



Draft Implementation Plan for Ending Homelessness in Ten Years

presented to:

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Human Services Committee
Housing Committee
November 26, 2007

A Continuing Collaboration

- 8/2005** Planning Committee to End Homelessness formed
- 4/2006** Summit
- 11/2006** Blueprint
- 2/2007** Board endorses Blueprint
- 5/2007** Implementation Committee formed
- 11/2007** Draft Implementation Plan



A Community Plan

The Implementation Committee to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community

- Board directed formation of this group in February
- Over 100 stakeholders came together to continue the work of the Blueprint
- Worked from May through now



Goal: End Homelessness by December 31, 2018

Every person who is homeless or at risk of being homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community is able to access appropriate affordable housing and the services needed to keep them in their homes



This is a Goal We Can Achieve

- A population of over 1 million
- 2,000 homeless persons
- All we need is the will.



What is Housing First?

- Stable permanent housing as the first step, not the last
- Remove barriers to rapid re-housing
- Deliver services once housed
- Keep people in housing



Why Housing First?

- It costs less than institutional settings
- Services can be provided more effectively
- People respond better in a more dignified environment
- Community costs of health care, law enforcement decrease



Approaches Compared

Today

- Goal is *readiness*

Tomorrow

- Goal is housing *first*



Approaches Compared

Today

- Goal is *readiness*
- Specialized services provided at shelters, transitional housing, drop-in centers

Tomorrow

- Goal is housing *first*
- Services accessible at point of entry and follow person into housing



Approaches Compared

Today

- Goal is *readiness*
- Specialized services provided at shelters, transitional housing, drop-in centers
- Case management, crisis intervention, and coordination for eviction prevention

Tomorrow

- Goal is housing *first*
- Services accessible at point of entry and follow person into housing
- Housing placement, rental assistance, case management/life skills



Approaches Compared

Today

- Goal is *readiness*
- Specialized services provided at shelters, transitional housing, drop-in centers
- Case management, crisis intervention, and coordination for eviction prevention
- Priority on housing preservation

Tomorrow

- Goal is housing *first*
- Services accessible at point of entry and follow person into housing
- Housing placement, rental assistance, case management/life skills
- Priority on new housing options, early intervention/prevention, and preservation of existing housing



Guiding Principles

- Community acceptance and support of Housing First approach
- Political will to provide the leadership, commitment, resources, support, and government flexibility
- Strong participation from the business community



Guiding Principles (cont.)

- Collaborative leadership and management
- Collaboration across all agencies to make the necessary organizational, policy, practices, and process changes
- Meaningful opportunities for input from persons who are or have been homeless



Guiding Principles (cont.)

- Diverse funding and resources from throughout the community
- Accountability of all participating organizations



Housing First Approach: Key Strategic Actions

- Strong focus on permanent housing
- Strong focus on prevention
- Single access point to provide integrated services in the community
- A formal communitywide partnership



Expand Available Housing

- Identify new sources of funding
- Redirect existing resources based on the Housing First approach
- Explore alternative and innovative housing sites



Expand Housing (cont.)

- Convert transitional housing and utilize existing housing to provide permanent housing units
- Develop new types of permanent housing
- Identify and adjust key land use, program, and operational policies



Providing Services through Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST)

- Strong focus on prevention, housing, and rapid re-housing
- Located throughout the community
- Will coordinate and provide access to all needed services

