



Solid support.
When you need it most.

TURNING POINT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE CENTER

Statement for Cook County Budget Public Hearing
October 29, 2015

As a recipient of funding from the county, most recently for our upcoming drop-in center, all of us at Turning Point Behavioral Health Care Center wish to extend our sincere thanks for this essential support.

Turning Point has been an active member of its community for over 45 years, serving people with mental illness with the same respect, compassion and professionalism we would expect for ourselves. It is our mission to provide expert support to people during some of the most difficult times of their lives.

In addition to therapy services for children and adults, we offer group programs, case management, psychiatry, transitional housing, and a 24-hour mental health crisis hotline. Last year, Turning Point served approximately 1,300 clients, 90% of whom have incomes considered 'low' or 'very low' according to federal poverty guidelines. Within our Skokie facility, we provide space to NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and to 'C4', the Community Counseling Centers of Chicago.

The much celebrated Living Room at Turning Point continues to grow and thrive – and yet funding for The Living Room continues to be in jeopardy. The first of its kind in Illinois, the Living Room offers a comforting non-clinical space for adults in crisis and has maintained an excellent track record of deflecting guests away from costly emergency room visits. Since opening four years ago, the costs saved in emergency room visits that have been avoided thanks to The Living Room has reached approximately \$2,000,000.

Next on our agenda is a ground-breaking new Same Day Access program, which will allow us to care for more individuals in need and to do so immediately upon their first visit through our doors.

Recent cuts in the state budget have placed life-saving programs in danger. At this time, both our psychiatry services and our Living Room program have been denied the state funding that has previously sustained them. We consider both of these programs essential to our clients and to our community at large and, while we have secured funding to continue them through this fiscal year, we are eager to find new revenue sources to ensure that these critical programs have a secure future.

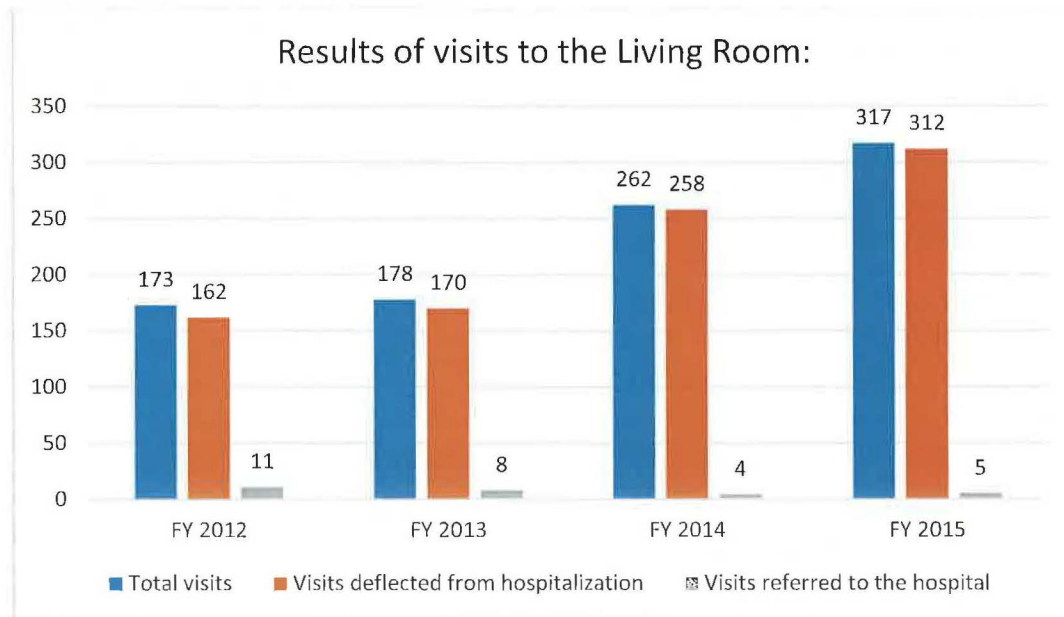
As we have seen repeatedly through tragic events in the news, access to mental health services is a critical component of a healthy and safe population. The services provided at Turning Point have a profound and reverberating impact beyond our own client base and throughout our greater community.

