

ANNOUNCEMENT

Coordinated Housing Access Table (CHAT)

Dear Community Members and Service Providers

I am pleased to let you all know that Coordinated Access for housing is now a reality in Thunder Bay. Please see the attached chart explaining how people can be referred to CHAT through one of 5 entry points in the community. Entry points have been strategically chosen based on geographic location, population served and availability.

Overview

The Coordinated Housing Access Table is a group of service providers who offer housing and/or support services to individuals and families who are struggling with chronic homelessness. A common intake process is conducted at various agencies known as "Entry Points," and forwarded to a coordinator. The coordinator then ensures the intake information is entered into a database which uses certain factors such as chronicity, age, Indigenous identity, mental health, risk of harm, etc. to prioritize individuals and families for housing vacancies. The applications are then discussed at a meeting where CHAT members gather regularly to match applications to their services according to the applicants' identified needs. The client is then contacted by the respective agency and offered a referral to their services so that they can access housing and supports as required.

Who is Eligible for CHAT

Any person, couple, or family who is experiencing chronic homelessness. If you have clients who just need help with a housing application or connection to community resources to help avoid risk of homelessness, please assist them with those tasks. If the person is homeless and has no stable accommodation or staying in shelters/sleeping outside, feel free to encourage them to contact an Entry Point for an intake into CHAT. In order to proceed with the process, the client must be willing to sign a consent form. If they do not wish to be brought up at a CHAT meeting, please assist them with direct referrals to the resources they prefer. If you are not in a position to assist with diversion from CHAT or direct referrals, Entry Point workers can help.

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact me and I will provide any clarification that is needed. We have been planning this process for quite some time now and we are all happy to be on board and take more action to relieve homelessness in our community.

Respectfully

Joanne Boucher RSW, CHAT Facilitator,

Alpha Court Community Mental Health and Addictions Services