

Local Response System to Prevent and Address Homelessness for Survivors of Domestic Violence

DV COUNCIL PRESENTATION
OCTOBER 12, 2017

CORI MANTHORNE, CORA
SELINA TOY LEE, HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
KRIS BILLHARDT, CONSULTANT

Learning Objectives

Desired Outcome: Understand the current trends and advancements in the local response to preventing and addressing homelessness for survivors of DV

Agenda:

- Role of housing and stabilization in establishing safety and accountability
- Past and new practices in the homeless system
- Parallels between homeless system and DV Shelter-based services
- Current spectrum of services available to survivors of DV
- Other potential models being explored: DV Housing First
- Understand each partner's role in system response.

DV and Homelessness

16% of homeless persons are victims of domestic violence. *The U.S. Conference of Mayors 2013 Status Report on Hunger & Homelessness, A 25-City Survey (2013).*

Approximately 50% of all women who are homeless report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness. *"Pressing Issues Facing Families Who Are Homeless." The National Center on Family Homelessness. (2013).*

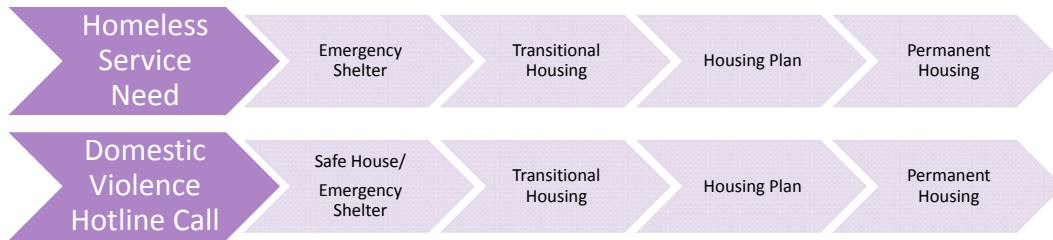
Domestic violence creates vulnerability to homelessness for women and children with limited economic resources. Among mothers with children experiencing homelessness, more than 80% had previously experienced domestic violence. *Aratani, Y. (2009). "Homeless Children and Youth, Causes and Consequences. National Center for Children in Poverty."*

According to the San Mateo County Homeless Survey (2015) , 28% of respondents indicated they had been a victim of domestic violence – an increase from 16% in 2013.

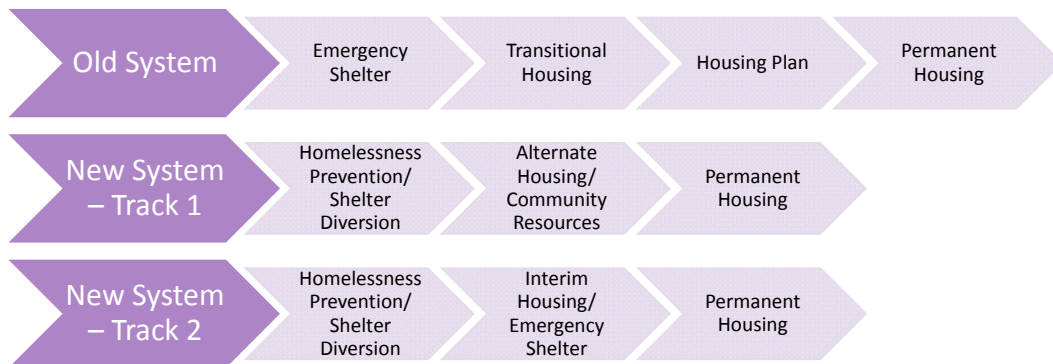
Past Practices (pre-2017) Homeless System Response



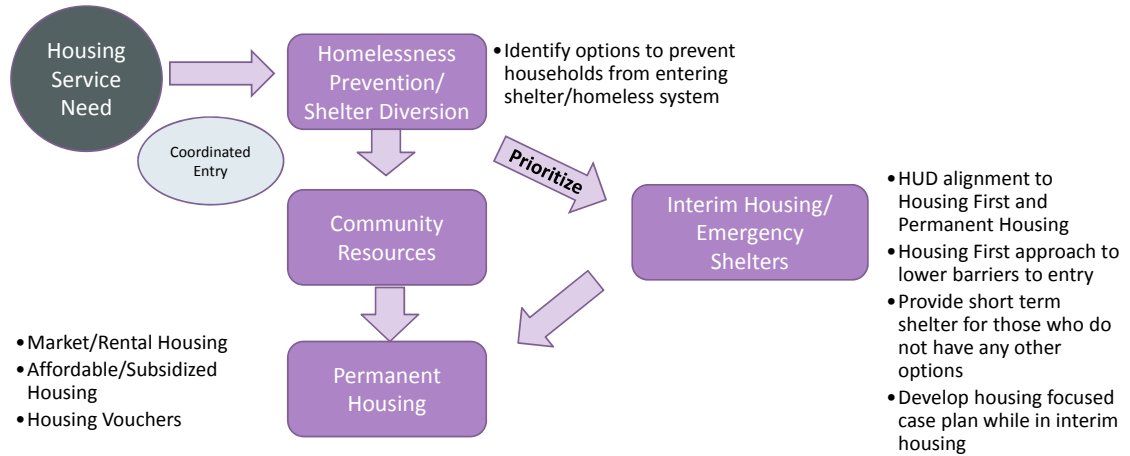
Past Practices (pre-2017) Homeless System and DV System Response



