



Background:

Catholic Charities Spokane (CCS) partners with Providence, Deaconess and Volunteers of America to operate the Respite Program at the House of Charity (HOC) in Spokane, Washington. The Respite Program provides housing and medical care coordination to individuals with acute conditions who are experiencing homelessness by providing support and a safe, stable place to recover. Respite Program staff connect clients to primary care physicians and other critical, stabilizing resources and provide education on medical conditions and appropriate use of the medical system.

An important aspect of the Respite Program is educating clients about more efficient and effective resources available to them, such as the HOC Clinic and information to help them take proactive measures to improving their physical and mental health. This program helps change the way clients address their health concerns, thereby alleviating some of the unnecessary costs and burdens off local hospitals and helping clients onto a more solid path to healing.

Measuring Success:

Beyond providing essential services for a safe place to recover, shower, receive mail, launder clothes, and receive three nutritional meals a day, the program has increased focus on ensuring long-term client stability at exit of the program. In 2016, the Respite Program began tracking the following data points to gauge efficacy and client stabilization:

- Number of unduplicated men and women served.
- Length of stay.
- Number of clients connected to primary care physicians.
- Number of clients connected to medical insurance.
- Top 5 conditions of clients.
- Number of exits from the Respite Program to permanent destinations.

Partnership Impact:

In 2015, the Respite Program provided 2,895 nights of care to 193 unduplicated individuals. Elaine Couture, Chief Executive of Providence Health Care, estimates that each day of inpatient care would have cost the hospital \$3,189. Based on these numbers, this program saved hospitals close to \$10 million in 2015. In 2016, the Respite Program served 260 individuals, a 35 percent increase over 2015, with an estimated savings to local hospitals more than \$15 million annually. It is also estimated that if these patients were seen in hospitals instead of the Respite Program, it is likely that they would have stayed even more days, as hospitals have more strict protocols to ensure a safe discharge.¹

Awards:

In 2016, the national Catholic Health Assembly presented the Respite Program at the House of Charity with its highest honor, the 2016 Achievement Citation, for this innovative programming that is improving lives.

¹ <https://www.chausa.org/cha-assembly-2016/About/assembly-news/achievement-citation>