Building Community in Supportive Housing

Exploring the Community-Centered Housing Approach

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Agenda

- Welcome & introductions
- Partnership overview
- Fountain House, the clubhouse model, & social practice
- The Community-Centered Housing approach
- Questions & discussion
- Next steps

About Us

CSH works to advance affordable housing aligned with services as an approach to help people thrive. We do this by advocating for effective policies and funding, investing in communities, and strengthening the supportive housing field.

Learn more: www.csh.org

The National Center for Housing + Health makes it easier for housing providers, healthcare organizations, policymakers, and community leaders to learn what works, connect with peers, and put effective ideas into action.

Learn more: www.housinghealthcenter.org

Fountain House is a national mental health nonprofit fighting to improve health, increase opportunity, and end social and economic isolation for people living with serious mental illness.

Learn more: www.fountainhouse.org

Presenters

- Ken Zimmerman, Fountain House
- Ian Campbell, Fountain House
- Hannah Olodan, Fountain House
- Andy Houltberg, Breakthrough Episcopal Social Services
- Dave Williams, Breakthrough Episcopal Social Services
- Deborah De Santis, CSH
- Janis Ikeda, CSH
- Andrew Spiers, CSH



Who’s Here Today?

Why We’re Here

Introduction

Hannah Olodan

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Opening Remarks

Deborah De Santis & Ken Zimmerman

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Supportive Housing: A Proven Foundation

- Evidence-based approach combining:
  - Affordable housing
  - Voluntary services
- Proven outcomes:
  - Increased housing stability
  - Improved health
  - Reduced ER, crisis and justice system use



Housing alone is not enough.

People with serious mental illness face:

- High rates of **isolation and loneliness**
- Increased **health risks and premature death**
- Cycles of homelessness, hospitalization and incarceration
- Current systems **stabilize housing—but miss connection**



Isolation

equals



Increased mortality risk

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Recovery depends on



Connection



Purpose



Belonging

Recovery requires human connection. Many supportive housing residents remain deeply isolated

Result: **under-realized outcomes and continued system use**

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The Clubhouse Model & Social Practice



The Missing Ingredient: Community

- Fountain House’s clubhouse model
- Community-centered recovery approach
- Delivers:
  - Social connection
  - Life skills + employment pathways
  - Psychosocial rehabilitation

