System Change

How Mercer Used Data to Develop a Strategy to End Family Homelessness: Beginning Steps

How data has been used in Mercer County for planning and decision-making

- Contributing Factors
- Higher standards of expectation to end family homelessness (HEARTH Act & Opening Doors Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness)
- Use of technology to capture data (HMIS)
- Limited Resources (budget cuts, capacity)

"Data = Dollars"

What We Do

1. Use data to drive the system

2. Reviewed performance data related to:
   - Housing stability
   - Length of time of homelessness
   - Cost effectiveness

   Rapid Re-housing (RRH), Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing models

System Change:
Identified Outcomes of Rapid Re-housing Pilot Project to measure

Rapid Re-housing will decease the amount of time that families are homeless

Rapid Re-housing will increase housing stability for families who experience homelessness

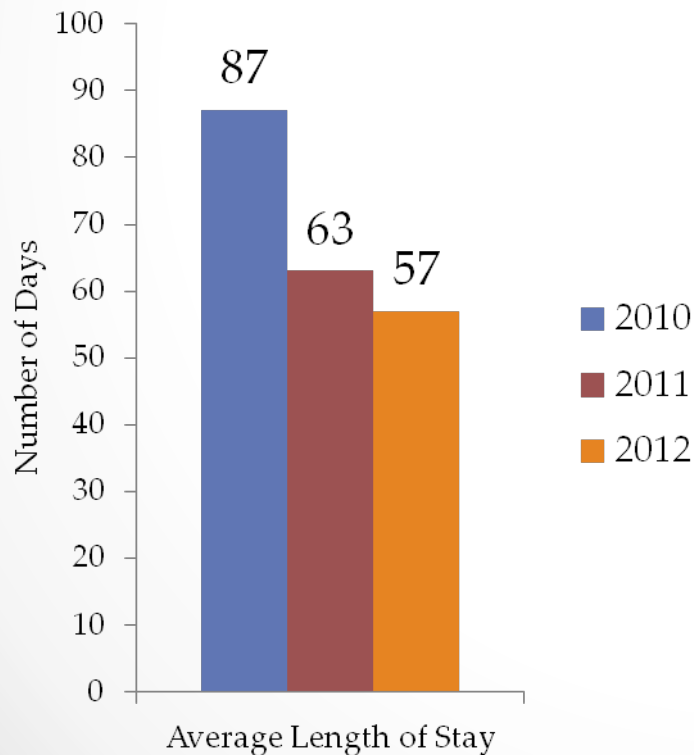Rapid Re-housing will be more cost effective than emergency shelter and transitional housing

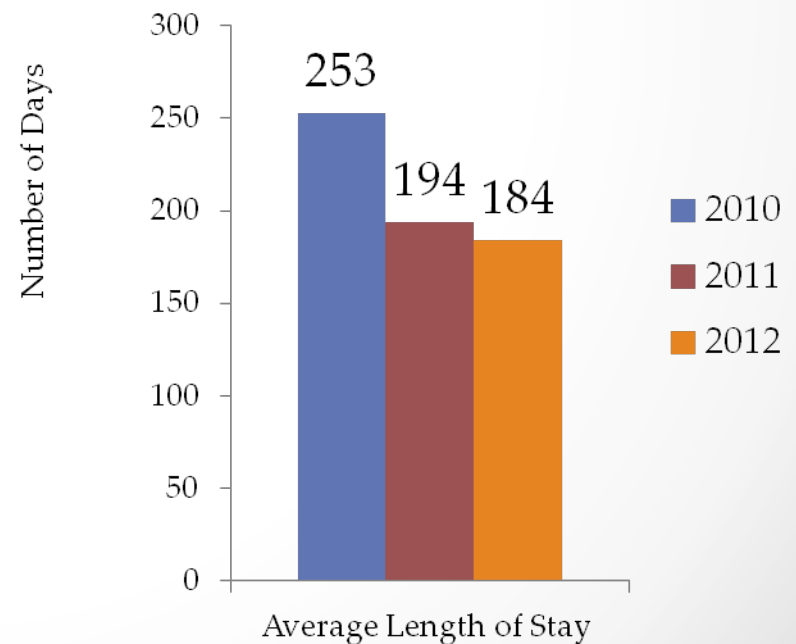# Outcome 1: Rapid Re-housing will reduce the length of time families are homeless

Average Length of Stay in Emergency Shelter

Average Length of Stay in Transitional Housing

34% decrease in Emergency shelter LOS

27% decrease in Transitional Housing LOS

Source **MERCER ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS**

Outcome 2: Rapid Re-housing will increase Housing Stability

Income at Exit

Transitional Housing	Rapid Re-Housing	% Increase
$558	$835	50%

49% of families had an Earned Income at time of Exit from Rapid Re-housing

Housing Stability at Exit

Transitional Housing	Rapid Re-Housing
23%	79%

As reported in the 2011 Annual Homeless Assessment Report

Source   MERCER ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS

Outcome 3: Rapid Re-housing will be more cost effective than emergency shelter and transitional housing

Intervention	Per diem Rate
Shelter (homeless)	$125.00
Transitional Housing (homeless)	$84.00
TRA & Wrap around services in Rapid Re-housing	$ 50.00

MERCER ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

What We Do

2.

- Systems Monitor review, monitor and analyze data

- Monthly Data Committee meetings held with Site Administrators and Data Entry staff to discuss data quality, APRs, AHAR, and address issues or concerns

- Monthly meetings with HMIS Lead and Software Vendor

What We Do

3. Use data to develop strategies for changing the homeless delivery system

- CoC reallocated transitional housing funding to RRH
- Coordinate and leverage multiple funding sources (ex., CoC, ESG, CDBG, TANF and County funds)