

**BEST PRACTICES OF HALFWAY HOUSES AND SELF-HELP GROUPS FOR  
FORMER DRUG DEPENDENTS TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM**

Presented by:

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SCORE's Residential Services Unit (RSU) facilitates the establishment of halfway houses, co-ordinates the Prisons Halfway House Scheme, and work towards enhancing the programmes of halfway houses.

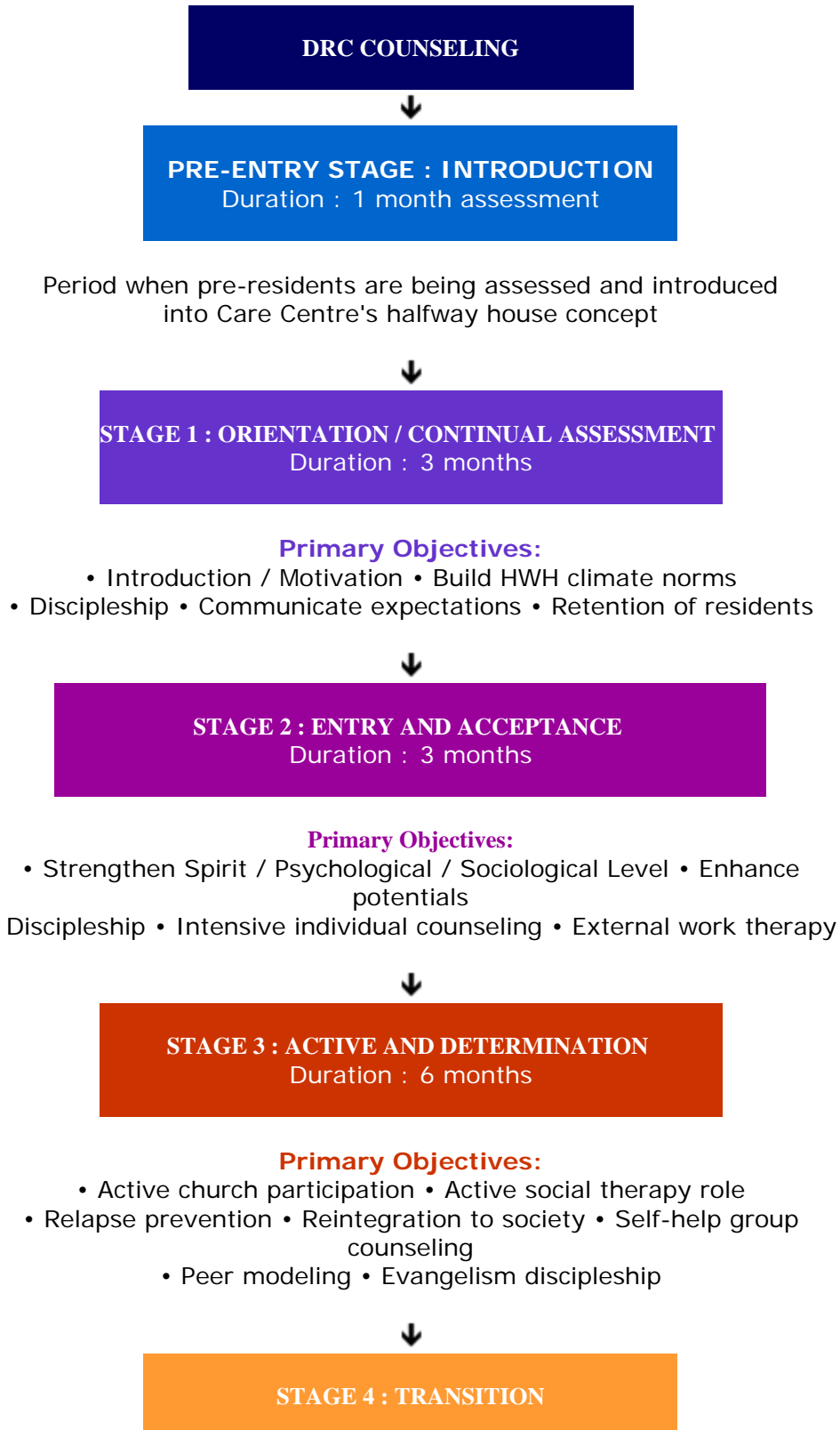
2 The Prisons Halfway House Scheme, which started in April 1995, allows amenable drug and penal offenders who are without strong family support to spend the last stages of their detention at the Halfway Houses. Currently, there are 11 halfway houses participating in the Scheme and their programme comprises of counseling, work therapy and moral/religious education. These HWHs are established and managed by religious organizations and community-based groups.

3 The primary aim of the HWHs is to provide a conducive environment for treatment and rehabilitation of offenders away from the prison setting.

4 The HWH uses the spiritual perspective to target behavioural change. Some of the residents were abusers as well, hence they can relate to and empathise with the challenges recovering drug addicts would be faced with. HWHs managed by religious organisations concentrate on the faith formation which is important in assisting the addicts on their road to recovery. HWH adopts a structured programme that is holistic in nature, assessment of the abuser and also appropriate treatment plans to lower his risk.

e.g. Christian Care Services

### MODEL DIAGRAM OF PRIMARY STAGES OF RECOVERY PROGRAM



**Primary Objectives:**

- Offer aftercare support
- Relapse prevention
- Offer Christian concept living
- Prevent old destructive life patterns
- Assist growth / development
- Role modeling
- Therapeutic group counseling

5 Halfway houses managed by religious organizations are given funding by the National Council of Social Services (NCSS) and the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE). There is some kind of accountability and governance and audit. The HWHs are non-profit hence their services are affordable.

6 HWHs provide a step down type of care which is helping the abuser in his road to recovery. Training and sharing are part of their staff development as this is important that the HWH personnel is trained accordingly and has a basic understanding of human development.

7 HWHs belong to an association that governs their activities

8 HWHs have strong links with the correctional agencies as this would help them to obtain their clients and also work together with them as a multi-prong approach towards combating drug abuse.

9 HWHs provide a therapeutic environment for change e.g. community setting where the residents experience a sense of belonging and love.

10 HWHs are part of the CARE network which brings all the relevant stakeholders together to plan and promote change.