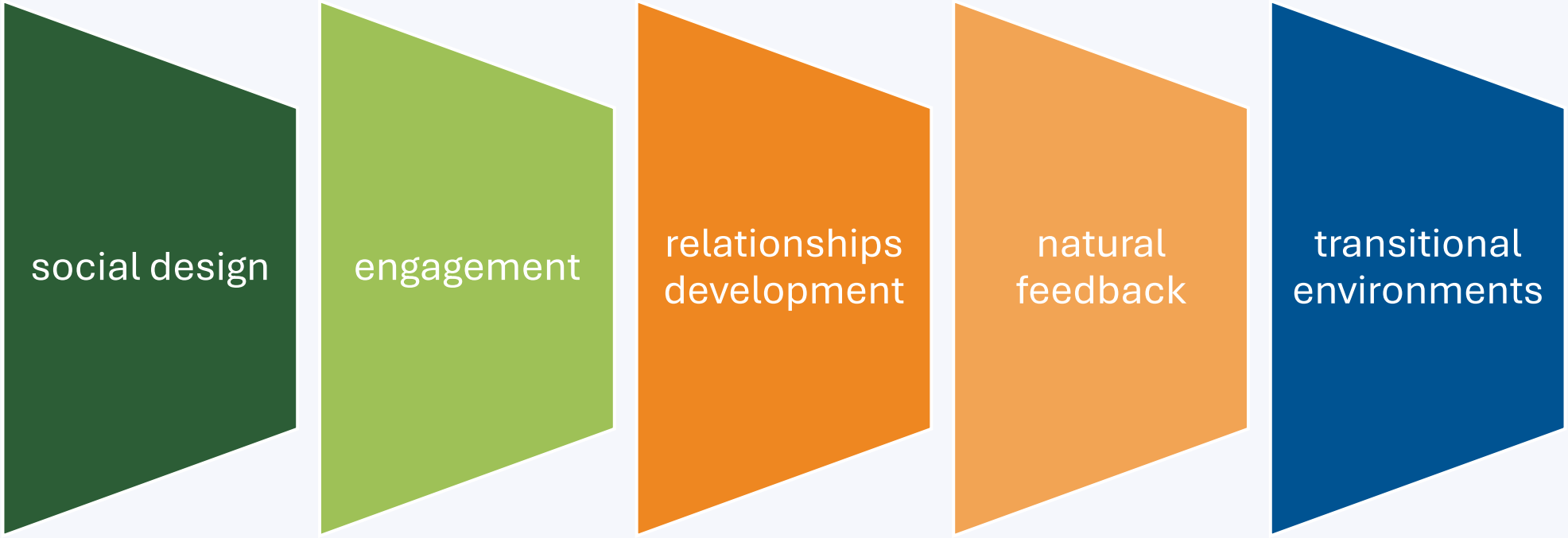
Fountain House

A Place of the 3 P's

- People, Place, and Purpose: Community as Therapeutic Intervention ("Social Practice")
- Multiple connective supports outside clubhouse, including ~400 units of housing
- Clubhouse Model now replicated 200x in US and 100x internationally
- Strong evidence base & value proposition ("stickiness")



Social Practice is made up of five elements



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Fountain House United (FHU)

- A national network of clubhouses dedicated to strengthening the clubhouse community and advancing supports that promote the recovery and thriving of people with serious mental illnesses.
- FHU unites 18 leading clubhouses across 11 organizations in 11 states.
- Separate from Fountain House is Clubhouse International, which is the keeper of fidelity and accreditation for clubhouses.



What is a Clubhouse?

- A community-based location designed to support the recovery of people living with serious mental illness.
- Utilizes the clubhouse model and social practice approach
- Clubhouses in rural settings



Eligibility

- 18+ years old
- Have a severe and persistent mental illness
- Choose to participate voluntarily
- Be able to get to the clubhouse
- Not pose a threat to the clubhouse community
- Complete a membership application and provide a psychiatric attestation signed by a licensed mental health professional

Impact

Dave’s Lived Experience

Evidence

- Clubhouses **significantly** improve the lives of people with SMI
- 51% drop in **psychiatric hospitalization** rates
- 21% lower **Medicaid costs** for clubhouse members
- **Employment rates** between 24-30% compared to the national average of 15%
- 73% of incoming members present with high levels of loneliness -- 58% experienced a **meaningful reduction in loneliness** after 12-18 months
- The Community Effect: How Clubhouses for People with Serious Mental Illness Reduce Loneliness

How Do We Pay for This?

- The majority of clubhouses have contracts with their city or county
- A growing number of clubhouses bill Medicaid
- The remaining groups rely on private funding

Community-Centered Housing

Proven approaches. Strong evidence.

Both **supportive housing** and **social practice** are evidence-based.

