



Transitioning from Homelessness to Permanent Supportive Housing on Skid Row

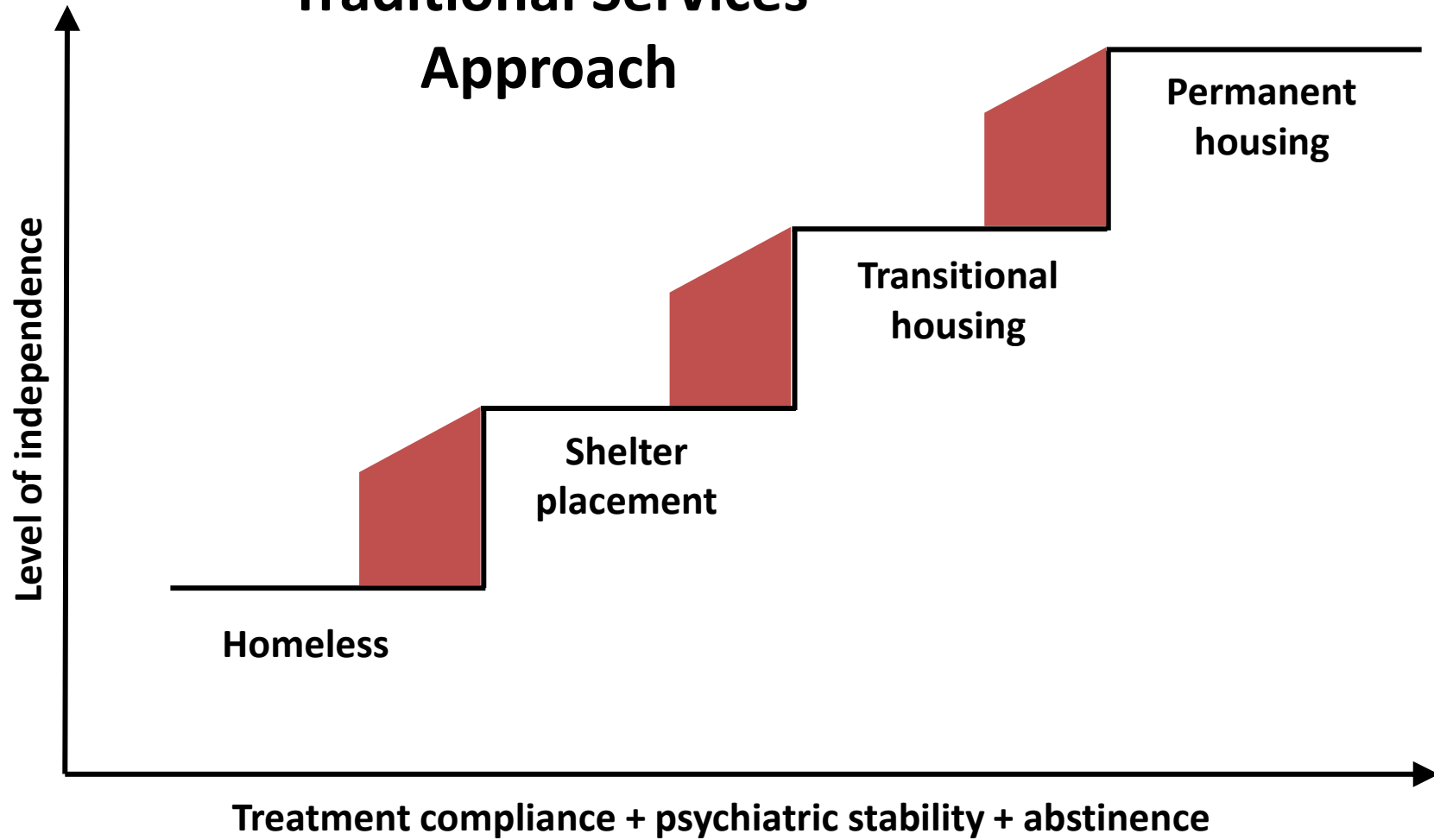
Presenters:

