

Tom Bonderenko- Moveable Feast

Question 1-

Do clients that receive SNAP benefits receive face-to-face assistance or counseling with food shopping and meal planning?

This would be a good question for a caseworker, and I would hope they provide that counseling to the client. This is not part of the Home Delivered meals service. However, since Moveable Feast also receives funding for Medical Nutritional Therapy, during home visits and phone counseling, our dietitians do provide information on food shopping and advise on planning menus if clients want that information.

Question 2-

Why are there Ryan White eligible applicants that are not receiving services? Is it a funding issue or something else?

Moveable Feast is contracted by BCHD/RW Care Act funding to provide services to/for a certain number of clients and for a certain amount of meals. As instructed by BCHD, we spread those numbers and services out over the entire year of the grant contract. If not, we would exhaust the grant in the first 6 months of the contract. Thus, when we are at the max number of clients served for any given month, new applicants go on a waiting list until someone drops off service or additional funding is received.

Question 3-

It is a great initiative to change to healthier options. Is this more expensive? And if so, how are you managing to sustain this?

Actually, the cost is a trade off. Grocery foods are more expensive than our foods that go into a meal. However, the prepared meals have a greater cost associated for production. In the end, the meal cost plus fresh fruits and veggies remains \$32.50/week for 1 client.

Question 4-

How much more money would it take for you to serve the 51 clients that are currently on the waiting list for services?

This is a bit of a tricky question to answer. Let's assume you mean serving these 51 clients for an entire year @12 meals (average)/week (or the equivalent number of meals per/client for 1 year). The cost would be $51 \times \$1.80 \times 12 = \$1101.60/\text{wk}$. As of today there are 32 weeks remaining in the RW funding cycle: $\$1101.60 \times 32 \text{ weeks} = \$35,251.20$.

Question 5-

What is the average wait time to receive services once someone is placed on the waitlist?

The average time is about 1 to 2 months for a client on the waiting list to receive services.