

Building a Full Continuum of Housing: Creating Safe Housing Options for Survivors

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Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition

Community Connections Summit

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Housing Approaches that are Working for Survivors

Kris Billhardt, Director of Program and Practice Innovation, National Alliance for Safe Housing

DV and Housing: The Context is Changing!

- HUD requirements, funding increases reflect increased attention to need for targeted response to survivors' safe housing needs
- Solid and growing evidence base for importance of centering racial equity and scaling up promising models
- Broader inclusion of DV/SA programs in Continuums of Care in growing number of jurisdictions = a “cultural shift” in BOTH systems



DV & Housing TA Consortium

Four Federal Agencies

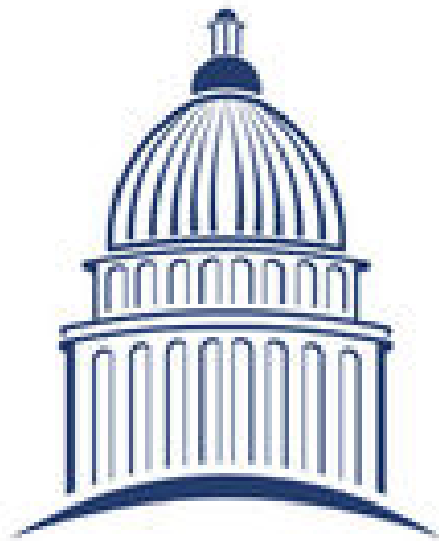
- Family Violence Prevention & Services Program/HHS
- Office on Violence Against Women/DOJ
- Office for Victims of Crime/DOJ
- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs/HUD

Five Technical Assistance Providers

- National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH)
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
- Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CS)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)



Federal Funding Increases for DV Housing



- 2018 spending bill included increases in Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).
- HUD increases in Homeless Assistance included new DV set-aside for Rapid Re-housing and supportive services; 177 new DV projects funded last year (available again this year)
- RELATED DEVELOPMENT: VOCA Final Rule (8/2016): Expanded uses of VOCA to support safe and stable housing for DV/SA survivors



Beyond Shelter: Safe Housing as DV Intervention



- Housing and food insecurity is linked and increases risk of violence (CDC NISVS studies)
- Survivors of violence face complex barriers – including an immediate need for safety and confidentiality, economic insecurity, and discrimination when trying to access shelter and housing.
- Housing and supportive services play major roles in trauma recovery and long-term stability.



Research and Evaluation of Innovative Approaches

What components of housing lead to safety, housing stability and well-being for survivors and their children?

- Intentional use of same measures across studies where possible – housing barriers, financial stability, housing stability, safety, well-being
- Aim: Identify what works best for whom, and under what circumstances (no “one-size-fits-all”)



**RESEARCH CONSORTIUM
ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**



NASH NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOUSING

▪ Domestic Violence Housing First

- Uses intensive mobile advocacy and flex funding to help survivors remain in or obtain and sustain housing

Flexible Funding with brief advocacy

- Promising approach in preventing survivors from becoming homeless

Rapid Re-housing with population-specific modifications

- Combines housing identification, financial assistance for rent and related expenses, and supportive services

Three Approaches of Particular Interest



The Potential of Flexible Funding

- Flex funding **with brief advocacy** is a promising option for survivors who were relatively stable and are now experiencing a crisis (Ex: DASH Survivor Resiliency Fund)
- **Flex funding is far cheaper than shelter**
- Flex funding **with longer-term advocacy** (DV Housing First, DV Rapid Re-housing) is also promising, needs further research





Safe Rapid Re-housing for Survivors

- Flexible programming and financial assistance
- Mobile advocacy
- Low-barrier, minimal program eligibility requirements
- Survivor-driven, trauma-informed, culturally responsive and voluntary services
- Flexible duration for those needing longer-term support
- Support for reconnecting with community

Examples of Innovative Uses of VOCA

- **COLORADO** - Housing for Crime Victims Special Project
 - Initial launch: 8 sites around the state with support from the Division of Criminal Justice Office for Victims Programs and Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV)
 - Projects use the Domestic Violence Housing First model
- **CALIFORNIA** - DVHF Process Evaluation of 32 pilot sites
 - Using VOCA support to provide flexible financial assistance and mobile advocacy to survivors to help them avoid homelessness and achieve safety in housing.
- **NEW HAMPSHIRE, ARIZONA, NORTH CAROLINA** and others





Other Studies in Progress

- Survivor-friendly alternative to VI-SPDAT
- Successful transitional housing program – what are its elements?
- Survivors on the margins: what are they doing to get/stay housed
- Impact of opioids on survivor housing

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOUSING FIRST

WHAT IS IT?

