014 has re-connected with the Albany Bulb case manager. The case manager was contacted by the landlord who was threatening eviction due to the condition of the property. The case manager has re-established a relationship with the household and assisted in clean up efforts to lower the risk of eviction. This household has been paying 100% of their own rent since moving into the property and continues to do so.

Challenges in Quarter Four

- One client who had received a Shelter plus Care vouchers from the City of Berkeley has had his voucher expire due to not being able to locate housing in a timely manner. The Albany Case Manager was able to obtain several extensions from the City of Berkeley for him but the current rental market made it too difficult to obtain a unit in his preferred areas of Berkeley or Albany. Another client, who has the 4th Shelter plus Care voucher from the City of Berkeley, is also at risk of having it expire after several extensions for similar reasons. Her apartment search difficulty is compounded by trying to find a landlord who will accept her two large dogs.
- A 4 member Richmond household disbanded in April due both to the end of the ESG subsidy funds and the pending eviction action being taken by the landlord due to conditions at the property. One resident had already left last fall to join another former Bulb household. One resident was successfully housed using Shelter plus Care. Two of the residents returned to homelessness. Both of them continue to work with the Albany Project Hope case manager.

HMIS Documentation

A demographic report and APR for Albany Aftercare clients is attached. Aftercare clients include people who were housed and who remain in contact with the Albany Case Manager. The APR shows that there were two clients who exited the program this quarter. One client went to permanent housing and then other went to jail. Twenty four Albany clients have been in housing for at least 6 months and 18 clients have been housed for over 1 year.

City of Albany
Homeless Outreach and Engagement Program
Berkeley Food and Housing Project Narrative Report