

Momentum Project: Highway of Hope- Community Collaboration, Coordination, Collective Impact

Visual, Introduction and Planning Tool

Highway of Hope Concept

Visual



CREATING WAY STATIONS

on the Highway of Hope

Community agencies, entities, and individuals will pool resources and coordinate existing efforts to provide what works in their spaces and scope to create an intentional spectrum of engagement spaces to fit the needs of vulnerable individuals and families



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Introduction:

There is always room for improvement and increased resources in support of “ending” homelessness, but there are still things that can be done now, or that are in place but just need to be better coordinated. Needed resources and opportunities may already exist, which we are not aware of. Some collective attention to this will improve outcomes while we wait for increased affordable housing. And can help us get people into existing housing opportunities. Mental health and addictions supports come in all shapes and sizes from recreation and expression to community connection opportunities, to creating healthy and supportive social networks to formal supports. This is a way to link them and create access points that connect people to what they need, with a practice and process that helps them engage with what they need, when they need it.

We have heard from Lived Experience peeps that it becomes easier to fall back onto lifestyle habits they are trying to escape when there are not enough alternative options. Just having safe, clean, substance-free spaces to socialize, have some quiet time, engage in art, music, or other forms of expression, healing, personal interest and soul-building, has an impact on getting their feet back under them and starting the rebuilding process. In a model like this, when they are ready to tackle next steps, they will already have trusting relationships and a healthy, supportive “community” in place. An intentional effort to provide for this can help them get to that point sooner! This is an important part of the story of those who have been successful in moving forward from homelessness. They have found those opportunities. We can formally organize them.

Proposal: Coordinate as agencies, entities, and individuals in this community and bring what we have to the circle of care. Then, with some help from other community sectors and entities, provide for and map an organized and intentional spectrum of meaningful daily activity, enhanced support and opportunities for people while waiting for housing, and to help them maintain momentum in housing. Explore and use what we have now. Creating non-threatening and “accessible” opportunities to connect with mental health and addiction services while engaging in activities that will help them create healthy community networks, process, heal, and prepare for any specific formal interventions for improved outcomes.

Outcomes:

- A better collective picture of what exists already to support vulnerable and at-risk community members
- A clearer idea of what is needed so we can make better plans and strategies for the future (housing, employment pathways, community capacity building)
- Increased engagement of more community members, entities, and sectors than ever before with a cohesive plan and vision for them to identify with and that fits with what they can do to help
- Increased safe and more effective engagement points for vulnerable community members, that lead into a connected, cohesive system of help, care and support, when they are ready
- While people are waiting for larger needs to be met, they will have more opportunities to engage in activities that will help them move along the continuum from crisis to thriving.
- Pathways into next steps for housing, employment, health and well-being, engagement and inclusion are more accessible, trusted, and coordinated to make the best use of available resources
- Better relationships with the people we are trying to help and greater ability to advocate for them in housing “match-making”, wellness care, employment, and other areas of focus as required
- Decrease in vagrancy and visible risky activities, and more opportunities for safe spaces where people can feel free from “predators” and supported to leave behind unhealthy and risky alternative coping activities, even if it is just for a while.
- People will have more resources around them to help them when they are ready to commit to the next steps on their journey. The support will be there at the “cross roads” moments.
- Improved understanding for the greater community, of the stories, situations and needs as well as strengths and potential contributions of our vulnerable neighbours
- More opportunities for our vulnerable neighbours to shine, be included in the regular everyday of being human, in order to escape their current reality for a while, in healthy ways, and find some steps and ways out of it.
- The current sense of antagonism will begin to change into mutual respect and moving forward together as stigmas lift and the reasons for them disappear. People will be more free to change. On both sides of the issue.

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Planning Tool

Please take the time, with your team, to fill in this table from your perspective. We will then correlate the information we receive to inform an action plan to link/enhance/create and map a series of engagement opportunities for the vulnerable folks we are trying to support, using the opportunities and resources that are available. We will also approach other community sectors and entities to help fill in the resource gap. Add as many rows as you need.

Please return your completed table to _____ at: _____

Existing Activity	Where and when is it happening?	Who is it meant to engage? (demographic? harm reduction or situational sobriety required)? Is it well utilized?	What are your challenges?	What could make it better or more utilized?
Needed Activity	What kind of space is required?	Who is it meant to engage? (demographic? harm reduction or situational sobriety required?) urgency?	What is needed to make it possible? What pieces might your organization have?	When should it happen?