Promising Evidence for Adapting Housing First for DV Survivors

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Overview

Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children.

The Domestic Violence Housing First approach focuses on getting survivors of domestic violence into stable housing as quickly as possible and then providing the necessary support as they rebuild their lives.

This approach has been shown to promote long-term stability, safety and well-being for survivors and their children.





Housing Options

 Prevention (Diversion)—Survivor may choose to stay in the home or may leave temporarily if safety is a concern

Rapid ReHousing

Flexible Engagement

Subsidized housing with services available

Permanent supportive housing

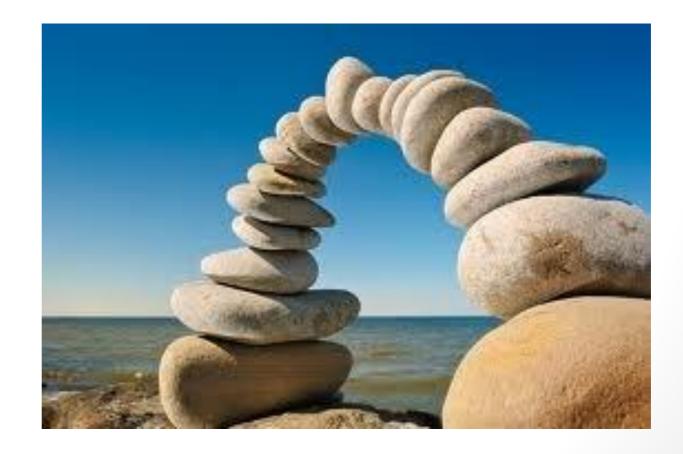


Building Our Evidence Base

 The Domestic Violence Housing First model builds on prior evidence

And offers the opportunity to significantly move

the field forward





Shared and Similar Principles Between the Pathways Housing First Model and Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy

Housing First Model Tenets (Tsemberis, 2010, p. 18)	Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Tenets	
Shared Principles		
Housing is a basic human right	Housing is a basic human right	
Respect, warmth, and	Respect, warmth, and	
compassion for all clients	compassion for all clients	
Commitment to working with	Commitment to working with	
clients for as long as they need	clients for as long as they need	
Scattered site housing;	Scattered site housing;	
independent apartments	independent apartments (and	
	communal shelters)	
Separation of housing and	Separation of housing and	
services	services	



Shared and Similar Principles Between the Pathways Housing First Model and Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy

Housing First Model Tenets (Tsemberis, 2010, p. 18)	Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Tenets		
Similar Principles			
Consumer choice and self-	Strengths-based;		
determination	empowerment focus		
Harm reduction	Safety planning		
Recovery orientation	Orientation toward social and		
	emotional well-being		
Explicit Principles of Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy			
	Community engagement;		
	systems change		
	Trauma-informed practice		



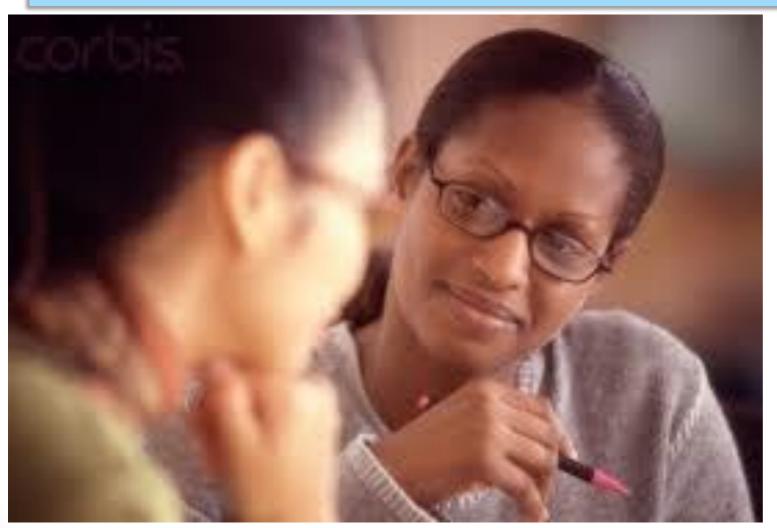
Survivor-driven, Trauma-informed, Mobile Advocacy

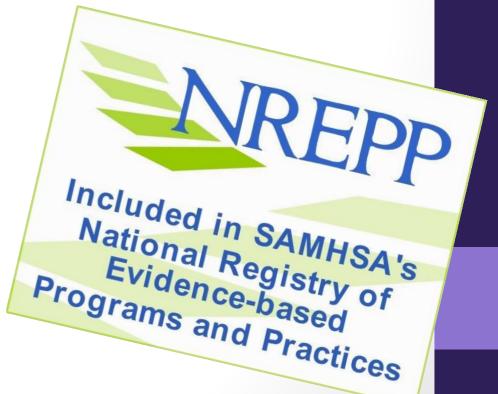
Evidence from the Field



Community Advocacy Project

Funded by NIMH 1989-1997







Community Advocacy Project

*CAP provided some of the earliest evidence for the effectiveness of community-based (mobile)

