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REPORT

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“Rent Supplements and Mental Health Support Improve Housing Stability for Homeless Adults”

TEASE RUNS: 04 (man walking out onto balcony overlooking city)
 A program to help homeless adults...that’s next.

JAMA 3971

TRT: 1:59

EMBARGO: 11a.m. (ET) Tuesday, March 3, 2015

INTRO: Many homeless adults struggle with mental illness as well as substance use disorders. Most programs designed to help homeless individuals require them to first enter treatment, rehabilitation and then transitional housing. A new study evaluated a program where homeless adults transition directly from the streets or shelters to permanent housing, while also receiving intensive mental health support. Catherine Dolf has the details in this week’s JAMA Report.

VIDEO	AUDIO
B-ROLL Hercules taking cup out of cabinet	HERCULES IS ENJOYING HIS NEW HOME.
SOT/FULL Hercules - Study Participant Super@:03 Runs:07	“After 10 years of homeless, I felt like I was born again.”
B-ROLL Hercules in kitchen, pouring water into coffee cups, bringing coffee into dining room and sits down talking with his support advocate	AFTER LOSING HIS BUSINESS AND THEN HIS MOTHER, HE BECAME DEPRESSED. HERCULES PARTICIPATED IN THE “HOUSING FIRST” PROGRAM WHERE HOMELESS ADULTS MOVE DIRECTLY FROM THE STREET OR SHELTERS INTO

	PERMANENT HOUSING WHILE WORKING CLOSELY WITH A SUPPORT TEAM.
SOT/FULL Vicky Stergiopoulos, M.D., - St. Michael's Hospital Super@:23 Runs:10	"Individuals with moderate mental health needs represents a very large segment of the homeless populations across North America."
B-ROLL Dr. Stergiopoulos and Dr. Hwang down hallway, neighborhoods from the car, Hercules at table talking, advocate and Hercules talking, apartment building, advocate and another study participant talking	DOCTORS VICKY STERGIOPOULOS (Stir-JAH-puh-lus) AND STEPHEN HWANG (Wang) FROM ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL IN TORONTO AND CO-AUTHORS, RECRUITED ABOUT 12 HUNDRED HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS FROM FOUR LARGE CITIES ACROSS CANADA. A LITTLE MORE THAN HALF THE PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED RENT SUPPLEMENTS AND INTENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FROM PROJECT TEAMS. THE REMAINING PARTICIPANTS DID NOT RECEIVE RENT SUPPLEMENTS AND WERE INSTEAD DIRECTED TO SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THEIR COMMUNITY. BOTH GROUPS WERE FOLLOWED FOR UP TO TWO YEARS.
SOT/FULL Vicky Stergiopoulos, M.D., - St. Michael's Hospital Super@:57 Runs:10	"Individuals in the intervention group had much greater success in achieving stable housing compared to the usual care group."
GXF FULL JAMA COVER	THE STUDY APPEARS IN JAMA, JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.
SOT/FULL Stephen W. Hwang, M.D., - St. Michael's Hospital Super@1:10 Runs:10 (Video covering middle of bite: patient and advocate talking)	"While the intervention is very successful, their overall quality of life did not improve significantly as a result of the intervention."
B-ROLL Driving shot of apartment building and houses	THE "HOUSING FIRST" MODEL HAS BEEN USED FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS, WHO REQUIRED INTENSIVE AND COSTLY SUPPORT SERVICES.
SOT/FULL Stephen W. Hwang, M.D., - St. Michael's Hospital Super@1:31	"We can now broaden this model to include people who have more moderate needs for services and can do so at a lower cost than the more intensive version of the intervention."

Runs:12	
B-ROLL Hercules sitting at table talking, in bedroom with his cat making his bed	HERCULES HAS TAKEN COMPUTER COURSES, MEETS REGULARLY WITH HIS SUPPORT ADVOCATE AND EVEN RESCUED HIS CAT LEO. HE ALSO HELPS THOSE WHO ARE STILL HOMELESS, ENCOURAGING THEM TO STAY POSITIVE.
SOT/FULL Hercules - Study Participant Super@1:49 Runs:08	“Just keep you chin up and see the green light that’s going to come at some point.”
B-ROLL Hercules on his balcony	CATHERINE DOLF, THE JAMA REPORT.

TAG: THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS ALL ACROSS CANADA.

Please see the complete study for additional information, including other authors, author contributions and affiliations, financial disclosures, funding and support, etc.

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ADDITIONAL SOUNDBITES:

Vicky Stergiopoulos, M.D., - St. Michael’s Hospital

QUOTE 1 Runs:15

“They were housed with everybody else in the same income bracket that is they were not placed in housing dedicated for people that experience mental health problems or experience homelessness.”

Stephen W. Hwang, M.D., - St. Michael’s Hospital

QUOTE 1 Runs:10

“People assigned to the housing first intervention were far more likely to be housed and spent much more time housed over the two year follow up period.”