



# Answering the Call

Creating Solutions for Homelessness





# Session 8:

Looking back, Looking  
ahead

# In this session:

- We will review highlights from the series
- We will hear from the room; what people are doing and looking forward to doing
- We will reflect together on the process of learning with each other
- We will look ahead to next steps beyond this series
- And...we will celebrate the great work to find community solutions





Looking  
back

# Meet Anne and Jeanette



# 3 Big ideas:



See the need



Hear the call



Move into action

# Cycle of homelessness



# Session 2:

Bringing relief to people living outside





# Interview with Dan

<https://vimeo.com/1103509350/d5e4daa69e?share=copy>



# Which leads to the Big Gap

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We are collectively, actively  
putting people in harms way,  
and we are not protecting them



# T.A.K.E. W.A.R.M. Approach

## Before the Encounter, T.A.K.E.



### **Tangible Aid**

Consider what physical items you can offer, like water, snacks, or seasonal necessities such as a hat in winter or bug spray in summer.



### **Awareness**

Gather information about local resources, such as outreach or crisis numbers, that you can share.  
**MontCo Mobile Crisis: 855-634-HOPE**



### **Knowledge**

Know the locations of nearby services, such as food pantries or places offering free meals, to guide the individual towards them.



### **Engagement Preparation**

Mentally prepare for a respectful and open-minded interaction.

# T.A.K.E. W.A.R.M. Approach

## The Encounter, W.A.R.M.



### Warm Approach

Begin by observing the situation, and then gently approach the individual with sincerity.



### Acknowledgement

Start with a friendly greeting and offer something tangible, such as saying, "I saw you here, and it's hot today, would you like some water?"



### Rapport Building

Introduce yourself to establish a personal connection. Saying, "My name is..." can create a more friendly atmosphere.



### Meaningful Exchange

Engage in a brief conversation to understand their situation. Ask questions like, "Are you sleeping outside?" or "Do you have places to go?"  
If appropriate, offer any additional items and information you have prepared or provide local resources, such as street outreach programs.

A photograph of a shelter room with several beds and people resting. The room is dimly lit, and the beds are arranged in rows. A person is visible in the background, sitting on a bed. The overall atmosphere is quiet and somber.

# Session 3:

Shelter From the Storm



# Interview with Matt

# Session 4: Innovative housing solutions

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# The Gap is \$500.

- Redefining Affordability



# Hallmarks of Community success

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Innovative: doing things that have not been done, doing new things in different ways



Collaborative: Working with people you've not worked with before, or working with them differently



Decisional will: Deciding as a group that a thing needs to happen



# Moving to action (Discover, Decide, Do)

- Find out
  - What is the housing situation in your town?
  - The eviction rate?
  - Where do people with low incomes live? What do they pay? What kind of housing is it?
- Advocate for inclusionary zoning;
  - rehab houses into multiple apartments
  - Alternate Dwelling units (ADU's)
- Consider your resources and how you might innovate and collaborate
- Connect and Convene



# Session 5:

Supporting Housing Stability

# Eviction Happens. A lot.



Montgomery County has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest eviction rate in the state



It is one of 20 (out of 67) counties that are responsible for 87% of all evictions statewide



In 2024 there were 8,585 eviction filings (do the maths)



95% of evictions are due to back rent

We are  
manufacturing  
homelessness  
instead of  
housing

**The Gap**





# Answering the Call

Session 6: Getting started in your neck of the woods



# A Big Shift

Moving from topics to process to action

# In this Session:

- We will hear from people who have begun a collaborative community process to address issues of homelessness and housing
- We will introduce some key concepts that can form a template/guide for organizing and moving to action
- We will practice using several discovery/design tools
- We will brainstorm some early action steps that people can take home





# Answering the Call

**Session 7:** Getting started in your neck of the woods, **part 2**

# The Process

## Convening

### Convening

- Who else is interested?
- How can you spread the word?
- Who's a good host?
- FRAMING THE POINT

## Aligning

### Information gathering

- Local context
- Statement of need
- FIND THE GAP
- What are people already doing?
- What's not done?

### Asset Inventorying

- Make a shareable list of what people have to offer
- ALIGNING RELATIONALLY

## Activating

### Self-directed process

- What's the next thing?
- Who do we need?
- Enough structure

### Setting the goal and steps

- Ask the ABCD questions
- Ask the Strongtown question
- ALIGNING TOWARDS A VISION



What are  
people up  
to?

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# Main Line Unitarian Church

- <https://mluc.org/housing-justice-home>



**UPPER PERKIOMEN**



**HOMELESSNESS COALITION**

**A Local Response to a Local Need**

**[www.upperperkcodeblue.org](http://www.upperperkcodeblue.org)**

# Convening, aligning, activating... What's been helpful?

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- Get into small groups and chat through a couple of questions:
  - How has the process of gathering and networking been for you?
    - Did you prefer live or virtual?
    - How impactful were small group exercises, hearing from people with experience
  - What connections have you made either to people or to things others are doing?
  - What ideas have been planted, or moved forward during the sessions?
  - What things have you wished we could do more of?



# Looking forward

- What things are you doing/starting to do that you would like continued support with?
- Are there things that you are interested in but still not sure where to start or how to get going?
- Do you want to stay connected to others who are also interested in this issue?
- What would be most helpful from us moving forward?
  - More training, individual support, connection to other resources...



KEEP MOVING

FORWARD

THANK YOU





# How Can You Reach Us?

[AnsweringTheCall@AccessServices.org](mailto:AnsweringTheCall@AccessServices.org)