

Seminar 10: Housing First III

Chair: Nicholas Pleace, UK

Jordi Sancho, Marta Llobet, Jezabel Cartoixà, Adela Boixadós, Araceli Muñoz, Joan Uribe, Mercedes Serrano and Susana Batle, ES: Analysing Three Years of Recovery Process in HF Pilot Scheme Barcelona: Final Results and Recommendations



Jordi Sancho is a Professor of the Department of Social Work of the University of Barcelona and lecturer of Social Policy. Also teaching in the Masters/Postgraduate degrees of (1) Art for Social Transformation; (2) Art for Social Inclusion; (3) Inclusive Education; (4) Diagnostic and Intervention in Autism and (5) Advanced Studies in Social Exclusion. Researcher of the Learning Media & Social Interactions Consolidated Research Group (2017 SGR 379). The last research projects converge on (1) housing first solutions for homeless people; (2) Learning designs for social inclusion; (3) Intercultural participation of adolescents and (4) migrants needs of information.

A key issue in homelessness recovery is the expertise to offer adjusted specific interventions to already varying realities and needs in a non-linear process. One strength of Housing First (HF) as a methodology is the ability to address this flexibility. The concept (recovery) offers a coherent and common direction to users, professionals, service designs and organizations, but it also is difficult to define and use, showing different meanings to different persons. On the other hand, service planners and practitioners demand clear information of this recovery process to learn and improve the intervention and project design. This presentation aims to balance this difficult combination of requirements.

This communication offers final results of a 3 years' longitudinal study with 20 people from a pilot scheme of Housing First in Barcelona called "Primer la Llar", funded by the local government of the city. This is a qualitative study based on the participant's perception, obtained from lengthy interviews in three phases of the project.

The results we present will show:

- The conceptualisation of the recovery process used in our Southern European city context, based on seven different dimensions.
- A comparison of three groups (women, migrant men, and non-migrant men) showing some distinct traits in the life narratives, in the recovery process, in the "home" significance and on the different approaches and self-developed strategies to autonomy.
- A visual representation of the evolution of the most valued active support declared resources (family, friends, colleagues, neighbours) and external supports (health, commercial, project and "walking" partners) for these three separated groups, and the transformation of the relationship between participants and professional helpers.
- Some recommendations to programme design and professional practice derived from the research.

Marcus Knutagaard and Arne Kristiansen, SE: A Decade with Housing First in Sweden: Results, Experiences and Reflections



Marcus Knutagaard is an associate professor at the School of Social Work, Lund University. His research interests include housing policy, homelessness and the importance of place for how social work is organised – its moral geography. Two of his ongoing research projects are "Scanian homes: Reception, settlement or rejection – homelessness policies and strategies for refugee settlement" and "Take away – disinvestment of established methods when implementing new psychosocial interventions for homeless people and people with mental health problems".

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Arne Kristiansen, PhD, is associate professor at School of Social Work, Lund University. His research includes substance abuse, homelessness and service user involvement. Currently he is involved in a research project related to municipal homelessness policies and refugee reception strategies in south of Sweden and a research project on service user involvement in social work. He is part of the international network PowerUs, The Nordic Network for Homelessness Research and The Social Science Network of Alcohol and Drugs (Sonad).



The aim of this article is to analyse the development of Housing First in Sweden from 2009 to 2021. We have a specific focus on the development of the Housing First programme in the city of Helsingborg in Sweden. The empirical data is from case-studies and available statistical data.

We have followed up the reported data with interviews. We show that the implementation of Housing First programmes have been slow. Only 21 out of 290 municipalities have introduced Housing First as a solution to end homelessness. Our results show that many municipalities report that they provide Housing First, but in practice they do not. We have seen that many municipalities experience ups and downs in their implementation of Housing First. Our in depth analysis of the Housing First programme in Helsingborg confirms this trend, but also shows sustainable results over time. We are particularly interested in the changes that happen to many of the Housing First participants when they get their own housing. These findings have implications for practice suggesting a greater attention to the potential of the Housing First model and housing-led approaches in homelessness work.