

What is

SHARED HOUSING?

SHARED HOUSING IS... WHEN TWO OR MORE UNRELATED TENANTS LIVE TOGETHER, PREFERABLY EACH HAVING THEIR OWN ROOM AND SHARING COMMON LIVING SPACE.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SHARED HOUSING?

SHARED HOUSING ALLOWS PEOPLE TO LIVE WITH WHO THEY WANT, WITH THE SECURITY OF HAVING THEIR OWN LEASE. LIVING WITH OTHER PEOPLE – ESPECIALLY WHEN TRANSITIONING OUT OF HOMELESSNESS – HAS EXTRAORDINARY SOCIAL, MENTAL, AND EMOTIONAL BENEFITS.

SHARED HOUSING ENABLES PEOPLE TO:

- **CHOOSE THEIR OWN HOUSEMATE(S) AND FOSTER NEW RELATIONSHIPS**
- **FIND MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS QUICKER**
- **MOVE OUT OF HOMELESSNESS SOONER**
- **FIND BETTER QUALITY HOUSING, MORE LIVING SPACE**
- **DECREASE ISOLATION/INCREASE NATURAL SUPPORT**
- **DECREASE INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES BY SPLITTING HOUSEWORK AMONGST HOUSEMATES**
- **DEVELOP AND GROW CONFIDENCE SURROUNDING SAFETY AND SECURITY WITHIN THE HOME**
- **LIVE IN SHARED HOUSING TEMPORARILY OR LONG-TERM; CLIENTS CAN STAY FOR THE LIFE OF THE LEASE, OR LONG-TERM**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Shared Housing

CLIENT MESSAGING



CLIENT MESSAGING ABOUT SHARED HOUSING OCCURS THROUGH A SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS, AS CLIENTS MIGHT NOT CHOOSE SHARED HOUSING AT THE BEGINNING.

CLIENT MESSAGING ABOUT SHARED HOUSING IS ALSO A CONTINUAL CONVERSATION ACROSS THE SYSTEM. EFFECTIVE SHARED HOUSING MESSAGING IS BASED ON CLIENT CHOICE, REALITY TESTING, AND MEETING THE CLIENT WHERE THEY ARE AT IN EVERY CONVERSATION.

CLIENT MESSAGING PRINCIPLES FOR SHARED HOUSING:

EMPHASIZE CLIENT CHOICE!

- “YOU CHOOSE YOUR HOUSEMATE (WE DON’T!)”
- “SHARED HOUSING DOES NOT HAVE TO BE YOUR FOREVER HOME”

CLARIFY MISCONCEPTIONS.

- “EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN BEDROOM (NO SHARED BEDROOM!)”
- “EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN LEASE.”
- “SHARED HOUSING LASTS ONLY AS LONG AS THE LEASE LASTS. IT CAN BE A TEMPORARY BRIDGE FOR YOU TO OTHER HOUSING, OR LONG-TERM. YOUR CHOICE”
- WHEREVER POSSIBLE, EMPHASIZE THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY THEIR OWN SHARED HOUSEMATES – LIFTING EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

KEEP THE SHARED HOUSING CONVERSATION GROUNDED IN THE REALITY OF LIFE AS IT IS AND SUPPORT CLIENT GOALS FOR LIFE AS IT CAN BE.

- WHAT COULD YOU ACHIEVE IF YOU WERE HOUSED SOONER?
- WHAT DOES YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE NOW COMPARED TO WHERE YOU WANT TO BE?
- HOW CAN WE BEST SUPPORT YOUR QUICKEST PATH OUT OF HOMELESSNESS?



- WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT HOUSING GOALS?
- WHAT BARRIERS ARE KEEPING YOU OUT OF HOUSING?
- WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF LIVING IN YOUR NEXT MOVE TO HOUSING?

Active Listening

- WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT INCOME?
- WHAT TYPE OF HOUSING DO YOU THINK YOU CAN AFFORD?
- WHAT IS THE HOUSING MARKET LIKE?
- WOULD LIVING WITH ANOTHER PERSON BE REALISTIC FOR YOU?
- WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU HAVE?

Reality Testing

- IS CLIENT ACCEPTING THEIR INCOME/REALITY CHOICE?
- IF NOT REALISTIC, INTRODUCE SHARED HOUSING BUDGET TOOL. (DON'T USE BUDGET TOOL IF CLIENT ACCEPTS FINANCIAL REALITY)

Assess Understanding

- EXPLORE ALL OF THE HOUSING OPTIONS WE CAN HELP YOU WITH.
- IT'S YOUR CHOICE WHETHER AND WHEN YOU CHOOSE THE SHARED HOUSING OPTION.
- CLIENT HAS CHOICE IN HOUSMATE(S) AND HOME

Client Choice

- WHAT ARE YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS?
- HOW COULD SHARED HOUSING IMPACT YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE?
- WOULD YOUR LIFE IMPROVE IF YOU SPENT LESS MONEY ON RENT?

Financial Health

- WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SHARED HOUSING?
- ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THIS HOUSING OPTION?
- IS THERE ANYONE YOU KNOW WHO YOU WOULD LIKE TO LIVE WITH?
- CAN WE HELP YOU FIND A HOUSEMATE AND HOUSING?

