

## **Robert Brandfass - Chair of the Heart of Illinois Homeless Continuum of Care - SOTs**

### **Data**

There's really good data now about folks who are homeless have increased incidence of both mental and physical health problems and also have a much higher utilization rate so they are going to the emergency room, for example, to get health care when they really shouldn't be because emergency care is the most expensive type of care. So this is preventive care, it's going upstream and preventing sickness and illness before it occurs so that only the people who are truly sick and need to use the emergency room and OSF's facilities. :33

### **Homelessness in health**

Homelessness is health and the people who suffer from homelessness have increased health problems, they have increased stress, increased mental health care problems. So this is really part of OSF's efforts to address the social determinants of health. :16

### **Case management**

The critical part of case management is they can break the cycle of homelessness. When you have a simple a simple drop in shelter they come in, they spend the night, they leave in the morning and go back on the street and they start the process all over again. With case management you can access them, you can determine their needs, you can hook them up with appropriate housing support, you can break the cycle of homelessness. :24

### **What this program hopes to do**

Not only are they being safe from the environment, but they can actually be place in permanent supportive housing rather than going back out on the street. That service is already provided in Peoria for women and for families at The dream Center, but we have the need in Peoria for single males to get that same service and OSF through a generous financial contribution was able to help fill that gap so this program started on December first. :27