IS IT SUSTAINABLE?

Linda Olsen, MA, MSW—Housing Director, Washington State
Coalition Against Domestic Violence



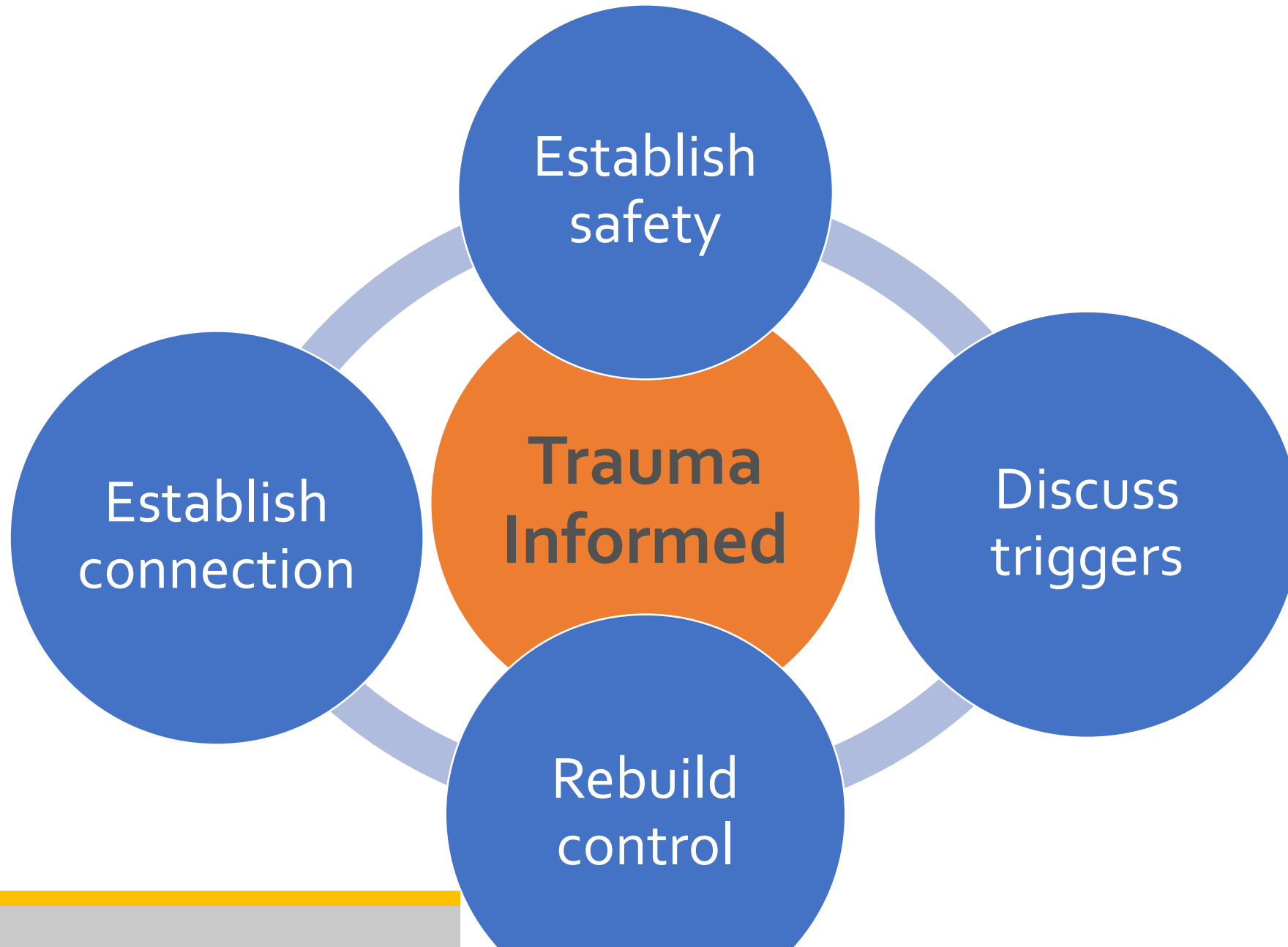
Survivor-Driven

Focused on the survivor's choice

Orientation to the "whole person"

