

TYP Advisory Board Vision, Mission, & Values Presentation 9-24-2010

The community of service providers to homeless families and individuals in the city of Knoxville are in the process of developing a detailed, coordinated plan for the system of services that will allow us to work in a more effective and accountable way to serve individuals and families. This design process is part of evolving and improving upon the nine principles of the original Ten Year Plan. The following is an overview and explanation of the overall vision, mission and values of our newly designed system:

Our Vision:

We envision a day in Knoxville in which the condition of homelessness is **rare**. When it does occur, it is **brief** and **non-recurring** because of the overwhelming support of the entire community to help those in need to find pathways to successfully reintegrate into this community.

Our Mission:

The mission of the Knoxville-area service providers, in collaborative partnership with the rest of the community, is to develop an integrated system of services that will:

1. **Awaken hope** in the families and individuals that we serve that they can live a meaningful life of purpose and possibility, moving beyond the barriers and constraints that confront them. Hope is the catalyst for recovering a meaningful life.
2. **Empower the individual** to assume responsibility and gain control over their own destiny.
3. **Integrate** families and individuals back into the community, where they can find purpose in meaningful roles within that community.

Our Values:

Self-Directed and Person-Centered Recovery Pathways: Individuals will take responsibility to lead, control, exercise choice over, and determine their own pathway to integration by optimizing autonomy, independence, and control of resources to achieve a self-determined life. Each individual must self-direct the process of recovering a life of meaning, defining his or her own life goals and designing a customized path towards those goals. There are multiple pathways based on an individual's unique strengths as well as his or her needs, preferences, experiences (including past trauma), and cultural background in all of its diverse representations.

Holistic Approach: Recovering a life of meaning and purpose encompasses an individual's whole life, including mind, body, spirit, and community. This impacts all aspects of life, including housing, employment, education, mental health and healthcare

treatment and services, addictions treatment, spirituality, creativity, social networks, community participation, and family supports. Families, providers, organizations, communities, and society play crucial roles in creating and maintaining meaningful opportunities for individuals access to these supports.

Non-Linear: Pathways to recovering a meaningful life are rarely a step-by-step process but one based on continual growth, occasional setbacks, and learning from experience. An individual starts the process with an awareness that positive change is possible. This awareness enables the individual to move on to fully engage in the their pathway to recovering a meaningful life.

Strengths-Based: Our pathways of recovery will restore and build on the value of multiple capacities, talents, coping abilities, and inherent worth of individuals. By building on their strengths, individuals can leave unhealthy routines and ways of life behind and engage in new, beneficial life roles (e.g., partner, caregiver, friend, student, employee).

Peer Support: Interaction with others in supportive, trust-based relationships always moves the individual forward on the pathway of recovering a meaningful life. Mutual support—including the sharing of experiential knowledge, skills and social learning—plays an invaluable role in recovering a life of meaning. Peers encourage and engage each other and provide one another with a sense of belonging, supportive relationships, and community.

Respect: Fundamental respect of the individuals who have experienced homelessness - including protecting their rights and eliminating discrimination and stigma - are crucial to our mission of helping individuals recover lives of meaning and purpose. Regaining belief in one's self is particularly vital during the pathway to recovery. Our community must offer each person the respect that we all deserve.

Self-Responsibility: Individuals have a personal responsibility for their own self-care and pathways of recovery. Taking steps towards their goals may require great courage. In fact, part of the pathway to recovery is to begin taking risks and trying new things. Individuals on a pathway to recovering a life of meaning must be given room to make some mistakes from which they can learn and then try again.

The list of values and aspects of the mission were adapted from a National Consensus Statement developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration within the US Department of Health and Human Services. Over 110 national experts contributed to this list.