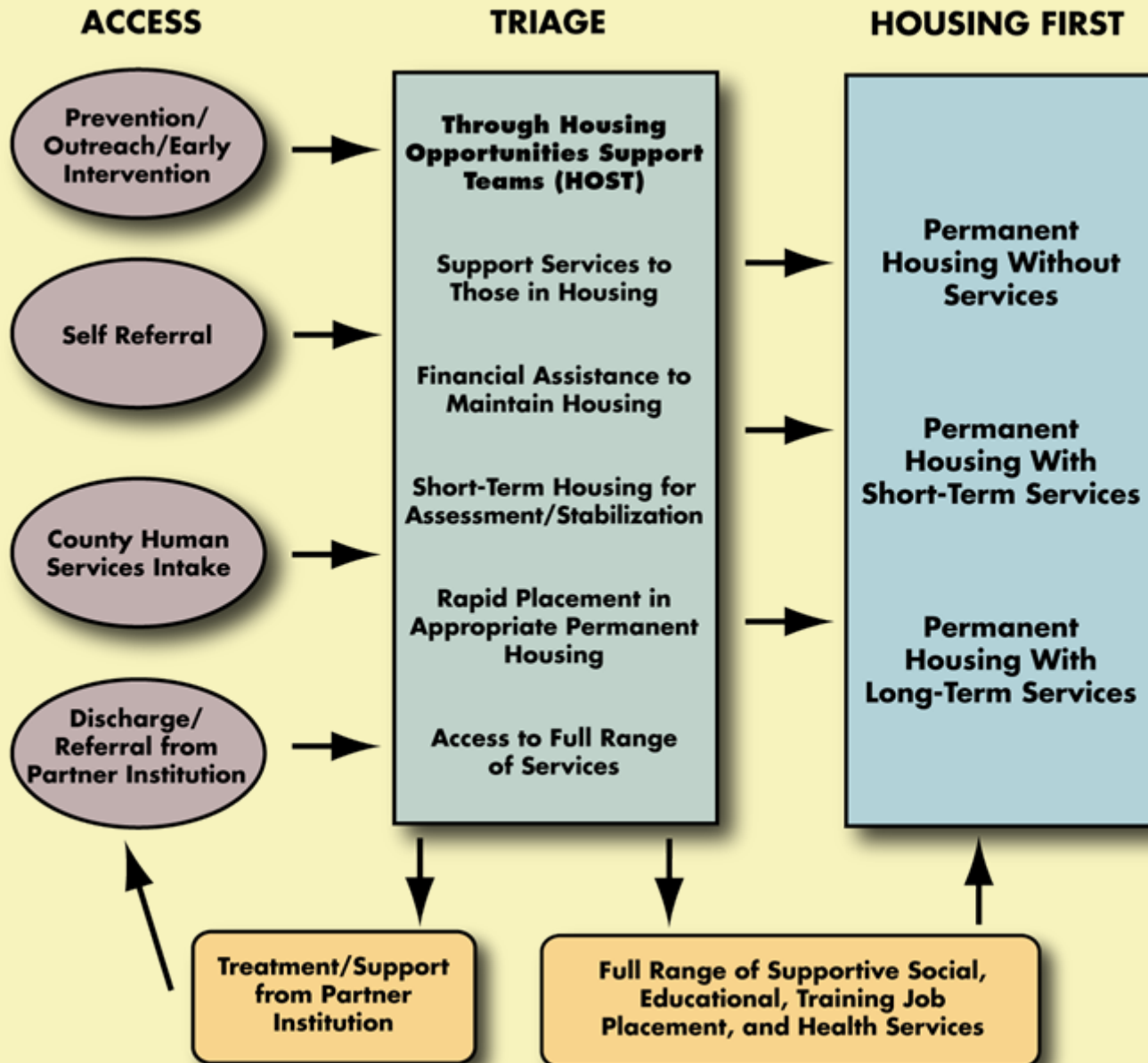


Implementing HOST

- Build on existing government and nonprofit locations and resources
- Not tied to a specific physical location
- Flexible to adapt to local conditions
- Makeup of teams and types of facilities will be determined locally