Validation and acceptance

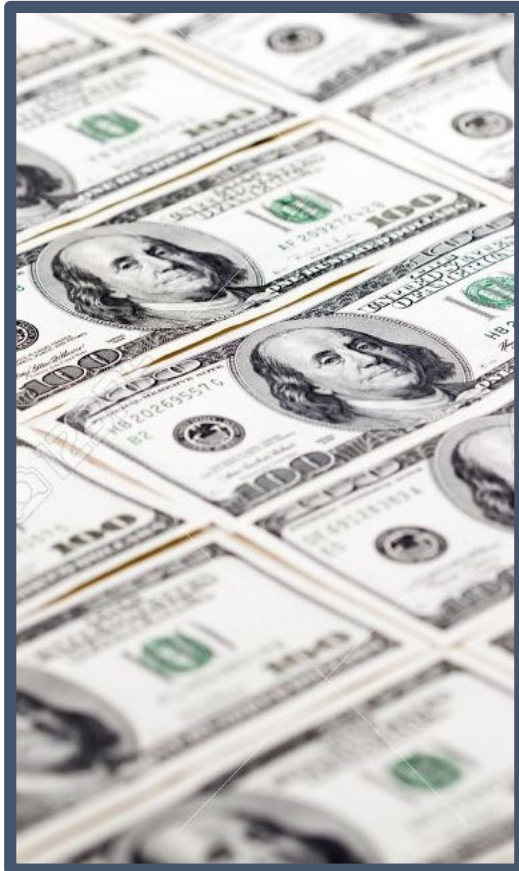
Action Oriented



Mobile Advocacy

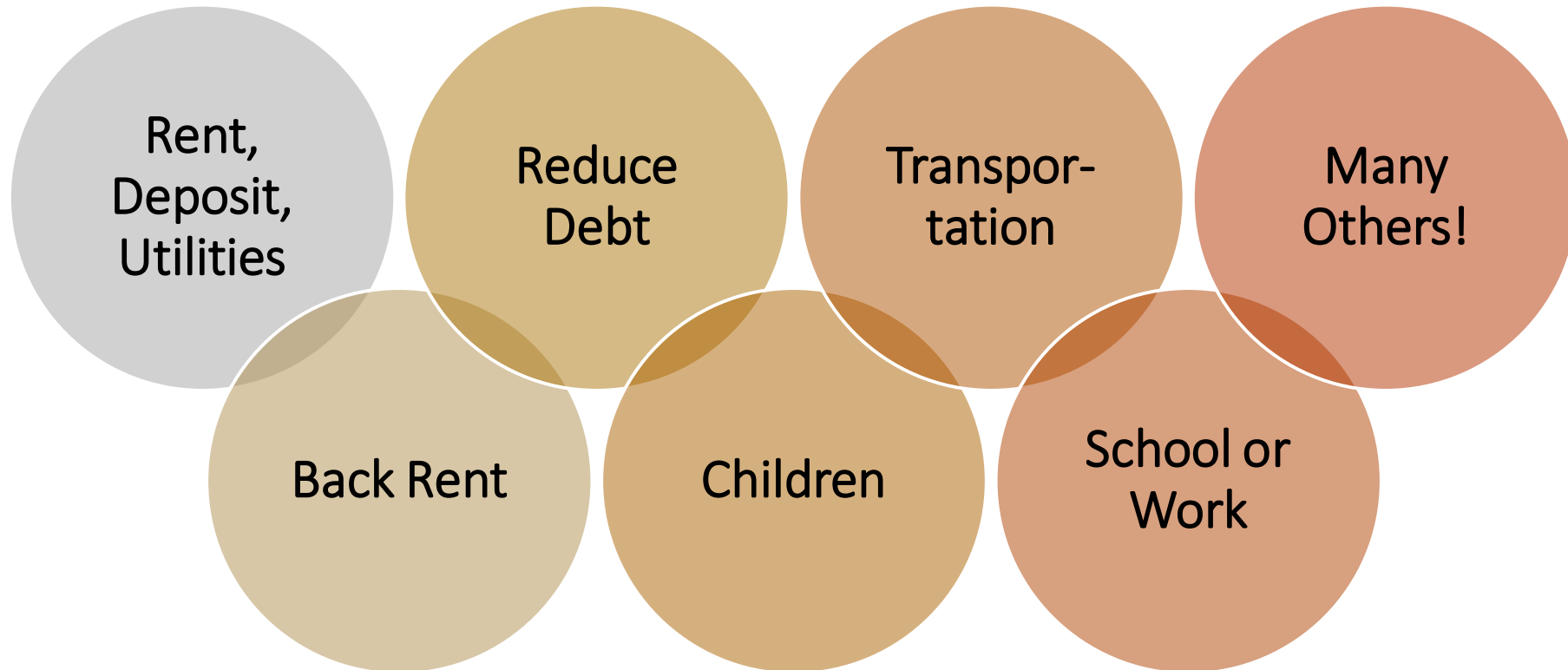


Flexible Financial Assistance



- Funds are used to support housing, employment, survivor safety, and other critical needs.
- Level of need and amount of financial assistance determined in full partnership with survivor
- Additional assistance may be provided based on changing needs of survivor. No requirements to meet goals or participate in services

