

# 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.