

Sims-Giddens, S. and Boyster, G. - Mental Health Resource Guide for a Vulnerable Population

A local, non-profit, drop-in center for homeless men assists with referrals based on need. Drop-in centers often provide a haven from extreme weather, access to shower and laundry facilities, access to a local phone, and a friendly person to assist with a community referral. An identified need by center staff was a mental health resource guide to be used as a quick reference to health conditions and medications.

Complexity Leadership theory was used to develop and integrate the Mental Health Resource guide into the center. The Complexity Leadership theory “investigates the role of leadership in expediting those processes in organizations through which interdependent actions among many individuals combine a collective venture” (Lichtenstein, et. al, p. 2, 2006). The outcome of this project has been improved client referrals for mental health services.

Lichtenstein, B., Uhl-Bien, M., Marion, R., Seers, A., Orton, J. & Schreier, C. (2006). Complexity leadership theory: An interactive perspective on leading in complex adaptive systems. *Emergence: Complexity and organization*, 4, 2-12.