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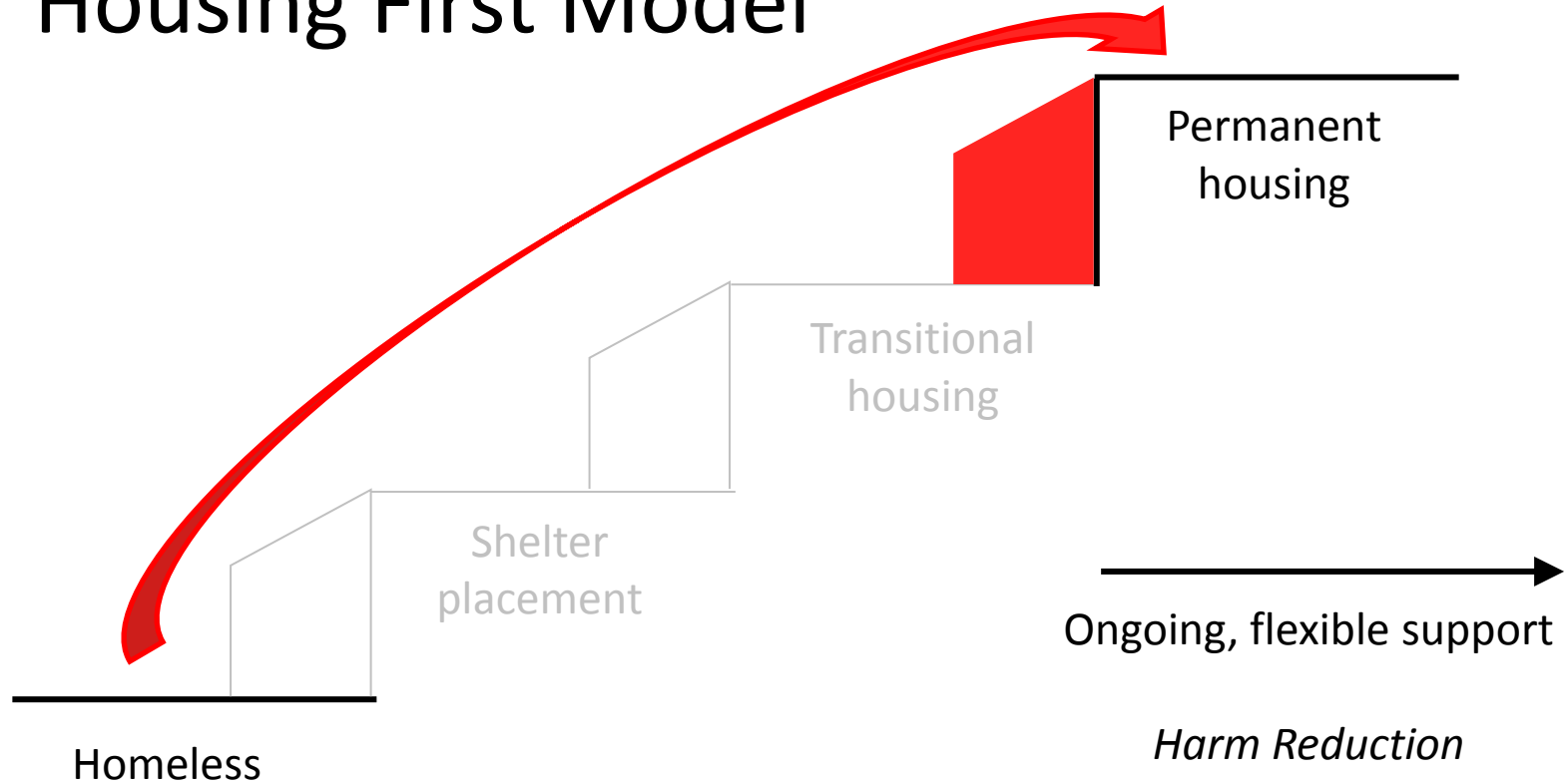
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Traditional Services Approach



Housing First Model





Transition from Homelessness:

A “Fresh-Start” event

Introduction



- Around 20% of the homeless population meet the criteria of “chronic homelessness”
- People experiencing chronic homelessness are the most vulnerable population, and utilize 80% of the resources
- Current strategies on ending chronic homelessness:
 - Treatment First Approach and Housing First Approach