Supportive housing

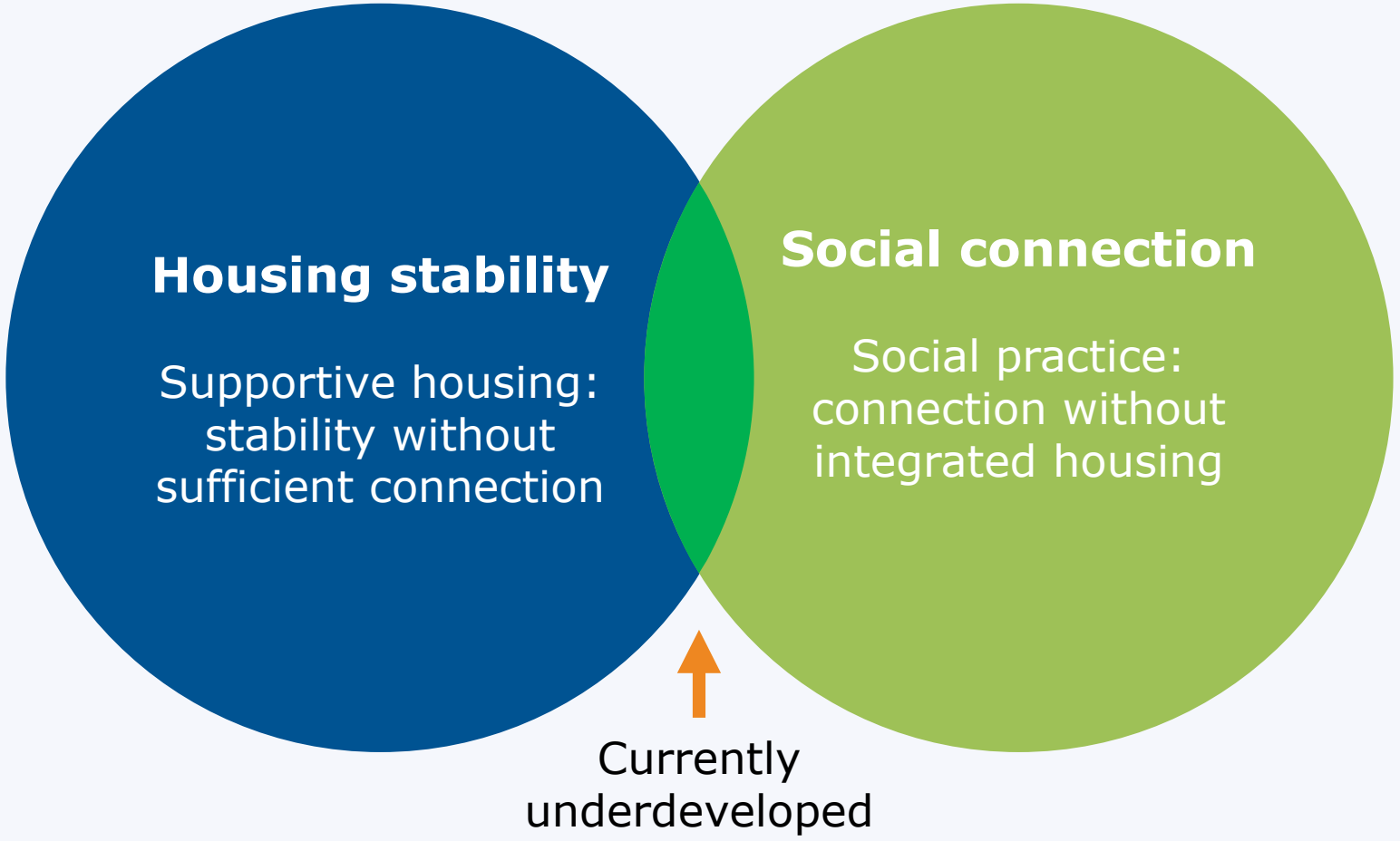
- Increases **housing stability**
- Reduces **ER visits and justice system involvement**

Social practice
(clubhouse model)

