



# **BEAT THE STREET**

A collaboration between The Council on Substance Abuse and Mental Illness and Urban Peak



# Identified Need

- Increase in homelessness among 13-24 year olds
  - Approximately 1,400 young people on the streets
  - UP shelter services – increase of 30%
- Availability of age appropriate services
  - Adolescent vs. Adult treatment
- Increase in co-occurring disorders within the homeless population
  - Women – from 14.3%-36.7%
  - Men – 23.2% to 32.2%
- Prevalence of mental health issues among homeless young people (2006)
  - 72% SPMI in UP Shelter
  - Trauma – 100% in BTS have significant posttraumatic stress and acute stress symptoms.
  - Colorado - #1 teen suicides



# Identified Need

- Public Health Survey (2007)
  - 39.2% had used with family
  - Age at first use:
    - Under 10 13.7%
    - 10-12 18.3%
    - 13-15 28.1%
    - Over 16 17.1%
  - Drugs used
    - Cocaine 38.6% (7%)
    - Ecstasy 37.9% (5%)
    - Heroin 13.1%
    - Meth 32% (5%)
  - Suicide Attempts – 35.3%




# Meeting the Need

- Housing
  - Neighborhood approval
  - HUD (S+C)
  - Property Management
  - Case Management
- Treatment
  - Psychiatric (medications)
  - Substance Abuse
  - Individual therapy
  - Group therapy
  - Trauma



# Supportive Services

- Outreach
- Employment/Education
  - GED, Job Readiness Training
- Survival Support Services
  - Medical, dental care, life skills
- Community Connections
  - Engagement with community, public service
- Recovery Cafe



# Key Partnerships/Supports

- SAMHSA
- DDHS – S+C
- Stout Street Clinic
- Mental Health Center of Denver
- Health One
- Rocky Mountain Youth
- Educo
- Rainbow Alley
- Children's Hospital (CHP)
- Food Bank of the Rockies
- Room and Board
- Volunteers



# Philosophy

- “Modified” housing first model
- Treatment of Mental Health and Substance Abuse issues concurrently



# Challenges

- Neighbor relations/ neighborhood
- Severity/lethality
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- Staffing (especially after hours/weekends)
- Other referral resources
- Job Opportunities
- Identification Documents
- Significant increase in youth exiting systems of care
- Continuing decrease in psychiatric services/beds