Flexible Financial Assistance



Community Engagement

- Partnerships with service providers (health clinics, daycares, treatment centers)
- Partnerships with resources (schools, job training, legal services, law enforcement, stores, food and clothing banks, auto shops)
- Relationships with private market landlords, public housing authorities, realtors
- Community affinities (faith communities, culturally specific community, hobbies, interests, neighborhood organizations)

Community Partnerships have led to...

“If the abuser shows up, the abuser is not going to get away with being violent. There’s zero tolerance for DV, and the agency has partnerships with everyone in the community, which won’t allow it to happen. They are keeping an eye out for survivors.”—Survivor

“In the past, landlords said, ‘I’m not renting to those kind.’ Now landlords say, ‘What’s going on and how can I help?’ In some cases, landlords have reduced rent for survivors and counted it as a donation.”—DVHF staff

Restoring Connection



Housing Options

- Retain current housing (Prevention/Diversion)
- Rapid Rehousing (Private Market; Short –term HUD funding)
- Subsidized Housing (HUD Tenant or Project based housing)
- Home sharing
- Employer-based housing, such as migrant farmworker
- CoC Permanent Supportive Housing

Is Housing First Sustainable?

- Advocates building bridge into previous or new community
- Focused work on income sources, budget planning, unexpected crises
- Encouraging community connections

BIGGEST QUESTION

Are we setting survivors up to fail?

What happens when the money and the advocacy go away?

Community

**Rebuilt Social Network=Resilience and Housing
Retention**

Available Housing Options Tailored for Survivors in Los Angeles

Amy Turk, LCSW, Chief Innovation Officer, Downtown Women's Center

Shelter Options

DV Specific Shelter	Homeless Services Shelters for Women
<p>Accessed through individual agency hotlines:</p> <p>DV Emergency Shelter (378 emergency shelter beds for DV survivors in our Continuum of Care)</p> <p>Transitional Shelter (570 beds for survivors in our Continuum of Care)</p>	<p>Shelters for only women:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Downtown Women’s Center Bridge Housing 24 beds opening on August 12thPATH Bridge Housing Hollywood Studio Club, 64 beds with YWCA Casa Azul in McArthur Park for 28 women and 5 familiesDelores MissionThe Good Shepherd Center Emergency and Transitional ShelterWeingart Center Bridge Housing Gardner Street (under construction)LA Family Housing Bridge Housing Sylmar Shelter (under construction)

Domestic Violence Rapid Re-Housing

Funding Source



Eligibility

- Homeless due to domestic violence **OR** domestic violence history
- Annual income below (\$46,500)
- Open to families

Local Programs

- 1736
- Bridge to Home
- Downtown Women's Center
- East LA Women's Center
- House of Ruth Pomona
- Human Services Association
- Jenesse Center
- Korean American Family Services
- LA LGBT Center
- Rainbow Services
- Southern CA Alcohol and Drug Programs, Inc
- St. John's Well Child and Family Center
- Su Casa
- Valley Oasis
- YWCA Glendale

LAHSA IPV Rapid Re-Housing Pilot

Funding Source

LAHSA

Eligibility

- Homeless HUD Category 1 (chronically homeless) or 4 (fleeing domestic violence)
- Youth 18-24; Individuals 18+; Families (households with minor children)
- Income below 50% AMI
- Current Resident of Los Angeles County

Local Programs

- 1736
- House of Ruth Pomona
- LA House of Ruth
- Valley Oasis
- Volunteers of America

Building A Full Continuum of
Housing Includes Permanent
Supportive Housing (PSH)