Shared Living

Motivational Interviewing

Engage • Focus • Evoke • Plan



MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING(MI) IS..... A STYLE OF WORKING WITH A CLIENT THAT FOCUSES ON ALLOWING THE CLIENT TO DIRECT THE CHANGE RATHER THAN TELLING THE CLIENT WHAT THEY NEED TO DO. IT IS ABOUT HAVING A CONVERSATION ABOUT CHANGE.

THE SPIRIT OF MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING:

- **PARTNERSHIP** – WORK COLLABORATIVELY AND AVOID THE “EXPERT” ROLE.
- **ACCEPTANCE** – RESPECT THE CLIENT’S AUTONOMY, POTENTIAL, STRENGTHS AND PERSPECTIVE.
- **COMPASSION** – KEEP THE CLIENT’S BEST INTERESTS IN MIND.
- **EVOCATION** – THE BEST IDEAS COME FROM THE CLIENT.

FOUR KEY SKILLS OF MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING:

- **OPEN QUESTIONS** – THESE ARE QUESTIONS THAT CALL FOR MORE THAN A SHORT, YES/NO ANSWER. RATHER THAN SAYING “DON’T YOU WANT TO MOVE TO A SAFER PLACE?” YOU WOULD SAY “WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES YOU SEE IN MOVING TO A SAFER PLACE?”
- **AFFIRMATIONS** – THESE ARE POSITIVE COMMENTS THAT YOU CAN MAKE ABOUT YOUR CLIENT’S LIFE (AWARDS, ATTEMPTS, ACHIEVEMENTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS) I.E. “YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL IN CHANGING IN THE PAST” OR “YOU CARE A LOT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.”
- **REFLECTIONS** – THIS MEANS UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE CLIENT IS THINKING AND FEELING AND THEN SAYING IT BACK TO THE CLIENT. RATHER THAN ASKING THE CLIENT A QUESTION YOU REPHRASE AND SUMMARIZE WHAT THE CLIENT SAID. (THIS STAGE IS ALSO A KEY COMPONENT OF ACTIVE LISTENING).
- **SUMMARIES** – ARE LONGER REFLECTIONS THAT ENCAPSULATE MORE THAN ONE CLIENT STATEMENT. THIS INCLUDES SUMMING UP THE ENTIRE DIRECTION OF THE CONVERSATION.



Frequently ASKED QUESTIONS

DO I HAVE TO SHARE A BEDROOM? THIS DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU WANT! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FIND A PLACE WHERE YOU AND YOUR ROOMMATES EACH HAVE YOUR OWN PRIVATE BEDROOMS, YOU WILL NEED TO FIND A LOCATION THAT MEETS THOSE NEEDS.

DO I CHOOSE WHO I LIVE WITH? YES, YOU CAN CHOOSE WHO YOU LIVE WITH. IF YOU HAVE A FRIEND THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO LIVE WITH, OR A FAMILY MEMBER, WE CAN HELP YOU FIND HOUSING WITH THEM. IF YOU DON'T KNOW ANYONE YOU WANT TO LIVE WITH, WE CAN HELP YOU FIND SOMEONE, IDENTIFYING YOUR LIKES AND DISLIKES IN A SHORT SURVEY AND HAVING YOU MEET THEM BEFORE COMMITTING TO LIVING TOGETHER.

WHAT HAPPENS IF ONE OF MY HOUSEMATES LEAVES OR DOESN'T PAY THEIR RENT? WE WILL WORK TO GET YOUR PAIRED UP WITH A NEW HOUSEMATE!

HOW DO WE DIVIDE UTILITIES? YOU AND YOUR HOUSEMATES WILL SIGN A HOUSEMATE AGREEMENT THAT CLEARLY STATES WHO WILL PAY FOR UTILITIES IF THE LANDLORD DOES NOT INCLUDE THEM IN THE RENT. THE HOUSEMATE AGREEMENT ALSO MEMORIALIZES HOUSE RULES YOU ALL AGREE UPON (E.G., NOISE, CHORES, PETS, GUESTS...)

WHO MAKES THE HOUSE RULES? TOGETHER WITH YOUR HOUSEMATES, YOU DECIDE ON YOUR OWN HOUSE RULES AND INCLUDE THEM IN A SIGNED HOUSEMATE AGREEMENT. THESE RULES CAN BE REVISITED AND REVISED OVER TIME.

WHO DOES THE CHORES? TOGETHER WITH YOUR HOUSEMATES, YOU AGREE ON WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHICH CHORES. YOU CAN INCLUDE A CHORE SCHEDULE IN YOUR HOUSEMATE AGREEMENT.

I'M IN RECOVERY FOR SUBSTANCE USE - WILL THIS BE A PROBLEM? YOU CAN CHOOSE TO LIVE WITH OTHER HOUSEMATES WHO DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOL, AND THIS CAN BE PART OF YOUR HOUSEMATE AGREEMENT.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I WANT MY OWN PLACE? IS SHARED HOUSING PERMANENT? YOU STAY IN SHARED HOUSING FOR AS LONG AS THE TIME OF THE LEASE. SHARED HOUSING CAN BE A STEP TO ANOTHER PERMANENT HOUSING OPTION OR BECOME A LONG-TERM OPTION IF YOU CHOOSE.