We very much appreciate this opportunity to address the Board, to thank you for your past support, and to advocate for urgently needed funds for mental health services.

THE LIVING ROOM AT TURNING POINT

The Living Room at Turning Point is ...

- the first of its kind in Illinois
- a psychiatric respite program, providing a calm and safe environment in which guests can resolve crises with trained and compassionate Turning Point staff members
- a comfortable, non-clinical space that offers an alternative to hospital emergency rooms for adults experiencing psychiatric emergencies.

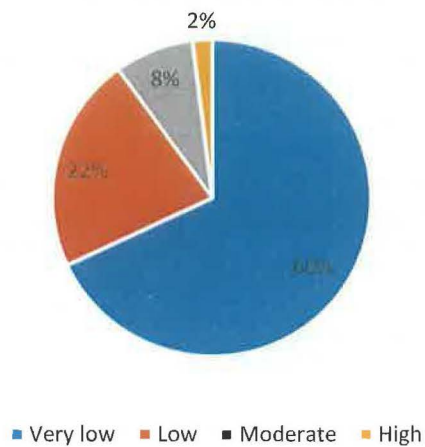


Since opening, the Living Room has had 930 visits and has saved an average of approximately \$2,012,362 in Emergency Room visits.

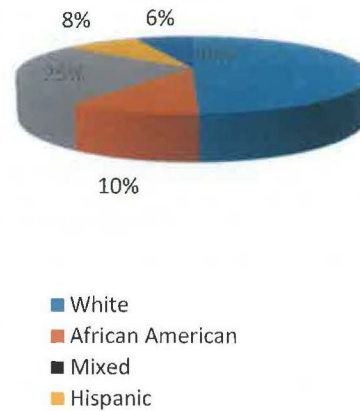
(Based on statistics as of 07/21/2015)

TURNING POINT CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS:

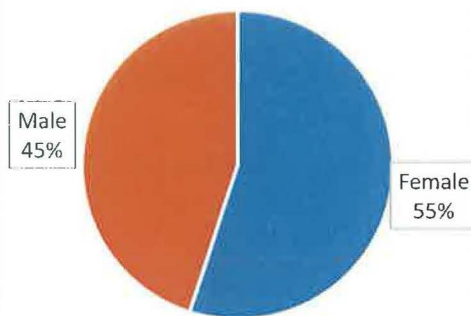
Income Levels:



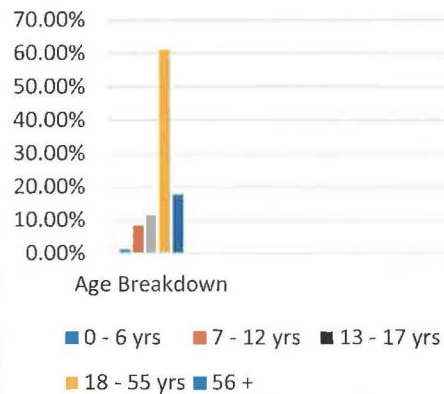
Ethnic Information:



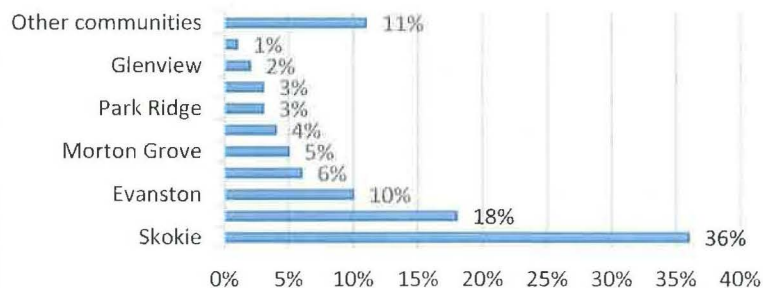
Gender breakdown:



Age groups served:



Our clients visit us from many communities within the Chicago metropolitan area:



Based on statistics from FY2015

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