



Mid-Year Update

July 2022

Sheffield Place is pleased to provide this mid-year report on its work to advance the mission ‘to empower homeless mothers and their children to heal from their trauma and become self-sufficient.’

A Year of Expansion: Calendar year 2021 and the first six months of 2022 have been a time of growth, learning, and challenge. In June 2021, the agency opened a newly renovated convent on the next block as the SEVI House. The building provides continued transitional living for families that have made progress at the main facility and are ready for a greater level of independence. Sheffield Place now provides transitional housing for 24 families at a time, including the 17 living units in the main facility.

The agency also renovated the three residential floors of the main facility, upgraded technology, and provided for much-needed maintenance of the building, among other initiatives. The next step is to renovate the first floor to provide additional classroom space and case management offices. This renovation will begin in September and will provide greater privacy for client services.



This expansion will allow the agency to serve approximately 150 families in 2022 and 170 families in 2023 through the residential and aftercare/outpatient programs. In 2021, Sheffield Place served 126 families. These numbers stand in sharp contrast to the 20 families the agency served as recently as 2010.

Lessons Learned: As a learning organization, Sheffield Place carefully evaluates outcomes data to identify ways to incorporate lessons learned in the program and, thereby, strengthen its effectiveness. The 2021 data revealed that 43% of clients were discharged after a residency of less than 30 days – a higher rate than usual. While numerous reasons for higher turnover rates exist – the lingering uncertainties of the pandemic, the higher than usual public benefits that provided clients with additional options for housing, and the requirement that all clients as well as staff be vaccinated against COVID-19, among others – the agency strongly prefers that clients remain in the program for 30 days or more to experience the benefit of the recovery, mental health, case management, and life skills programming.

In response, the agency implemented a tiered approach to case management in the third quarter of 2021. The tiered approach allows the case managers to tailor the program more effectively to the needs of the individual client at each stage of her stay in residence at the facility. A new client starts at Tier 1 with a required number of hours of life skills group attendance, restrictions on her activities outside of the

facility, a prohibition on working during the first 30 days of residency to ‘settle into’ sobriety and ensure the effectiveness of any prescribed mental health medications.

Tier 2 allows the client greater freedom, fewer hours of group work, and the ability to gain employment. Promotion to Tier 3 generally includes relocation to the new 7-unit SEVI House located just 0.2 miles from the main facility. The SEVI House offers the highest level of autonomy in the residential program.

The results of this shift in the case management are encouraging. The percentage of families staying 30 days or more has increased to 54% (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022) from 43% for CY2021. Sheffield Place will know more about the effectiveness of the tiered case management system when the result of CY2022 are available.

The greatest strength of the program is its commitment to meeting clients where they are. Sheffield Place serves the families that are the hardest to serve. They have severe trauma and generational poverty backgrounds, addiction, mental health, domestic violence issues, low educational attainment challenges, time spent in foster care, and often felony convictions.

Unlike many other agencies that require 30 days of clean time before admission, Sheffield Place admits mothers who are actively using with the commitment to enter recovery immediately upon admission. The agency also admits families with as many as 7 children and children through the age of 18 years, which many agencies do not.

The mothers and children then experience a program that is carefully tailored to their own needs, rather than relying on a one-size-fits-all model. Even the length of stay varies greatly according to the family’s needs. The average length of stay is 90 days with some families staying as long as a year or more.

Progress toward Program Goals: The mission of the agency is to empower healing and self-sufficiency. Success is measured through three primary outcomes: improved physical and mental health (including sobriety and positive parenting), securing permanent housing, and securing employment. Over the past 12 months (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022), the agency served 102 families in residential services. Of those families that stayed 30 days or more, 78% were clean and sober at discharge, 74% secured permanent housing, and 35% were employed.

Increasing the percentage of women who are employed at discharge has been challenging even in a time of robust job creation. Like everything society faces, the pandemic has made being employed more difficult than finding employment. The number of daycare slots was reduced substantially during the pandemic and has yet to recover. Daycare workers are difficult to find and wages are rising, which compounds the challenge of finding daycare. Infant and toddler care is especially difficult to locate. Without available daycare, the mothers have few options for employment.

Mothers of older children often have less difficulty. Many of the mothers who are employed engage in remote work for call centers. They can be at home and often work flexible schedules.



One client who works for a call center, Nina (not her real name), has succeeded in her quest for self-sufficiency. Nina came to Sheffield Place nearly four years ago after a long-term addiction to meth, after being arrested on federal drug charges and serving time in prison, after experiencing an abusive relationship, and after being separated from her three adolescent children. Once she was released from prison, she lived on the streets of Kansas City for months. Her life changed when she came to Sheffield Place. Nina maintained sobriety and began healing from trauma. She got her children back. Today, Nina has held a responsible job for more than three years. She trains new hires. She plans to purchase her own home. She recently reported that she has raised her credit score to 700 on all three reporting services.

The effectiveness of the Sheffield Place program is further demonstrated by the fact that 89% of families that stayed 30 days or more in 2018 remained self-sufficient as demonstrated by avoiding a return to homeless. The names of these families did not appear in the homelessness information management system during the first three years following their discharge from Sheffield Place.

Additional Highlights: Sheffield Place has attracted national notice by receiving the Charity Navigator top 4-Star rating for six consecutive years (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022). The 4-Star rating measures the agency's transparency, accountability, and effectiveness. Only 14% of rated agencies can claim that distinction. In addition, Sheffield Place received a perfect 100% score on the rating criteria in 2022 – one of just over 100 nonprofits nationwide with that score. Charity Navigator also named Sheffield Place to the 'Top 10 Charities to Watch' listing in 2022.



The agency's recertification for 2022 – 2024 by the Missouri Department of Mental Health further adds to the agency's reputation as a cornerstone provider in the mental health and addiction recovery field. Sheffield Place was first certified in 2015 and was re-certified in 2018. Certification by the State of Missouri ensures that the agency offers high quality services in keeping with certification standards.

Plans for the Future: Within the next 12 to 18 months, the agency will launch a second campaign. The campaign's purpose will be to purchase property and construct 4 to 6 units of permanent housing and additional program space, including a classroom for aftercare/outpatient clients along with case management office space.