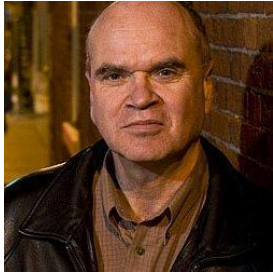**Seminar 18: Housing First (3) (Floor -1, Room 9)**
Chair: **Caterina Cortese, IT**

Tim Aubry, Aurélie Tinland, Sandrine Loubiere and Maryann Roebuck, CA: Identifying Predictors of Housing Instability Among Tenants with a High Level of Needs in Housing First Programs

Tim Aubry is a Full Professor in the School of Psychology and Senior Researcher at the Centre for Research on Educational and Community Services at the University of Ottawa. Throughout his career, Tim has collaborated on research projects with community organizations and government, contributing to the development of effective social programs and policies. He was a Member of the National Research Team and the Co-Lead of the Moncton site in the At Home / Chez Soi Demonstration Project on Housing First of the Mental Health Commission of Canada. He is currently serving as the Co-Chair of the Canadian Housing First Network – Community of Interest.

Aurélie Tinland, M.D., Psychiatrist and Researcher in School of Medicine, La Timone Campus, Aix Marseille University and Department of Psychiatry & Sainte-Marguerite University Hospital, Marseille, France
Sandrine Loubiere, Ph.D., Researcher in School of Medicine, La Timone Campûs, Aix-Marseille University, & CEReSS—Health Service Research and Quality of Life Center, Boulevard Jean Moulin, Marseille, France, Department of Research and Innovation, Support Unit for Clinical Research and Economic Evaluation, Assistance Publique—Hôpitaux de Marseille
Maryann Roebuck, Ph.D., Post-Doctoral Researcher, School of Psychology and Centre for Research on Educational and Community Services, University of Ottawa & Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association

Very few previous studies have examined predictors of housing instability among Housing First (HF) tenants. Volk and her colleagues (2016) found that after one year of receiving HF, lifetime homelessness, time spent in jail, and community integration predicted housing instability. However, predictive models in this study were weak and the researchers concluded that predicting housing instability from individual characteristics of HF tenants lacked precision. A limitation of this research was the short amount of time people had received HF. The proposed presentation will share findings of two large multi-site studies conducted in Canada and France that investigated individual characteristics associated with housing instability after 24 months of receiving HF. In particular, the same set of predictors of housing instability will be examined with similar study samples of HF recipients with a high level of needs from the 5-city At Home/Chez Soi Demonstration Project in Canada and from the 4-city Un chez soi d'abord Study in France. For the analyses, hierarchical logistic regressions will be used to determine predictors of people experiencing unstable housing at 24-months. Housing instability is defined as being housed less than 90% in the last 6 months of the 24-month period. In addition to these quantitative findings, presenters will share findings from qualitative data collected from a sub-sample of about 50 study participants with high needs in the Canadian study who received HF with ACT. In particular, the qualitative analysis will examine in a more in-depth manner predictors of unstable housing in HF programs coming out the quantitative analyses. The findings will be discussed in the context of tenant selection and service planning in HF programs.

Elisabetta Leni and Saija Turunen, FI: Young People in Housing First: Cost Offset and Impact Evaluation

Elisabetta Leni is a researcher at the Y-Foundation, Finland. After working several years in the non-profit sector in Italy, she obtained a PhD in Economics at the University of Essex, UK. The current focus of her research is on homelessness and social housing.

Saija Turunen is research manager at Y-Foundation, Finland where she has worked since 2017. Saija studied and worked in the field of social research in the UK where she founded and ran her own research consultancy as well as taught research methods at the University of Bangor, North Wales after receiving her Ph.D. from there in 2001. Currently Saija co-leads the research work cluster of the Housing First Europe Hub and her research interests include impact assessment, women's homelessness as well as subjective well-being.

We perform a cost offset calculation of a new supported housing unit in the Helsinki Metropolitan area, Finland. The supported unit is managed with the Housing First approach and targets youth with low-support needs. Our main analysis looks at cost offsets resulting from changes in the service use of residents of the supported unit. We consider services provided by the social, health and criminal justice systems in addition to welfare benefits. We adopt a quasi-experimental methodology that takes advantage of the high demand for places in supported units that is causing waiting lists or inability to offer housing support to all applicants. It follows that, at the time the supported unit opened, a young person eligible for a place in it could: i) obtain an apartment in the unit; ii) be assigned to permanent housing without support; iii) remain homeless. We consider service use over a 4-year horizon, 2 years before the unit opened and 2 years after. By comparing the before-after change across the 3 groups, we can estimate the cost offset due to permanent housing and housing support, 2 key features of the Housing First approach. The economic analysis uses administrative records and is enriched by the evaluation of other nonmonetary outcomes (such as quality of life and independent living skills) measured through periodic surveys. Our study is interesting for two reasons. First, it takes a long-term perspective that considers the time it takes for the positive outcomes associated with the Housing First approach to emerge. Second, there is scarcity of studies looking at cost offsets for youth homeless even though youth are more affected by housing exclusion than the rest of the population.

The supported unit was recently opened, and the study is ongoing. We have applied for administrative data and will soon start collecting survey data.

Julia Wygnanska, PL: The Polish Housing First Model – HF as Compass or as a Road Map?

Julia Wygnańska is a homelessness researcher concentrated on policy oriented research and evidence based policy. In that role she cooperated with European Observatory on Homelessness FEANTSA as a national observer in 2005-2009. Since then she became a Housing First advocate in Poland initiating and implementing research and advocacy projects in cooperation with various stakeholders. In 2019 she became a Polish Housing First Model Coordinator and HF fidelity expert for the Housing First Program by Cooperation Fund Foundation. She is currently a Vice president of the newly funded Housing First Poland Foundation. She is a member of ICM team which supports 7 participants of a program "Ambivalence" based on HF values.

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Preliminary Polish Housing First Model (PHFM) has been drafted in early 2020 to guide implementation of the Housing First Program in Warsaw. The Program implemented by the partnership of a lead ngo, local government, supporting ngo and international partner Y Saatio, serves forty participants - over half of all HF participants in the country. In 2020 the HF implementers in Poland could use HF guidebooks such as European HF Guidebook, Canadian HF Toolkit, Pathway's to Housing by Sam Tsemberis but none of them were available in Polish language – except of Tsembersis's guidebook – and all of them were not based on the expertise on Polish local context. The goal of the PHFM was to summarize international experience into guidelines sensitive to Polish context without losing Housing First fidelity. The presentation will present the key decisions made on unchangeable core of HF (the set of HF values: housing, choice, recovery, support and community) and adjustable operational elements which should be worked out in the new local context. The issue of HF as "a road map" vs "a compass" put forward in in the Demos Helsinki report (2022) will be addressed. The presenter is the author of the PHFM and Polish HF Model Expert in the Housing First Program in Warsaw

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