

## Discharge Planning SWOT Analysis

<p><b>STRENGTHS.</b> Think about your organization's past achievements in the area of discharge planning. What tasks has your organization done especially well? Has your organization excelled in any particular area? List these strengths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involving family from the start</li> <li>Collaborate closely with agencies</li> <li>Linkage to community resources</li> <li>Referrals to other agencies</li> <li>Linking clients with medical and/or mental health</li> <li>Development of apartments for housing</li> <li>Individual Case Management</li> <li>Communication with Department of Corrections</li> <li>Collaboration with surrounding agencies</li> <li>Staff meetings</li> <li>Open dialogue with lead entities</li> <li>Engaging faith based</li> <li>Appropriate Referrals</li> </ul>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES.</b> Think about your organization's recent learning experiences in the area of discharge planning. What activities has your organization found especially difficult? What tasks have your organization not done well? Which skills does your organization not excel at? List these weaknesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build affordable housing</li> <li>Lack of discharge planners</li> <li>Lack of communication/education</li> <li>Limited funding availability</li> <li>Barriers to access because of policies and procedures</li> <li>Lack of placements</li> <li>Lack of support from community</li> <li>Denial from community</li> <li>Lack of political will</li> </ul>
<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES.</b> When thinking about the near future and long term future, what are the opportunities that might open up for your organization in the area of discharge planning? What beneficial changes might they offer? Make a list of these opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Super NOFA funding</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Advocacy</li> <li>Funding (local and federal)</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Faith Based Collaboration</li> <li>Business Collaboration</li> </ul>	<p><b>THREATS.</b> When thinking about the near and longer term future, what are the potential obstacles or difficulties that your organization might face in the area of discharge planning? Make a list of these threats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denial</li> <li>Hostility</li> <li>Political</li> <li>Willingness to Participate</li> </ul>

Ask yourself:

1. Does your organization possess the strengths to make the most of their opportunities in the area of discharge planning?

The Coalition and its member agencies have the strengths to make the most of the opportunities in the area of discharge planning. With the aggressive networking and collaboration, funding opportunities and partners will develop and fill the gaps in services the community needs. This will take time, consistency, community support, member support, and persistence.

2. Does your organization possess the strengths to help overcome their weaknesses in the area of discharge planning?

Funding is available for permanent housing and the needs in the Naples area. If the community sees a concentrated effort, improved results and reliable statistics, support will grow over time to ensure sustainability. The institution of discharge planning in foster care, health care, mental health care and corrections will assist in the development of these improved results and background for community support.

3. Will your organization's weaknesses stop it from taking advantage of the opportunities in the area of discharge planning?

The need is very clear in the Naples area for permanent and permanent, supportive housing. Funding is available through many sources including Super NOFA, Office of Justice, State of Florida, CDBG, and possibly through foundation sources. As a unified team, it is realistic to expect that the Coalition and its members can present a plan to confront and overcome the weaknesses present in this analysis.

4. Will your organization's weaknesses allow the threats to materialize in the area of discharge planning?

The threats that were presented are not under the control of the Coalition and its members, the Coalition and member agencies must work at educating the community and its political affiliates to the needs and urgency of ending homelessness. Continued education and promotion of homeless awareness will help the community understand the concerns and reasons for services, funding needed and supporting the effort.

Finally:

Draw your thoughts together. What are the main issues about learning strengths and weaknesses that have emerged from your SWOT?

**Strengths:** Member agencies are involved and sincerely concerned about the level of care they are providing to their clients, they are providing services to the best of their abilities based on the resources at their disposal. Discharge appears to take place early in the care process, is an individualized process, and includes members of transitioning agencies. Member agencies are willing to participate in the process of implementing a county wide discharge planning system.

**Weaknesses:** Coalition and Member agencies need to inform themselves of funding available and apply as much as possible, learning the intricacies of grant writing, and developing relationships with the funders. Education between providers and the community needs to become a priority to promote awareness and support.

To take full advantage of the opportunities open to me as a Homeless Provider, my organization needs to develop in the following areas of discharge planning:

All agencies should follow best practice discharge planning as included in the technical assistance workshop (and distributed via e-mail) this allows for consistency, decreases the opportunity for duplication, and increases the opportunity for client success.

Refer to planning guide in “4 C’s” document.

To overcome the potential threats that being a provider may pose, my organization needs to develop in the following areas of discharge planning:

- ◆ Multi-disciplinary team participation
- ◆ Individualized Discharge Plans
- ◆ Inclusion of Client at all levels of Discharge Planning
- ◆ Support the Coalition in efforts to engage Health care, Mental Health, Foster Care, and Corrections in implementing Discharge plans, including, but not limited to, education, advocacy, offering statistics on client success related to discharge planning, tracking clients participating in discharge planning, attending trainings, participating in Continuum of Care planning efforts, contacting local politicians, searching for funding sources specific to your organization’s needs.
- ◆ See best practices matrices in Coalition e-mail.