Study background



- Focus on understanding the perspectives of individual adults experiencing chronic homelessness and are in the process of transitioning to PSH via Housing First
- Informed by two conceptual constructs:
 - “Ontological” security
 - Fresh Start

Research question



- To what extent is HF regarded as a “fresh start?”
- *Are individuals transitioning from homelessness anticipating increased ontological security?*
- *How does this particular housing environment affect HF enrollees’ perspectives on their transition?*

Study Setting



- A PSH program in Skid Row area
 - HF model
 - Congregated housing
 - Services are provided on site via the provider or off site via collaborated community partners
 - PSH eligibility criteria are based on Homeless Vulnerability Index

Participant recruitment



- 35 homeless individuals on the PSH waiting list were identified and recruited for this study
- To maintain external validity, no further criteria were required for this study except for:
 - Being at least 21 yr. old
 - Being able finish one on one interview were
 - Had not yet move into housing
- \$20 incentives were provided to compensate for their valuable time

Data collection/Analysis



- Face-to-Face semi-structured qualitative interviews were conducted by two trained research assistants
- Interviews lasted about 45 minutes
- All interviews were recorded and transcribed for analysis
- Thematic analysis guided by the research questions were then conducted

Result:

Socio-demographic characteristics of homeless adults in transition to permanent supportive housing study (n=26)

	#(%)
Gender (male)	18(69.23)
Race/Ethnicity	
Black	19(73.08)
Latino	4(15.38)
Other or mixed race/ethnicity	3(11.54)
Sexual orientation (heterosexual)	26 (100)
Educational level (at least HS degree or GED)	15(57.69)
Married/In serious relationship	12(46.15)
Current employment status (unemployed)	18(69.23)
Place stayed the most in the past 3 months (in shelter/transitional housing)	20(80)
Binge drinking in the past 3 months	7(28)
Self-perceived fair or poor general health	16 (62.50)
Schizophrenia diagnosis (yes)	13(52)
Past months PTSD symptomology (n=19)	7(36.84)
Depression score	23.71(8.47)*

* mean (SD)



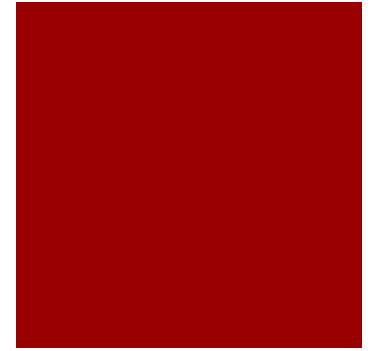
Result Con.



- To what extent is HF regarded as a “fresh start?”
 - Now where to go but up (Universal optimism):
 - “It can’t get no worse. The next thing to this is death.”
 - “giving me an opportunity to join the human race again”
 - Quality of life and future opportunities would improve
 - Concerns accompany with housing
 - Keep up with tenant responsibilities to maintain housing
 - “responsibility, bills, I guess living within a habitat...positive concerns”

Result Con.

- *Are individuals transitioning from homelessness anticipating increased ontological security*
 - Having a place to stay = A sense of control and safety
 - “I’ll be able to stable out my life more”
 - New daily routine
 - Anticipate new social ties
 - “I’m going to be making real connections, positive connections, too”
 - Social isolation
 - Perceived as a loner, and would not make new connections
 - Some things stay the same
 - Stick with prior service providers or therapists

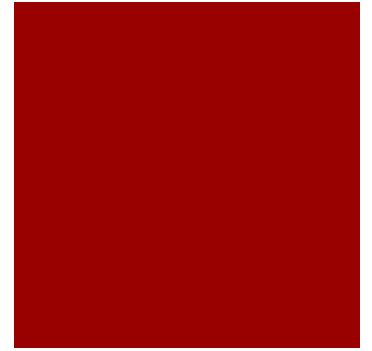


Result Con.

