

Homeless Shelter Workers in Midwestern Urban Centers
Archie Green Fellows Project AFC2016034

Oral History with Beatriz Albelo, Scattered-site Housing Coordinator at La Casa Norte
Chicago, Illinois on October 22, 2016

Summary of Interview

Beatriz Albelo works as the Scattered-Site Housing Coordinator with La Casa Norte located at 3533 West North Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60647. Her job is to assist families and youth experiencing homelessness in moving into private market apartments throughout the community.

This interview took place on October 22, 2016 in an office at Solid Ground, supportive housing for youth, located at 3507 West North Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Note: Beatriz left her position with La Casa Norte just prior to this interview; La Casa Norte's Executive Director advised that she would still give an excellent description of the position she held for many years.

Interview Log

- 00:00:01 Introduction
- 00:00:17 Beatriz's position as Scattered-Site Housing Coordinator for youth and families who were chronically homeless with disability;
- 00:01:13 Definition of disabling condition; certification of condition; disabilities common among homeless; trauma of chronic homelessness creates disabling conditions
- 00:03:36 Chicago's Plan to End Homelessness; continuum of care; Chicago Central Referral Systems (CRS) in progress; vulnerability index (evaluation); Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- 00:07:30 Beatriz previously worked in domestic violence;
- 00:08:25 Definition of chronic homelessness; couch-surfing;
- 00:10:22 Latino Community and accessing services;
- 00:11:15 Beatriz was previously a teacher; homeless students;
- 00:13:12 CRS details; how people are located; Beatriz served on the Entity Board for creation of CRS survey; HMIS database used in shelters to help locate people; setting homeless up with an email address;
- 00:16:22 La Casa Norte and Latino focus; Humboldt Park neighborhood; gentrification; scattered-site definition; Chicago and neighborhood segregation;
- 00:19:36 Definition of harm reduction;
- 00:20:40 Youth homelessness; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender youth and family disapproval; gangs; over-crowded homes;

- 00:22:34 First position with La Casa Norte as Youth Case Manager at Solid Ground; youth and mental health;
- 00:24:36 How to work with a youth from goal-setting to housing; work and social security benefits; school and financial assistance; resumes and interviewing; budgeting; master leases; Palante program;
- 00:28:08 Difficulty finding landlords; rental history; evictions;
- 00:30:26 "Street families"; unstable families and breaking cycles; SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program); misconceptions about "living off the system";
- 00:34:49 Lack of healthcare/mental healthcare as a cause of homelessness; Illinois budget impasse and program cessation; cuts in staffing;
- 00:37:09 Immigration laws and effects on programs and clients; Violence Against Women Act;
- 00:41:22 Challenging lack of resources; creative thinking to problem solve; community partnerships;
- 00:46:25 Burnout and this work; staff trainings; an end to homelessness; equality; attending in poor schools; haves and have-nots;
- 00:53:40 End