The Housing First System

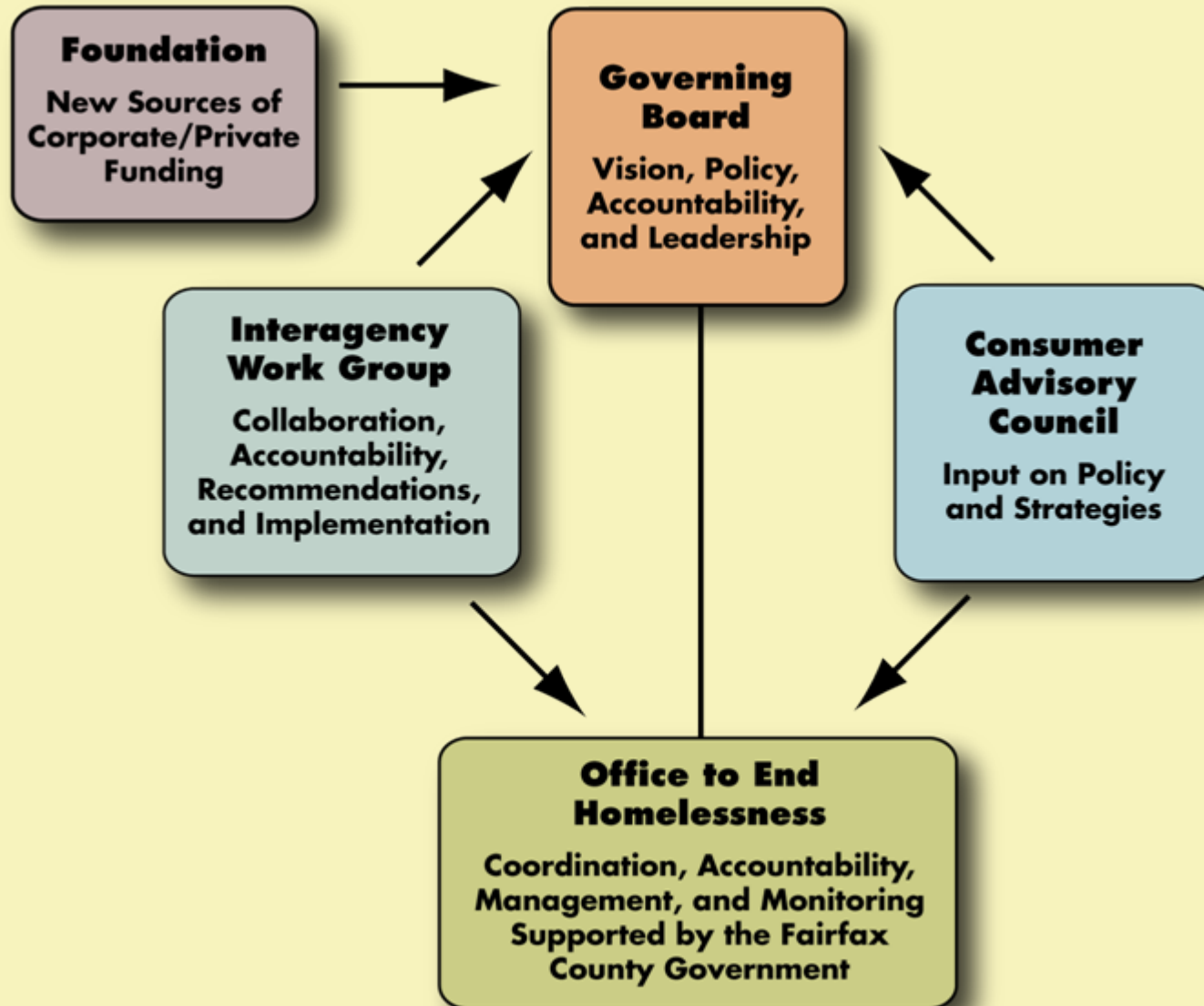


Governance Structure

- Modeled after best practices from around the country and applied specifically to the Fairfax-Falls Church community
- Formalizes the community partnership that has been evolving here for many years



The Community Partnership



Alternative Governance Organizations

- **As long as the guiding principles are followed other options can also work:**
 - Nonprofit central organization
 - Different makeups of governing board



Communications and Community Engagement

- Coordinated public education and communications to build community support
- Provide opportunities for community to participate in Plan implementation
- Seamless collaboration among nonprofit, faith-based, public and private sectors
- Leadership structure provides continuity and sustainability



Timing

- Transition activities are ongoing
- Communications, training, and learning are ongoing
- Formal Board of Supervisor's approval of Implementation Plan by March, 2008
- Governing Board and Office to End Homelessness in place by August 2008
- Full transition to Housing First system by the end of 2008



Summary

- We can end homelessness in 10 years
- It will require a partnership and strong will from every sector of our community
- We have an approach that was built by collaboration and will be implemented through collaboration



Moving Forward

- This plan has come about through the leadership and support of the Board
- We are now ready to move forward in partnership with the Board to assemble the resources and create the structure to solve this problem
- We want to finalize this plan together by March 2008 so the work can begin

