Research to Understand Systems of Housing (RUSH): Feasibility & Acceptability of Aligning Systems for Fathers

Strategies to Achieve Alignment, Collaboration and Synergy across Delivery and Financing Systems

Research-in-Progress Webinar
May 31, 2023
12pm ET
Agenda

Welcome: Carrington Lott, Systems for Action

Presenters: Latrice Rollins, Thomas Cotton, & Lease Youmans

Commentary: Carl Route

Q&A: Systems for Action
Dr. Rollins serves as the PI for the RUSH Project. She is the PI and Co-Investigator for several Federal, State and locally funded research, training, and service initiatives, with 15 years of research and evaluation experience. Dr. Rollins is an Assistant Professor at Morehouse School of Medicine in the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine and Prevention Research Center. She is the lead convener for Fathers Matter ATL.

She is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leader and seeks to advance health equity for African American fathers. Dr. Rollins is also the editor of a book on engaging and working with African American fathers.
Thomas Cotton, III is the Founder and CEO of Redemption & Advancement Alliance (RAA). He is the RUSH Project Manager. Thomas Cotton has served on the Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) Prevention Research Center Community Coalition Board since 2012 and is the current Vice Chair. He also serves on the MSM Institutional Review Board. He is a co-lead for the Addressing Mass Incarceration Strategy of Fathers Matter ATL. He is currently a student in MSM’s Master of Administration in Justice-Involved Care program.

He is an innovator in the field of prison reentry with over 20 years of providing useful support to people in transition and underserved communities. Mr. Cotton has a background in information technology and real estate, which will inform this project.
Lease Youmans is the Founder and CEO of Our Change Gon Come & Administrative Assistant for RAA. She serves as the Project Coordinator. Lease Youmans is a Life Evolution Coach, mentor, author, business consultant, artist, and speaker.

She is a graduate of the MSM Justice-Involved Care Life Coach Certificate program. She is a co-lead for the Addressing Mass Incarceration Strategy of Fathers Matter ATL. Ms. Youmans also has a background in accounting.
The Issue

• African Americans make up 13% of the general population, but more than 40% of those experiencing homelessness.
• Although services and policies addressing homelessness in the United States continue to expand, fathers experiencing homelessness remain an underserved subgroup.
• Research shows that most of the homeless population are men, and 41% of men who are experiencing homelessness are in fact parents.
• Only about 16% of sheltered families include a father.
• There is only one shelter in Atlanta that accepts fathers with their families
Goal: End homelessness for fathers in metro Atlanta

Objectives:

• Identify strengths and gaps in the existing homelessness response system to improve service coordination and screening and linkage to housing, health, and social services for fathers and explore barriers to accessing safe housing for fathers

• Adapt our existing systems to facilitate the identification of fathers experiencing homelessness (BNL) and linkages to housing and services in the homelessness response system

• Examine the feasibility and acceptability of the adapted system and alignment approach through a pilot study with fathers experiencing homelessness served by our medical, public health, and social service partners
Community-Based Participatory Research

CBPR Conceptual Model


- **Contexts**
  - Social & Structural
  - Political & Policy
  - Health Issue Importance
  - Capacity & Readiness
  - Collaboration Trust & Mistrust

- **Partnership Processes**
  - Individual Characteristics
  - Relationships
  - Partnership Structures
  - Funders
  - Agency
  - Community
  - Government
  - Academic
  - Health Care

- **Intervention & Research**
  - Integrate Community Knowledge
  - Culture-Centered Interventions
  - Empowering Processes
  - Partnership Synergy
  - Community Involved in Research
  - Appropriate Research Design

- **Outcomes**
  - Intermediate
    - Policy Environment
    - Sustained Partnership
    - Empowerment
    - Shared Power Relations in Research
    - Cultural Reinforcement
    - Individual / Agency Capacity
    - Research Productivity
  - Long-term
    - Community Transformation
    - Social Justice
    - Health / Health Equity

Visual from amoshealth.org 2017
## Community Partners

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical</th>
<th>Social Services</th>
<th>Public Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morehouse Healthcare</td>
<td>Atlanta Housing Authority</td>
<td>Fulton County Board of Health</td>
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<td>The Healing Community Center</td>
<td>Gateway Center</td>
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<td>Good Samaritan Health Center</td>
<td>Fathers Matter ATL</td>
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<td>Care Source</td>
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System Alignment Approach

A Functional Zero end to homelessness means that communities have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness (unsheltered homeless, sheltered homeless, provisionally accommodated or imminent risk of homelessness) is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.

Absolute Zero refers to a true end to homelessness, where everyone has access to supports and appropriate housing so that no one becomes homeless (unsheltered homeless, sheltered homeless, or provisionally accommodated) or at risk in the first place.


Rather than opposite concepts, Functional Zero describes progress towards an Absolute Zero end to homelessness.
Functional Zero
Person-centered and data-driven approach, which, to date, has seen seven communities achieve Functional Zero for veterans’ homelessness, and four communities functionally end chronic homelessness, as part of a national end homelessness campaign known as ‘Built for Zero’.

https://www.homeleshub.ca/blog/lived-experience-view-functional-absolute-zero
By Name List

A real-time, person-specific list of all people known to be experiencing homelessness in your community. It includes a robust set of data points that support Coordinated Access and prioritization at a household level and an understanding of homelessness inflow and outflow at a systems level.
Systems Alignment Approach

Step 1: Learn About the “What” and “Why” of By-Name Lists (BNL)
Step 2: Form a Local Team and Clarify Scope
Step 3: Engage with Providers and Build Community Will
Step 4: Develop your Data Infrastructure and Implement Data Sharing Agreements
Step 5: Create a Common Consent Form and Intake Questions
Step 6: Develop Key BNL Policies and Protocols
Step 7: Complete a Registry Event or Build on an Existing List or Client Data
Step 8: Use the BNL to Coordinate Access to Housing Resources and Support Individual-Level Outcomes
Step 9: Achieve a Quality By-Name List and Continue to Sustain and Improve It
Step 10: Use the BNL for System-Level Monitoring and Improvement
Coordinated Access System

- Integrated system that provides all the key services someone who is experiencing homelessness needs for as long as that person needs them.
- Way for communities to bring consistency to the process by which people experiencing or at risk of homelessness access housing and related services within a geographic area.

Core components of a strong Coordinated Access System include:

- Housing First approach
- Real-time data about the supply of and demand for housing resources
- Streamlined service delivery approach with access points to service, a standardized workflow for triage and assessment; prioritization; and vacancy matching and referral
Commentary: Carl Route, CLC

Carl Route is the Fatherhood Program & Community Engagement Director and Wisdom Council member at Reaching Our Brothers Everywhere (ROBE). He is also a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) a graduate with Morehouse School of Medicine Satcher Health Leadership Institute’s Community Health Leadership Program. He is a collaborative partner with Fathers Matter ATL, Addressing Mass Incarceration strategy, and member of the RUSH Coalition. He is a published author of two books, *Born Captive, Made Free* (2011), and *Boy, Man, Father* (2018).
Questions?

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Upcoming Webinars

June 5
12pm ET

Systems Alignment to Optimize Health Services for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Register at:
https://systemsforaction.org/research-progress-webinars
**Acknowledgements**

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