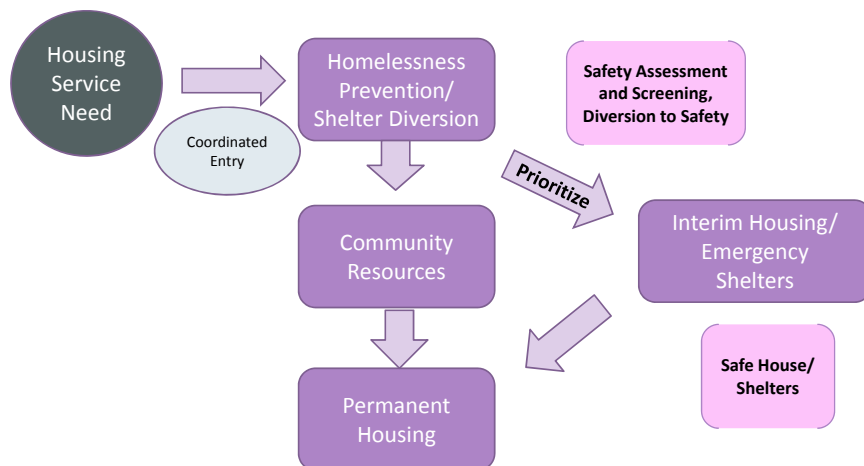
New Homeless System Response



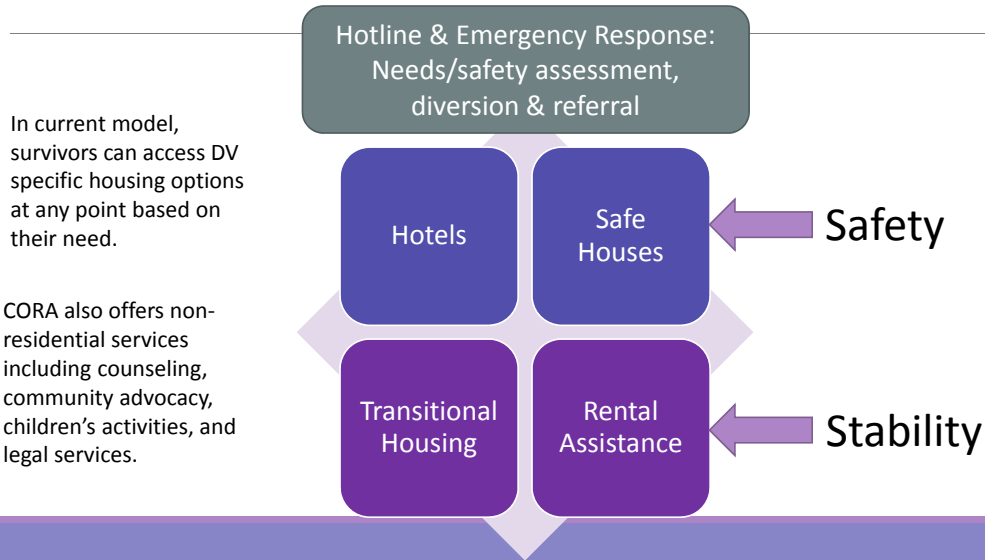
New Homeless System Response



New Homeless System Response (with DV)



CORA's Current Residential Options



We have been asking ourselves...

- ❖ If housing stability is a key to safety, how do we keep people housed safely? Can they be safe in their home?
 - What if the aggressor had to move and the victim/kids could stay in the home?
 - Would they be safe in their home if there was funding to change the locks?
 - If the housing is safe, could we help them to continue to pay rent so they don't have to move? Could we pay the rent long enough for the assets to be divided in court?
 - Would repairing their car help them keep their job - and home? Easier access to child care?
 - Could supportive service go to them instead of them coming to us?

We have been asking ourselves...

- ❖ If there were adequate stability options available, would it change the demand for safe house?
 - Could we reserve the safe house for those with the highest safety risks (ex: stalking)?
 - What is the right number of shelter beds to meet this need?
 - Could we shorten stay and then move a client to permanent housing as soon as the risk is resolved?
- ❖ What is realistic in this housing market?

Housing is Foundational for DV Survivors

Housing is key to safety for survivors it provides protection against continued abuse and is linked to a host of positive health outcomes in survivors and children.



What's Happening Nationally?

Changing HUD requirements reflect increased awareness of the intersection

Promising models/Current research and evaluation

DV and Homeless systems learning effective practices from one another

DV Housing First

Housing is a right

Housing FIRST, not Housing READY

No prerequisites; assessment done to identify and help mitigate potential barriers

Tailored, voluntary services provided to retain housing



Survivor Housing Options

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

Bridge housing (shelter/transitional)

Rapid re-housing

Subsidized housing with services available

Permanent supportive housing



DV Housing First (WSCADV)



Survivor-Driven Mobile Advocacy



- Working flexibly and in the community with survivors; survivors lead the process
- Historically what DV advocates did - before owning buildings
- Broadly used in culturally-specific communities
- Allows for highly individualized/low-barrier services that consider culture and are trauma-informed

Flexible Financial Assistance

- Unrestricted funds used to support survivors to become/stay stably housed
- May be applied to housing costs, employment-related expenses, survivor safety, and other critical needs.
- Amount of assistance determined in partnership with survivor.
- Additional assistance may be provided based on changing needs of survivor.



Community Engagement

Working in and engaging with the community to build connections to support survivors' safety, independence and housing stability.

- Develop strong relationships with housing authorities and landlords
- Cultivate relationships with community members, businesses, and service providers
- Educate community members about domestic violence and increase awareness of survivor needs



Discussion

- ❖ Questions?
- ❖ Comments/Concerns?
- ❖ Next steps?