<u>advocacv</u>



worked 4-6 r community



CAP Study

- Recruited 278 DV survivors after they exited a DV shelter program
- Half were randomly assigned to work with a mobile advocate for 10 weeks (4-6 hrs/wk)
- No formal flexible funding account
- Interviewed them every 6 mos over 24 months (94+% retention)



Community Advocacy Project

CAP provided evidence that mobile advocacy leads to:

Higher social support

Decreased risk of re-abuse

Access to needed resources

Higher quality of life





SHARE Study



Funded by CDC 2005-2010 (Rollins, C., & Glass, N. Grant #U49CE000520-01)



SHARE Study

- Recruited 278 DV survivors from 4 programs providing housing assistance and/or DV advocacy services
- Interviewed them every 6 mos over 18 months (94% retention; final sample=260)
- Baseline: High danger scores, PTSD, depression, absences from work/school...



SHARE Study



82% of the families stably housed at 6 months remained stably housed a year later



SHARE Study: at 18 mos



Higher quality of life

Higher income

Greater job stability

Missed fewer days of work

Less depression

Fewer problems with drugs/alcohol



Decreased PTSD



And how about the kids??

Missed fewer days of school

Better academic performance

Fewer behavioral problems



Flexible Funding

Evidence from the Field



Does Flexible Funding, with Brief Advocacy, Work?

 Evaluated an innovative program in Washington, DC

DASH – District Alliance for Safe

Housing





DASH Provides a Range of Services:

- A 43-unit apartment-style "shelter"
- A transitional-to-permanent scattered site safe housing program
- Housing Resource Center: A variety of homeless prevention services through:
 - Advocacy
 - The Survivor Resilience Fund (a flexible funding program), where grants are given to help survivors attain stable, safe housing



Survivor Resilience Fund

- This fund is for survivors who have been fairly stable but who have either become homeless or are at high risk of becoming homeless if a financial crisis isn't averted.
- They specifically target survivors who do not want shelter or intensive services but who need immediate financial help.



Guiding Principles in Flexible Funding Decisions

- "Can any other organization provide this resource?"
- "Will this grant help this person to retain housing, not just today, but over time?"
- Process is survivor-centered, accessible, and respectful
- Process is quick to respond to urgent situations



Research Plan

- Survivors invited to participate after they received grant
- Interviewed at 30-days,
 3-months and 6-months
 post-grant
- 55 survivors in study



- 95% retention rate at three months
- 87% retention at six months



Demographics

- ■53 women, 2 men
- Average age 34 (range 21-57 years old)
- Primarily African American
- 82% have children
 - (range 0-4)





Amount of Flex Funding Awarded

Average grant: \$2,078

Grant range: \$275 - \$8,508

Grants were used for:

Moving expenses

Utilities

Car repair

Back rent

Credit card debt

Storage unit fees

Out-of-state travel to court for custody hearing

Other needs



Housing at Six Months Follow-up

94% housed

Up-to-date on rent	Somewhat behind on rent	No way to pay next month's rent	Homeless
37 (76%)	6 (12%)	3 (6%)	3 (6%)



Impact on Safety

- We later began asking survivors in 6 month interviews if they had experienced any domestic violence since receiving their flexible funding
- Of the 23 survivors asked the question:
 - 20 (91%) reported no further DV
 - 1 reported receiving harassing phone calls
 - 2 experienced further DV



The Promise of Flexible Funding

- Flex funding with brief advocacy is promising option for some survivors
 - Those who were relatively stable, and are now experiencing a crisis
- Flex funding with longer-term advocacy (DV Housing First, DV Rapid Re-housing) is also promising, needs further research



Ongoing Evaluations/Research

- Rigorous evaluation of DVHF in Washington state
- Following 320 survivors over 18 months, comparing those who receive DVHF with those receiving more "typical" services
 - 2 sites in urban area, 2 sites in rural



Hypotheses

- Those receiving DVHF will show greater improvement over time on:
 - Housing stability
 - Financial stability
 - Safety
 - Quality of life
 - Mental health and substance misuse
- Children will show improvements on:
 - School attendance and performance
 - Behaviors and social-emotional skills



Ongoing Evaluations/Research

- Examining "DV Rapid Rehousing" in Houston, Texas and Seattle, Washington
- Examining Transitional Housing in Austin,
 Texas (may be expanding)
- Process evaluation of implementing DVHF in California last year
- Upcoming outcome evaluation of DVHF in California



Resources

- Sullivan, C.M. & Olsen, L. (2016). Common ground, complementary approaches: Adapting the Housing First model for domestic violence survivors. Housing and Society, 43(3),182-194.
- https://wscadv.org/projects/domestic-violence-housing-first/



Examples from the Field

