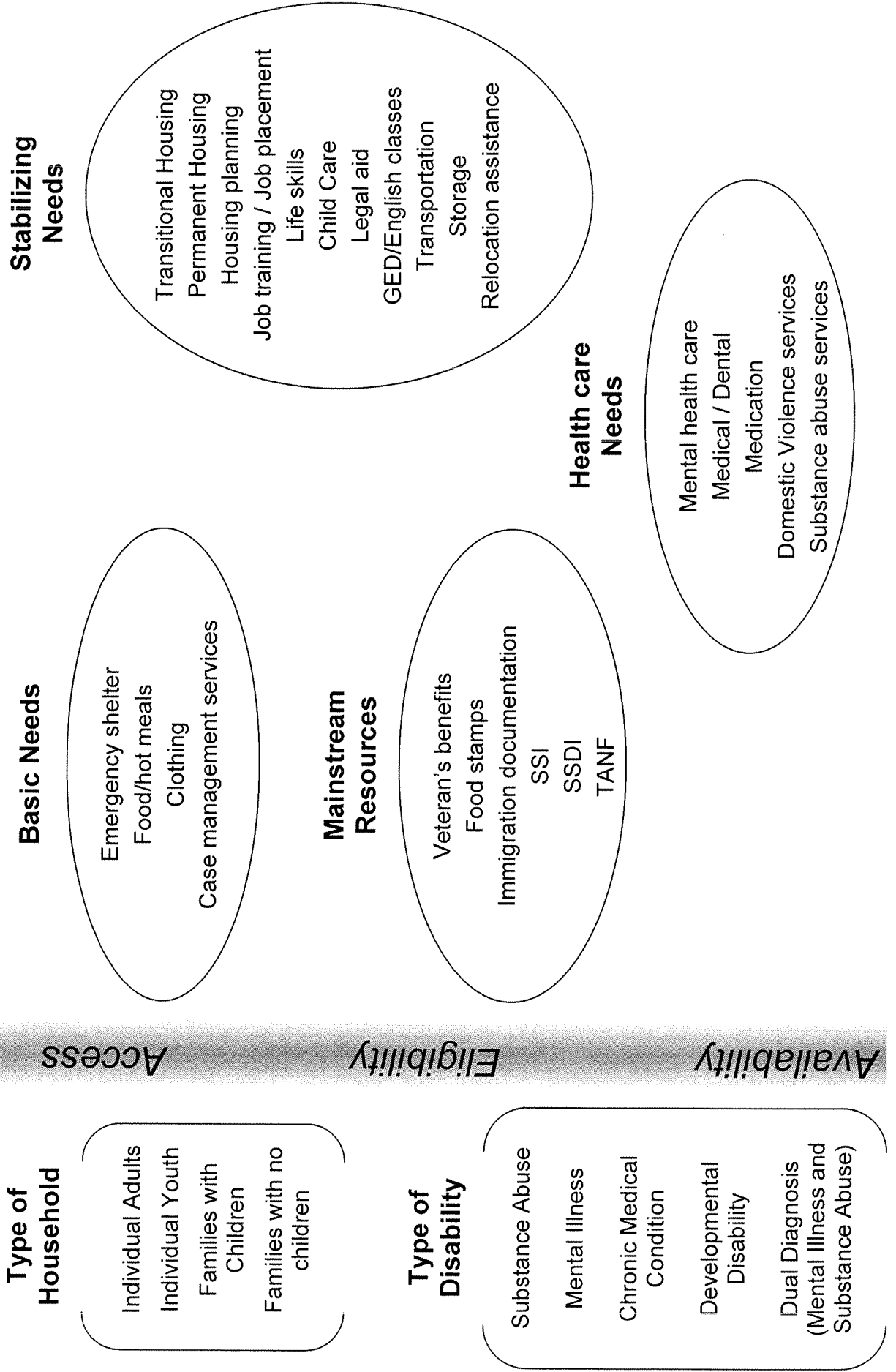


# AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3

## Are the “Cracks” in the System for the Chronically Homeless? *Evaluating Local Need*



The following several pages are excerpts from the **2005 North Dakota Point in Time Survey on Utilization of Services**.

## Utilization of Services

Table 6 lists the most common services used by homeless people in North Dakota, identifying specifically the regions in which the percentage of persons using the service was significantly higher or lower than the state average for that service.

Individuals in Region 4 and Region 5 were close to state averages in all service categories. There was relatively higher variation in Regions 1 and 6 and relatively less variation in Regions 2, 7, and 8.

Region 6 again exhibited the greatest variation from the statewide average. Ninety-two percent of the homeless in Region 6 receive mental health care compared to 27% overall; 96% receive medication compared to 36% overall; and 100% receive transportation assistance compared to a state average of 35%.