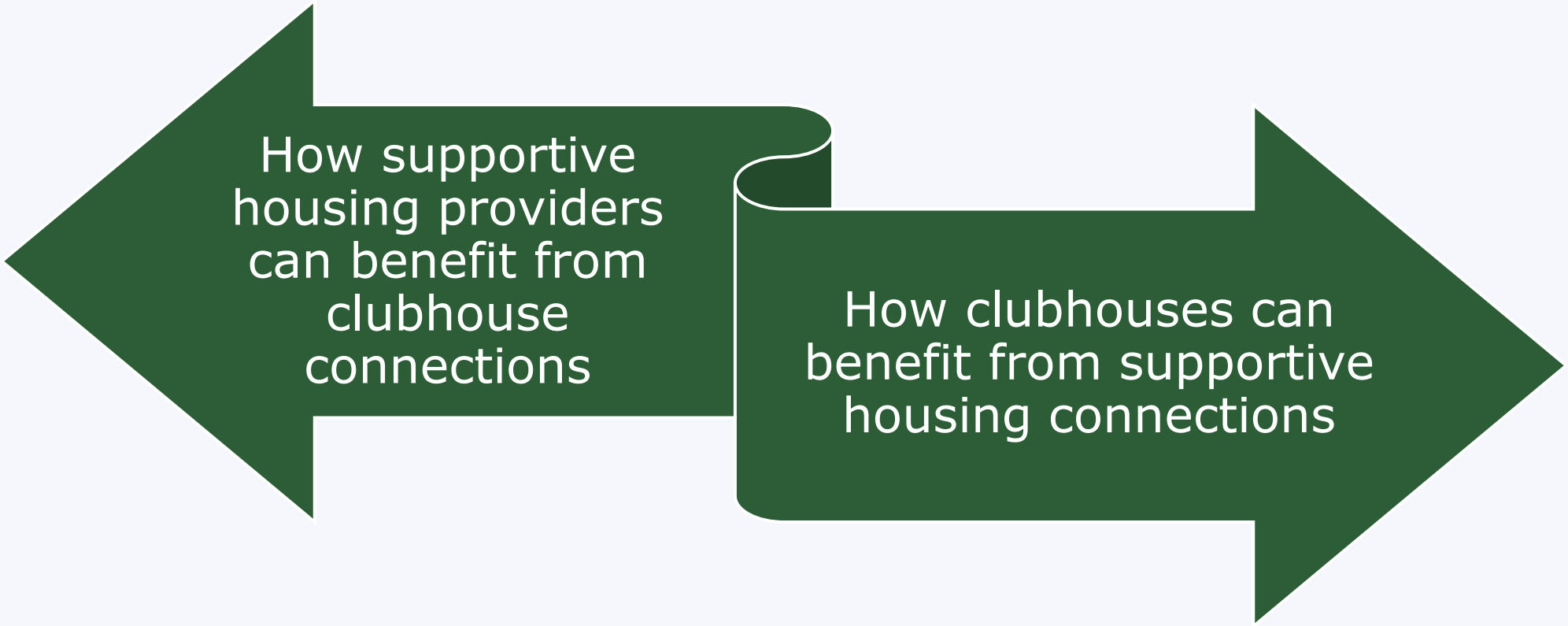
- Reduces **loneliness**
- Improves **quality of life and recovery outcomes**

Each approach works, but **independently.**

Two proven approaches. One missing link.



