

APIN Lunch and Learn

October 26, 2010

Options for Action Summary

Identified Issues and Concerns

- **Very limited affordable housing**
- **\$387 per month limits housing options**
- **Long waiting lists for housing**
- **Safety and supports that decrease isolation important for young mothers**
- **Challenges re legalities of signing leases, lack of references, etc. when a minor**

Additional Issues/Concerns raised at the October 26 Session:

- Need for increased awareness and education about co-signers
- Challenges with support systems
 - when move from familiar community leave supports behind
 - some family/friend supports unhealthy – addictions, abusive, risky situations
 - unsupportive service providers
- Parents of teen moms need support in helping their children parent – both courses and counseling
- Obtaining EIA if under 18 or not in agency care
- Some housing not appropriate – bed bugs, mice
- Location and transportation impact on housing options
- If previously evicted or owe monies to Manitoba Housing difficult to get housing – need long term planning, Plan B, to prepare for independent living
- Lack of housing options in rural Manitoba
- Lack of ID requirements needed for leases
- Inability to get a one-year lease so only month to month, very transient

Options for Action

- **An increase in housing options – different models**
 - Communal living options to address isolation and support for one another e.g. Flatlanders Inn
 - Co-op housing – 2 moms sharing an apartment – responsible for some maintenance, etc.
 - House parents/supervision incorporated into option where living together
 - Habitat model – condos rather than houses – a partnership perhaps

- Create a community within a community - housing complex for ages 16 to 21/22, with services such as child care, education, service providers' offices, primary health care – nurse practitioner and retail
 - More options modeled after Villa Rose
 - IRCOM model – supportive housing that welcomes couples/the whole family
 - Housing First – mental health initiative
 - ABC & subsidized housing
 - Transitional housing – example in Brandon, U-Turn, Youth for Christ
 - STEP program – incentives to get out of transitional housing
 - Increase subsidized housing
 - Housing attached to places such as A.P.C.
 - Rezoning of empty lots designated for business into housing
 - Tap into the University of Manitoba Interior Design Masters Program for potential free design opportunities e.g. transitional housing
- **Financial Options**
 - Increase the monthly housing allowance or have subsidized units with a top-up incentive provided by government rather than parents having to top up from their basic budgets when on EIA
 - Tax breaks for landlords who provide housing to adolescents
 - Financial housing assistance for moms who work or go to school
 - Currently if claim as a couple they receive less \$'s then claiming separately
 - Guarantor program – government funded cosigner - one chance to apply to get a one-year lease
 - Incentive to pay more e.g. if paying \$300 for one bedroom in okay neighborhood and find employment, rather than raising the rate there move to a better/bigger apartment in neighborhood where more supports
- **Supports, Services, Programs**
 - Programs
 - to address the needs of those on wait lists
 - for single teenage dads – mentoring, access at schools
 - for parents together
 - counseling available to address underlying issues, not just immediate issues
 - on setting boundaries; living together, budgeting (SEED)
 - Healthy Start model for over 1 to school age
 - job mentoring skills e.g. Keyes, funded by Fed. & Prov. \$'s
 - for supports after aging out – minimum of one year; preferred long-term support
 - mandatory weekly contact with service provider (CFS?) to provide support if Manitoba Housing opens to under 18
 - Housing Support Worker – a liaison that helps navigate the system

- Government department (Healthy Child) responsible for resources for adolescent parents and grandparents
- Volunteer program like IRCOM's attached to Manitoba Housing where there is a match with a family with similar ages of children and interests
- Hear the voices of adolescents – engage them on committees
- Provide cell phones
- Increase understanding and respect for adolescent parents – they will make mistakes but need to make allowances
- Agency applications have a category where adolescent parents can self identify.