



We empower, with resources and support, caregivers and individuals with persistent mental illness.

Educate Advocate Act

BEP Background

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Educate Advocate Act

- Volunteer board and committee organization
- No Paid Staff
- Most of BEP Members are or were Caregivers of individuals with mental health issues
- Grew out of Brookings NAMI to focus on the Brookings specific issue of Long-term Housing



BEP Background

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Educate Advocate Act



- Why are Caregivers important?
 - First line of detection for individuals with mental illness
 - First to encourage individuals to get help
 - Provide emotional support during treatment
 - Key re-integration support for individuals coming out of treatment
 - Help the individual navigate the complex and disjointed mental health care system
- Caregivers are key advocates of mental health parity and service improvement
 - Their story is personal
 - Their story reveals quality of services, availability of services, and success of treatments

BEP Background

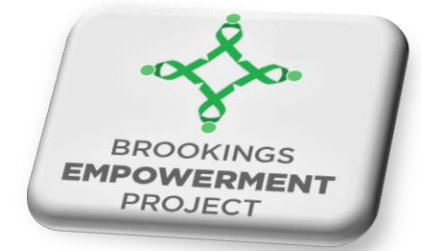
We empower, with resources and support, caregivers and individuals with persistent mental illness.

Educate Advocate Act

- Formed a 501c3 in 2012
- Focused on Community Education
 - initial estimates for LT Housing too large, no clear path forward
- 2016 BEP did a Strategic Plan Development
 - Education to Battle Stigma,
 - Crisis Management Tools for Caregivers
 - Housing
- 2018
 - Helped craft the “Caregiver Identification” bill that was adopted
 - Opened Our Short-Term Stay “See-Do House” Pilot



The BEP Vision



a Housing "Bridge" to Community

Why Housing as a BEP Focus?



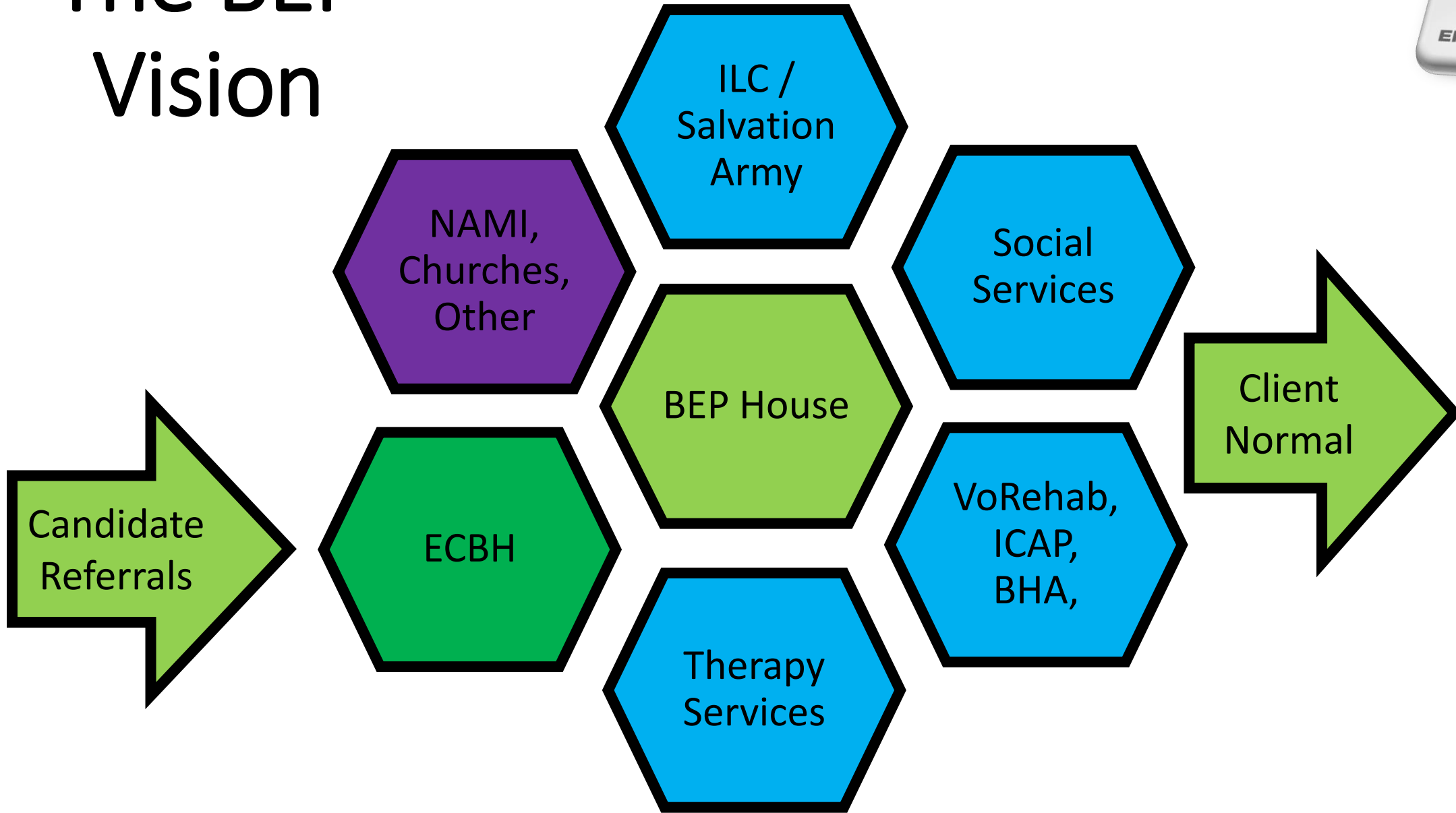
- Caregivers aging and funding out
- Housing is expensive in Brookings
- Housing: Low Availability, Limited Subsidized Units and Vouchers
- Those with Drug and Alcohol and Felony Backgrounds face Discrimination
- No transitional housing in Brookings
- Moving Back Home can be Moving Back Into the Problem

