

# AmericanWork

Residential Services

11/19/19

# AmericanWork

- Founded by Ken Whiddon
- Began with Supported Employment
  - “I Can Work”
- Incorporated July 1999



# Our Mission

- Maximize the ability of people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and addictive disease to live and thrive in their community.

# Individuals served

DSM diagnoses	
Schizophrenia	17%
Schizoaffective disorder	14%
Bipolar I disorder	19%
Bipolar II disorder	3%
Major Depression- Moderate/Severe	26%
Major Depression- Mild	1%
Anxiety disorder	6%
Polysubstance dependence	13%



# Services

- Outpatient (“Core” services)
- Assertive Community Treatment
- Intensive Case Management
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program
- Peer Support Services- Group
- Supported Employment
- **Residential: Intensive Residential Services**
- **Residential: Semi-Independent Residential Services**

# Residential Services

- The Goal
  - To successfully maintain housing stability in the community,
  - Continue with their recovery, and
  - Increase self-sufficiency.

# Residential Services

- Funding provided through the **Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)**
  - Without funding, many individuals would be homeless, hospitalized or incarcerated

# Residential Services

- Benefits
  - Decreases homelessness
  - Decreases psychiatric hospitalizations
  - Decreases Emergency Room visits
  - Decreases contact with law enforcement
  - Decreases incarceration

# Residential Services

- Types of Residential Services offered:
  - Intensive Residential Services
  - 24/7 Supported Housing
  - Semi-Independent Residential Services

# Intensive Residential

- Group home setting
- 24/7 on-site assistance
- Licensed by HFRD (HealthCare Facilities Regulation Division)
  - Personal Care Home, or
  - Community Living Arrangement
- Locations
  - Savannah: 4 group homes
  - Douglas: 1 group home
  - Albany: 2 group homes
  - Columbus: 2 group homes



# Residential: 24/7 Supported Housing

- Provided in a *congregate* apartment community.
- 24/7 on-site assistance
- Licensed by HFRD (HealthCare Facilities Regulation Division)
  - Private Home Care
- Locations
  - Savannah
  - Douglas
  - Columbus

# Semi-Independent Residential

- Provide in *integrated* apartment community
- 36 hours per week of on-site programming
- Locations
  - Augusta
  - Savannah
  - Columbus

# Challenges/Opportunities: Financial

- Challenges

- No income
- Poor credit history

- Opportunities

- DBHDD provides funding for Residential services
- Partner with HUD housing
- Apartment leases in agency name
- Sign as financial guarantor on apartment leases
- Provide representative payee support

# Challenges/Opportunities:

## Background history

- Challenges
  - Criminal history
  - Prior evictions
- Opportunities
  - Find apartment complexes that are willing to allow our program to provide on-site services
  - Provide on-site support
  - Respond to issues as they arise

# Challenges/Opportunities:

## Need for on-site support

- Challenges

- Poor medication adherence
- Lack of independent living skills
- Poor social skills

- Opportunities

- Provide Supervision of Self-Administration of Medication
- Provide skills training in the areas of: budgeting, grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning
- Provide social skills training



# Challenges/Opportunities: Transitions

- Challenges

- Individuals served become comfortable in current placement and do not want to transition

- Opportunities

- Explain nature and purpose of placement as transitional skills training opportunity
- Provide continuum of residential options
- Assist in finding step down housing options





Thank You!