Implications for Communities



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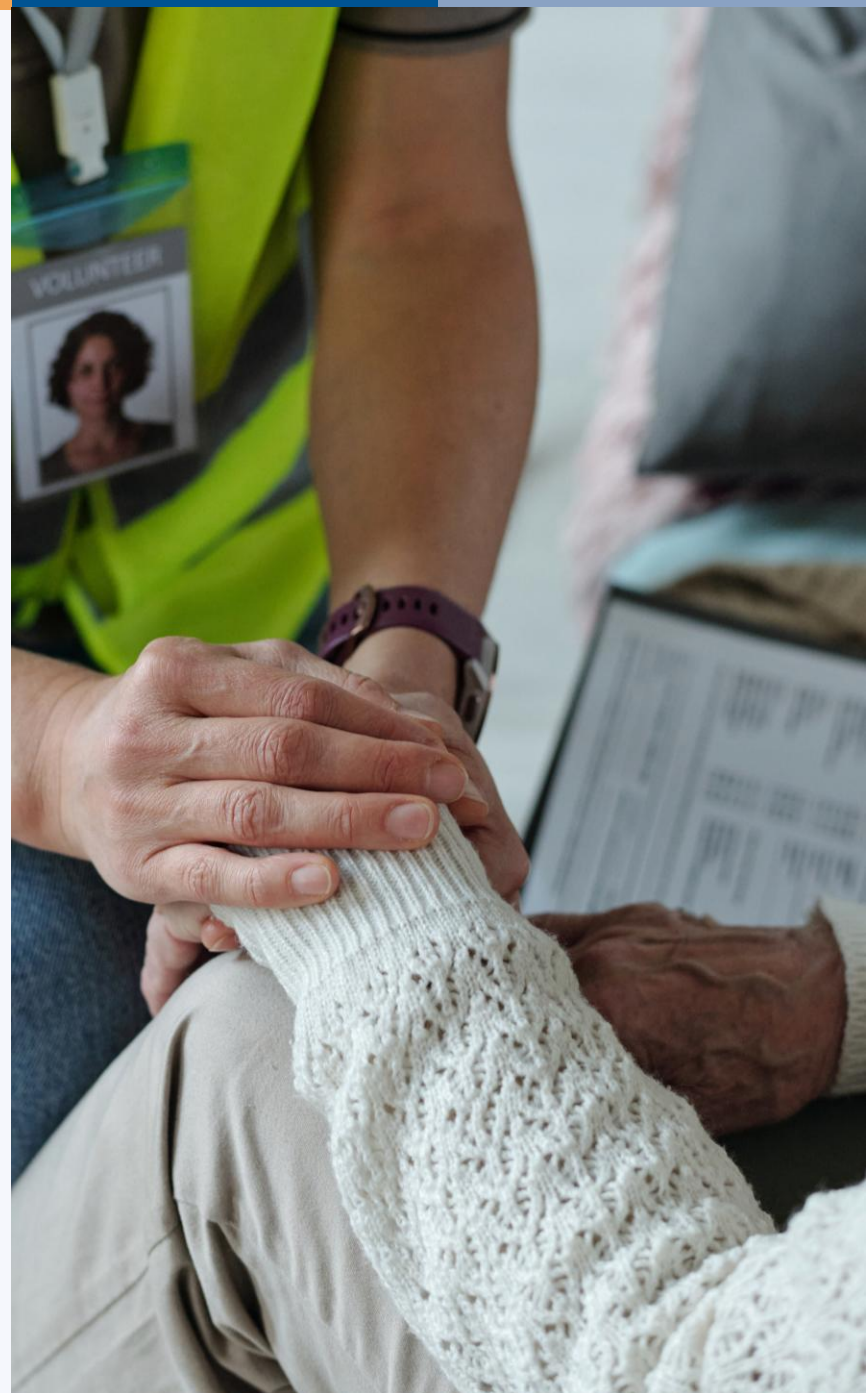
What is the Community Centered Housing (CCH) approach?

- CCH integrates the clubhouse social practice model and supportive housing to reduce isolation and loneliness among supportive housing residents with serious mental health conditions
- Draws on evidence base practices of clubhouses and supportive housing
- Centered on social practice and community as therapy



Strong Early Signals

- Initial CCH pilots underway
- Centering member voices in our design
- Early insights:
  - Urgent need to address loneliness
  - Strong provider enthusiasm
  - Demand for scalable solution
  - Improved outcomes for tenants



Community as the Solution for Loneliness in Housing

The Community Apartment Program

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From Pilot to Scale

- Build **validated, replicable, scalable practices**
- Create pathways to **scale across different settings**
- Equip housing + clubhouse providers nationally



What success will look like

- Reduced loneliness and isolation
- Improved housing stability
- Better health outcomes
- Increased agency, connection and mobility
- Replicable, scalable practices that can be implemented by partners nationally


What questions
do you have?

Ways to Get Involved

Learn more about clubhouses, supportive housing, and CCH

- The Clubhouse Model: How Clubhouses can Complement Supportive Housing
- Supportive Housing: An Evidence-Based Model with Opportunities for Clubhouse Collaboration
- Policy Brief: Aligning Social Practice and Supportive Housing for Community-Centered Housing
- Find a Clubhouse Near You | Clubhouse International

CSH Supportive Housing Summit 2027

READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT?

Innovation, Resilience, and the Future of Housing Stability

April 6–8, 2027 | Denver

Ideas. Connections. What's next for supportive housing.

csh.org/summit

CSH Supportive Housing SUMMIT 2027

SCAN TO REGISTER

CSH

Stay in touch

Keep an eye on our websites - CSH, the National Center for Housing + Health, and Fountain House – as we continue to release resources, new information, and opportunities for collaboration.

Ready to learn more?

- contact@housinghealthcenter.org – **CSH, NCH+H**
- aschonebaum@fountainhouse.org – **Fountain House**
- andy.houltberg@breakthroughwichita.org – **Breakthrough**

Thank you!

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