**Table 6. Regions Different from the State Average  
Utilization of Services**

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Higher than Average</b>	<b>Lower than Average</b>
<b>Basic Needs:</b>		
Emergency shelter		Region 1 Region 6
Food/hot meals		Region 1
Clothing		Region 1 Region 8
Case management services	Region 1 Region 6 Region 8	
<b>Health Care Needs:</b>		
Mental health care		Region 6
Medication	Region 1	Region 6
Domestic violence services	Region 2 Region 8	
Substance abuse services	Region 7	Region 6
<b>Stabilizing Needs:</b>		
Transitional housing	Region 6	Region 1
Transportation assistance	Region 2 Region 6	Region 1

## Difficulty in Accessing Services

There were smaller, but still statistically significant, differences among regions regarding the difficulty of accessing some needed services. The homeless in Region 1 experienced more difficulty in accessing transportation assistance and those in Region 7 experienced more difficulty accessing case management services, medical and dental care, medication, substance abuse services, house planning, and relocation assistance. Regions 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8 were close to state averages in all service areas.

**Table 15. Services Received, Pending and Difficult to Access in Past Month**

Service	<i>Percentages</i>		
	Received	Pending	Difficult
<b>Basic Needs</b>			
Emergency shelter	45%	3%	3%
Food/hot meals	64%	1%	2%
Clothing	50%	1%	3%
Case management	50%	4%	3%
<b>Health Care Needs</b>			
Mental health care	27%	5%	3%
Medical/dental	23%	8%	7%
Medication	36%	3%	4%
Domestic violence services	12%	2%	-
Substance abuse services	28%	8%	2%
<b>Stabilizing Needs</b>			
Transitional housing	42%	7%	5%
Permanent housing	2%	27%	14%
Housing planning	12%	8%	4%
Job training/job placement	15%	14%	3%
Life skills	16%	6%	3%
Child care	6%	3%	1%
Legal aid	3%	4%	4%
GED/English classes	7%	3%	1%
Transportation	35%	9%	12%
Storage	15%	-	1%
Relocation assistance	3%	6%	4%
<b>Mainstream Resources</b>			
Veteran's benefits	9%	1%	2%
Food stamps	22%	6%	3%
SSI	8%	3%	3%
SSDI	8%	2%	3%
TANF	7%	2%	2%
Immigration documentation	-	-	-

## Utilization of Services

### Services Received

The persons surveyed were asked to indicate the services they had accessed in the past month and those that they have had trouble accessing during this period.

Significant differences were found in the utilization of eight services (Table 21). The chronically homeless were more likely to have received clothing, medication, SSI, job training, substance abuse services, mental health care, and medical/dental care and less likely to have received domestic violence services.

**Table 21. Services Received During Past Month  
by Chronic Homeless Status**

Services Received	<i>Percentages</i>	
	Chronic Homeless	Non-Chronic Homeless
Clothing	63%	45%
Medication	48%	31%
SSI	17%	4%
Job training	24%	12%
Substance abuse services	3%	25%
Mental health care	35%	24%
Domestic violence services	7%	13%
Medical/dental	29%	21%

### **Difficulty in Accessing Services**

The chronically homeless reported having had more difficulty accessing some services than the non-chronic homeless (Table 22). The chronic homeless had more difficulty obtaining transportation, mental health care, substance abuse services, house planning, life skills training, case management, SSI, and permanent housing.

**Table 22. Difficulty in Accessing Services During Past Month  
by Chronic Homeless Status**

Service	<i>Percentages</i>	
	Chronic Homeless	Non-Chronic Homeless
Transportation	21%	8%
Mental health care	7%	1%
Substance abuse services	5%	1%
House planning	8%	2%
Life skills training	5%	1%
Case management	5%	2%
SSI	6%	2%
Permanent housing	19%	13%

### **Additional Services Needed**

When asked what services would be most helpful in finding or obtaining housing, the services most often mentioned by the chronically homeless were jobs, affordable housing/housing options, housing assistance, addiction services, car/transportation, and job training. The services deemed most helpful are listed in Table 23.

**Table 23. Services Most Helpful in Finding or Obtaining Housing for Chronically Homeless**

Service	Number
Job	15
Addiction services	11
Car/transportation	8
Affordable housing/housing options	7
Housing assistance	7
Receive benefits	5
Medical/dental/mental health services	5
Life skills/credit counseling/money management	4
Job training	4
Housing – criminal background accepted	3
Adequate income	2
Case management	2
Housing planning	2
Rent deposit	1
Emergency shelter/transitional housing	1