Why?



- Short Term Housing
 - Easier to setup with lower cost
 - Provide housing while transitioning back into community.
- The BEP Model
 - Highest potential client need
 - Not duplicating existing local Mental Health Resources and Services

The BEP Vision



See-Do House



The Stepping Stone to independence

“See” what is possible in the community and go out and “Do” it.



**'See-Do' House
Brookings, SD**



**'See-Do' House
Brookings, SD**

The Common's
Room



**Bedroom at
'See-Do' House**



**Common Kitchen Area
At 'See-Do' House**

See-Do House



Provides Community and Structure

- Family Style Living – 6 beds – 3 Bedrooms / House Rules
- Minimal Personal Space / Max. Shared Space
- Shared Responsibilities / Roommates / 2 per Bedroom
- Space for individual Cooking
- Low Cost \$300/ month, No Deposit, Utilities included, Onsite Laundry
- Community Pop-Ins (ILC, Grace Point Church, Therapy Services)
 - Looking for more

Rules

- No Alcohol / Illegal Drugs
- No Pets
- No Visitors
- Pay Rent on Time

Guest

- Female
- 18 Years Old
- Referrals Only

Watch video at www.empowerbrookings.org

Results to Date



We have been open since Oct 2018.

We have had 5 People go through the house

Questions we have been trying to answer:

- Does the Idea of Roommates work ?
- Do Community Pop-Ins Provide Community Connections?
- Does Referral Process and Low Rent provide a Housing Crisis solution?

What we have learned:

- Referral Agencies have difficulty in dealing with BEP as a landlord only
- Referral Agencies need to have some kind of Case Mgmt. role with referral
- Drug Court phase 3 or greater works for See-Do House

What do we need?



- See-Do House is a pilot
 - We need 3rd party evaluation of this effort to help improve, validate, and develop a path forward
- Caregivers are the Front Line in crisis and in transition
 - They need more support and ways to incentivize them to stay in the game and survive in the game