



The SACHS CHRONICLE

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SACHS MEETING MAY 19—20, 2005



PATH



Embassy Suites - Arcadia, CA

Topic: Homelessness

Special Event: Tour of PATH

Guest Speaker: Phil Ansell, Director, Bureau of Program & Policy, LA DPSS
Jose Salgado, Human Services Administrator, LA DPSS

Special Event: Leaders In ACTION

Presentation of Action Learning Projects

Presentation on Children's Sourcebook

A Sourcebook of child epidemiological data on child health and well-being indicators for the Southern California Region.

Special Guest: Denis Boyle

Update from California Department of Social Services



Leaders In ACTION Participants

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A Profile of Homeless Individuals in the US

NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

- Over a five-year period, about 2-3% of the US population or 5-8 million people will experience at least one night of homelessness
- An estimated 842,000 adults and children are homeless in a given week
- Roughly 3.5 million people will be homeless over the course of a year

LENGTH OF TIME

- 80% exit from homelessness within about 2-3 weeks.
- 10% are homeless for up to two months.
- 10% of homeless experience chronic homelessness with being homeless for up to seven to eight months

WHERE THEY LIVE

- 71% are in central cities
- 21% are in suburbs
- 9% are in rural areas

FAMILY COMPOSITION

- 66% are single adults, and of these, three-quarters are men
- 11% are parents with children, 84% of whom are single women
- 23% are children under 18 with a parent, 42% of whom are under 5 years of age

BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

- 23% are veterans
- 25% were physically or sexually abused as children
- 27% were in foster care or institutions as children
- 21% were homeless as children
- 54% were incarcerated at some point of their lives

RACIAL AND ETHNIC STATISTICS

- 41% are non-Hispanic whites
- 40% are African Americans
- 11% are Hispanic
- 8% are Native American

HEALTH PROBLEMS

- 38% report alcohol use problems
- 26% report other drug use problems
- 39% report some form of mental health problems (20-25% meet criteria for serious mental illness)
- 66% report either substance abuse and/or mental health problems.
- 3% report having HIV/AIDS
- 26% report acute health problems other than HIV/AIDS such as tuberculosis, pneumonia, or other sexually transmitted diseases
- 46% report chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or cancer

¹National Health Resource and Training Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness. <http://www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov/facts/default.asp>

Useful Websites on Homelessness

National Alliance to End Homelessness



The National Alliance to End Homelessness has developed a groundbreaking and ambitious campaign to engage all sectors of society in a revitalized effort to confront and overcome homelessness in America. The time has come for the nation to re-commit to ending homelessness rather than just managing it. This requires that we take more effective, pro-active steps toward achieving a solution. The National Alliance to End Homelessness has proposed a Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. For more information, please see their website at:

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/index.htm>

Institute for the Study of Homelessness and Poverty - at the Weingart Center



The Institute for the Study of homelessness and Poverty - at the Weingart Center is a nonprofit, non-partisan, research and policy organization located at the Weingart Center, in the heart of downtown Los Angeles' Skid Row.

The Institute delivers reliable analysis, data and solutions to institutions and individuals to spark new collaborations and foster new initiatives, policies and programs to better understand and address homelessness and poverty. For more information please visit:

<http://www.weingart.org/institute/>

National Alliance to End Homelessness



Founded in 1988, the mission of Beyond Shelter is to develop systemic approaches to combat poverty and homelessness among families with children and enhance family economic security and sustainability.

Beyond Shelter accomplishes its goals through responsive service delivery, people-centered community development, and the creation of knowledge for social change. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.beyondshelter.org/>

National Resource and Training Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness

The National Resource and Training Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness is operated under contract to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Mental Health Services. This is the only national center specifically focused on the effective organization and delivery of services for people who are homeless and have serious mental illnesses and/or substance abuse disorders.