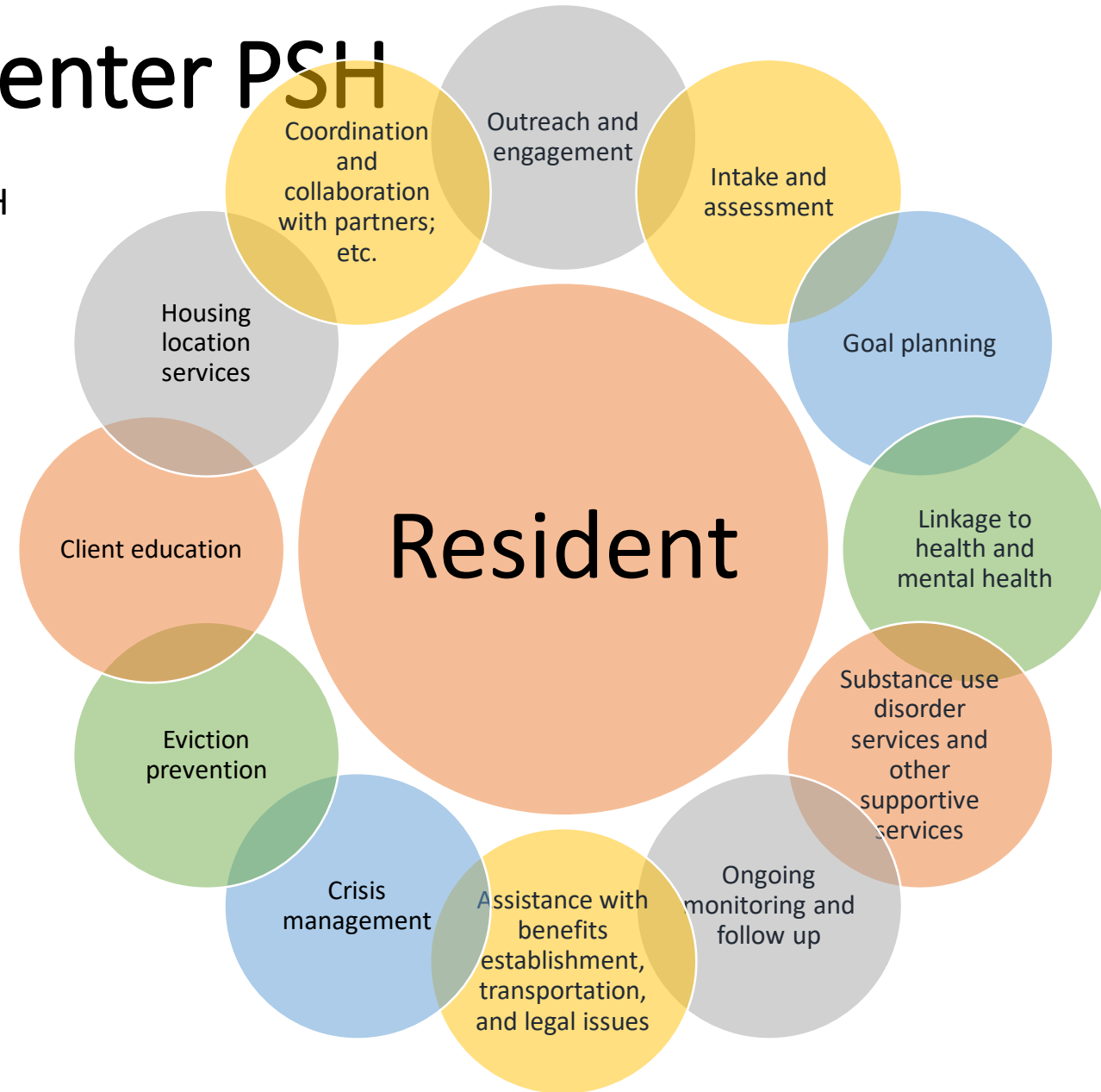
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

- Community-based housing
 - Scattered-site and on-site
- Permanent housing with indefinite leasing and rental assistance
- Paired with supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability or families with an adult or child member with a disability
- Lease is renewable and is terminable only for cause
- Accessing support is voluntary; Housing First model

Downtown Women's Center PSH



119 Onsite PSH
300 Offsite in
Scattered Site
Housing



Permanent Supportive Housing from a Lived Experience Perspective

Millie Brown, DVHSC Advocate

Reflections from a Survivor on Supportive Aspects of PSH

Most importantly, the PSH building that I live in is an environment free of aggressive behavior, verbal abuse, and threats of violence.

Reflections from a Survivor on Improvements Needed in PSH

- I see that management needs better understanding of trauma specifically as it relates to DV survivors.
- Staff need to take a calm approach to dealing with people that have suffered and who have survived trauma.
- Staff need better training and overall knowledge.

Permanent Supportive Housing— Creating it for Survivors

Audience Discussion

Audience Feedback Questions

- What are the physical design needs to ensure that PSH is appropriate for survivors?
- What are the program design needs to ensure that PSH is appropriate for survivors?
- What are the screening/eligibility considerations (keeping in mind HUD guidelines) to ensure that survivors access PSH?
- What is currently missing in existing PSH to ensure survivors are housed?

Contact Us

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