



Medical Respite & Senior Housing

"Bridging the gap between Hospital & Home"

OTDA BHSS Regional Meetings – October 2025

Presented by:

Ann McHugh, MSW
Vice President for Programs

Niurka Martinez, MPH
Program Director Medical Respite



OUR VALUES



No one should be without the housing and support they need to lead a Healthy and Meaningful Life.



To provide vulnerable Communities with Housing and culturally sensitive Supportive Services.

COMUNILIFE AT A GLANCE



HEALTH & HOUSING

2,756 Units of Affordable
and Supportive Housing



LIFE IS PRECIOUS™

238 Latina Teens
participated in Suicide
Prevention Activities



MEDICAL RESPITE

273 People Access Medical
Respite Services



CARE COORDINATION

More than 500 people
were connected to Care
Coordination through
Health Home +
Programs



ENGAGE

50 Clients have
completed
Intervention in a 4
month period



MEDICAL RESPITE PROGRAM

Comunilife's Medical Respite Program was the first Medical Respite Program in New York City pioneered by Comunilife and the Montefiore Hospital Care Management Organization in 2011.

Our program provides a unique blend of transitional housing accommodations including meal, transportation, health management, care coordination and case management services to adults who have received appropriate hospital care and are medically cleared but not safely discharged because they have no home-based support system within which to fully recuperate.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Close the gap between acute medical services provided in Hospital and Clinics and the unstable environments of emergency shelter and the streets.



Transition patients to Permanent Housing and break the cycle of shelter to hospital to shelter.



Provide a Cost-effective intervention for the Hospital systems and Insurance companies.

OUR MEDICAL RESPITE PROGRAM



LOCATIONS AND CAPACITY

- **63 Beds located across New York City (Manhattan, The Bronx and Brooklyn)**



PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- **Temporary room and board (with 24/7 access)**
- **Nutritionally appropriate meals**
- **Housekeeping services and laundry facilities**
- **Medication supervision**
- **Wellness checks**
- **Care coordination services**
- **Housing navigation services**
- **Discharges to next-step housing (including to Comunilife's continuum of housing)**



HOSPITAL AND PAYOR PARTNERS

- **Montefiore Hospital**
- **Bronx Care Health System**
- **Carelon Health Care Services**
- **Mount Sinai Hospital System**
- **NYC Health + Hospital**
- **New York Presbyterian Hospital System**
- **NYU Langone**
- **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**



WHY MEDICAL RESPITE?

The Uninsured have worse health outcomes

Those who are uninsured are:

- **Less likely to seek preventative care, worsening their health**
- **Receive poorer quality of care, and experience worse health outcomes than insured adults do**
- **Are met with high costs to manage care further discouraging them from seeking initial care**

The potential health benefits of expanding insurance coverage for these adults may provide a strong rationale for reform. The effects of acquiring coverage were substantial, as the expected disparity in health scores between previously insured and uninsured adults with cardiovascular disease or diabetes was reduced by 50 percent by age seventy.

FOR WHO CAN THE MEDICAL RESPITE WORK?



- **Homeless Patients.**
- **Seniors (before returning to assisted or independent living)**
- **Rehab Diversion**
- **Nursing Home Diversion (before discharge)**
- **Patients requiring Pre-surgical Care**
- **Patients requiring Post-surgical Care**



SERVICES PROVIDED

- **Care with Compassion.**
- **Housing Navigation.**
- **Care Coordination to Primary, Behavioral and Substance Abuse care.**
- **Ongoing Clinical Assessments.**
- **Benefits & Entitlements connections**
- **Social Interactive Group programming.**
- **Transportation coordination.**
- **3 Daily Warm Nutritious Meals.**
- **Housewarming care package upon discharge from Medical Respite.**



STAFFING



- **Program Director**
- **Program Coordinator**
- **Licensed Social Worker**
- **Registered Nurse**
- **Counselors**
- **Housing Navigators**
- **Program Health Aids**
- **Peer Specialist**
- **Front Desk Monitor**
- **Maintenance Specialists**



MEDICAL RESPITE PROGRAM STATISTICS

In 2024...