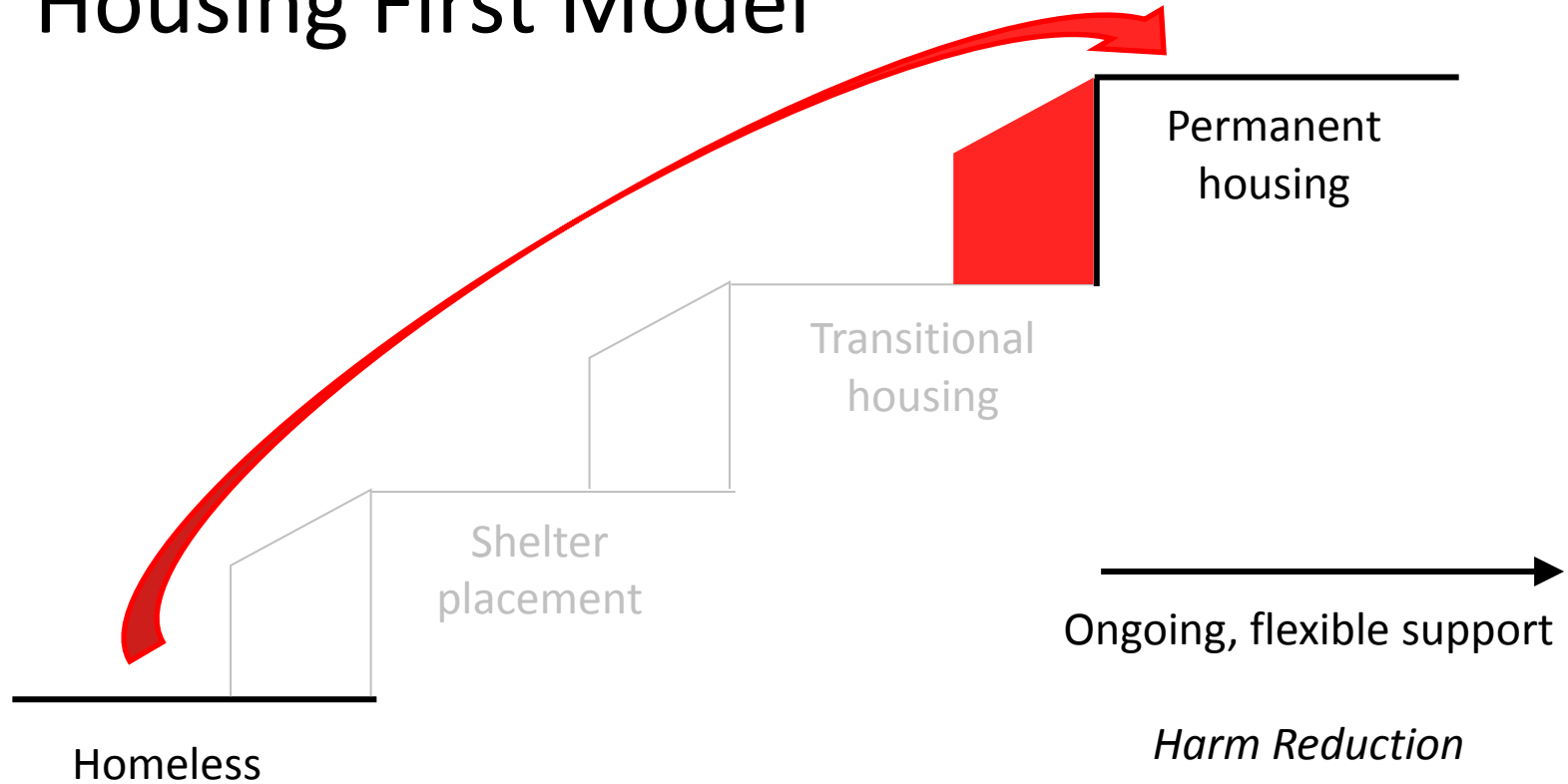


- *How does this particular housing environment affect HF enrollees' perspectives on their transition?*
 - Neighborhood matters
 - Satisfied with the housing, but concerns about the neighborhood
 - Expressed moving to other places, once getting life straightened
 - Proud of surviving on the streets, and can withstand any negative influences

Discussion



Housing First Model



Redesigning the System