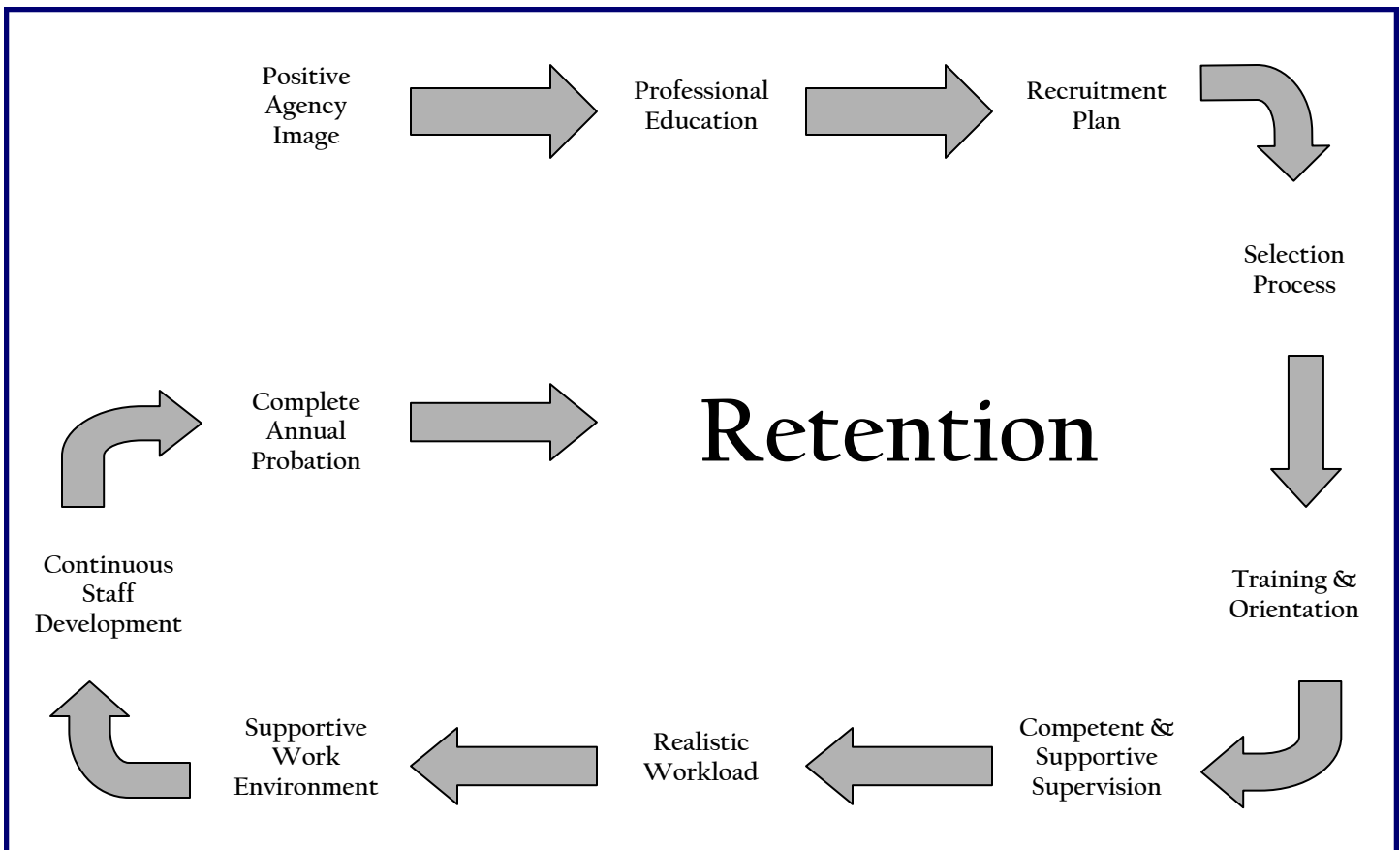
<http://www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov/>

Recruitment and Retention

The following figure, represents the important milestones that should be made available to prospective new employees prior to coming on board and the milestones that should be made available to these employees during their first year on the job.

Following the first year on the job, the four factors necessary for employee retention are: competent and supportive supervision, a realistic workload, a supportive work environment, and a continuous staff development plan.

The figure is from *Staffing Child Welfare Services in the New Millennium*³. For a full copy of the report, please visit <http://pcwta.sdsu.edu/Documents/StaffingCWinthenewmillenium.doc>.



³Excerpt taken from: Daly, D., Dudley, D., Finnegan, D., Jones, L., & Christiansen, L. (2001). *Staffing Child Welfare Services in the New Millennium*. Network for Excellence in Human Services. San Diego, CA.



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