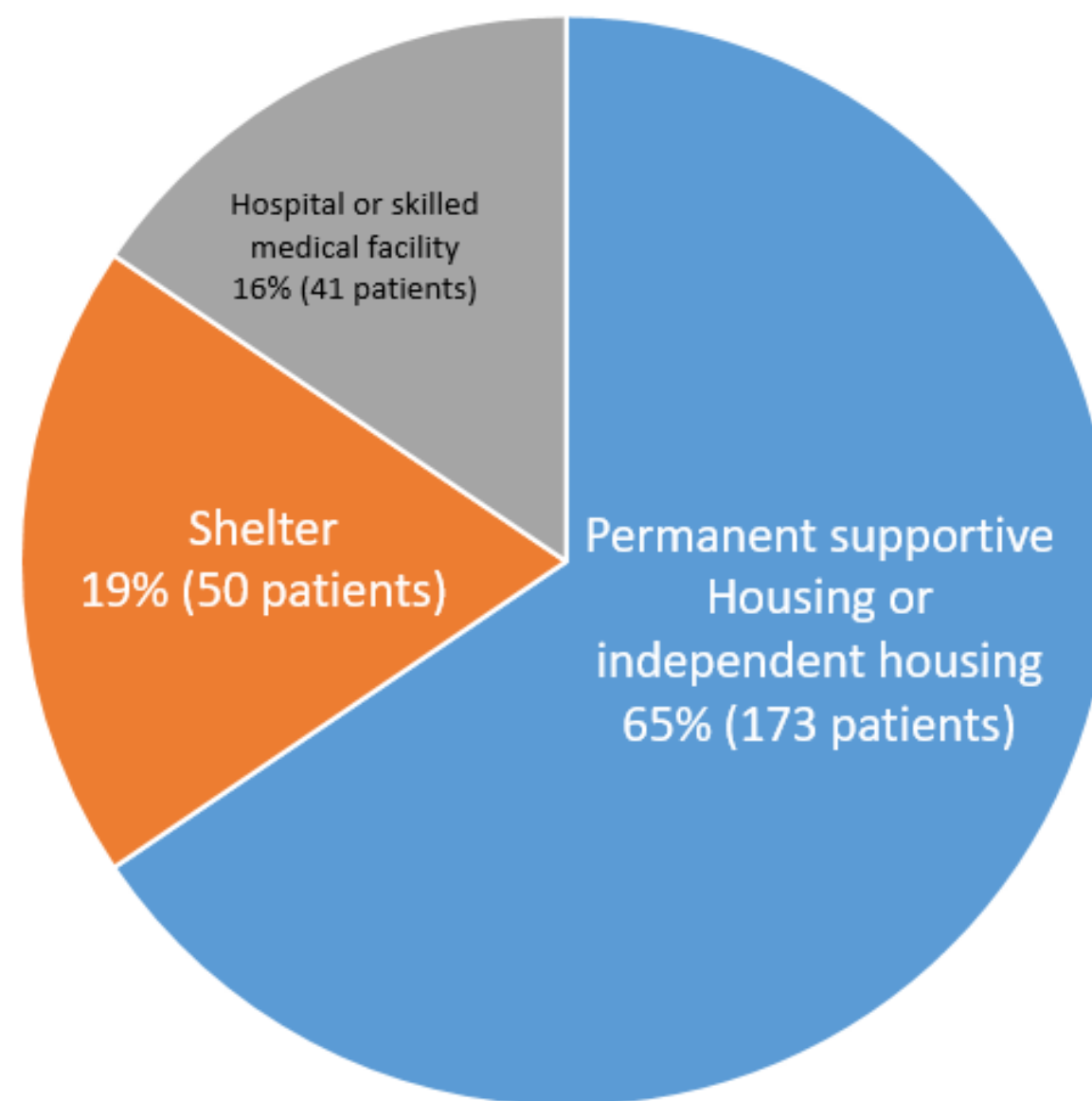
- **Medical Respite provided care to 271 Clients.**
- **410 housing applications were submitted on behalf of clients.**
- **215 patients were accompanied to housing interviews.**
- **The average length of stay: 53 days.**

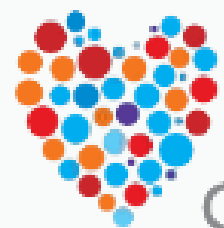
- **Since 2011, we have served over 2,500 Individuals.**
- **Clients are typically African-American and/or Hispanic men, ages 45+.**
- **Medical conditions include wound care, respiratory, vascular, coronary, and neurological disorders; diabetes; substance use disorders; and psychiatric conditions.**



COMUNILIFE RESPITE PROGRAM STATISTICS

POST-RESPITE DISCHARGE PLACEMENTS





comunilife

CLIENTS EVENTS - COMUNILIFE MEDICAL RESPITE





SUCCESS STORIES - COMUNILIFE MEDICAL RESPITE

Comunilife respite staff has helped clients achieve and go beyond their goals.

- **Clients have been able to obtain Employment.**
- **Clients have been able to complete their GED.**
- **Clients have been connected to their Entitlements.**
- **Clients have been assisted in Family reunification.**
- **Obtaining their Vital documents.**

WHY COMUNILIFE'S MEDICAL RESPITE? WE SAVES LIVES!

“These women [at Comunilife] really have been nothing but helpful to me and they're fighting for me right now. A room here has made me feel safe and comfortable. I'm looking forward to getting my own apartment...”

S.R.

51 yrs. Old, Still fly

Comunilife Medical Respite Resident



WHY COMUNILIFE'S MEDICAL RESPITE? WE SAVES LIVES!

Mr. B is a 50 yr old African American male. He came to Comunilife Medical Respite to regulate his diabetes and high blood pressure. Mr. B used to be a full-time truck driver and is skilled in many trades, such as carpentry and electrician. Due to his health, he lost his employment and was homeless which impeded his recuperation and medication management. Mr. B has been assisted in obtaining all his vital documents and is close to being housed in a Supportive Housing Program.

Comunilife Medical Respite Resident



HOUSING FOR SENIORS AND ELDERLY FRAIL



Prospect Senior Residence

- Opened in 2012
- Total Residential Units: 60
- Supportive Housing Units: 35
- Population: Seniors



El Hogar Residence

- Projected for completion by Jan 1st, 2026
- Total Residential Units: 83
- Supportive Housing Units: 50
- Population: Senior, Elderly Frail formerly homeless.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Housing stability & Case Management
- Social Services & Life Skills
- Safety & Emergency Support
- Health & Behavioral Health Services
- Wellness & Community Integration



comunilife

THANK YOU

CONTACT US



+212-219-1618



braudales@comunilife.org



www.comunilife.org



462 7th Ave, New York, NY 10018