# In the Beginning...

## Vulnerability Index (VI)

Built upon the research of Drs. O'Connell and Hwang regarding medical vulnerability and risk of mortality within homeless populations

Made popular first through Common Ground and then the 100K Homes Campaign

In place across more than 200 communities participating in the 100K Homes Campaign

# Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT)

Built upon review of 13 existing tools, client interviews, case manager interviews, academic panel, and 200+ published journal articles + other government reports + tools

Made popular through coordinated access and common assessment approaches for Housing First programs

In place in over 145 communities focused on prioritization for Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing programs, and/or system prioritization.

## Some Differences

#### $\bigvee$

Medical vulnerability (risk of morbidity) amongst chronically homeless people of primary concern.

Administered primarily as a survey, often through street-based registry weeks.

Doesn't prioritize, especially for those who need a moderate intervention.

Doesn't have a version specifically for families.

#### **SPDAT**

Medical vulnerability is an element, but considered along with other proven risk factors.

Administered primarily as an assessment for intake to a support and housing program.

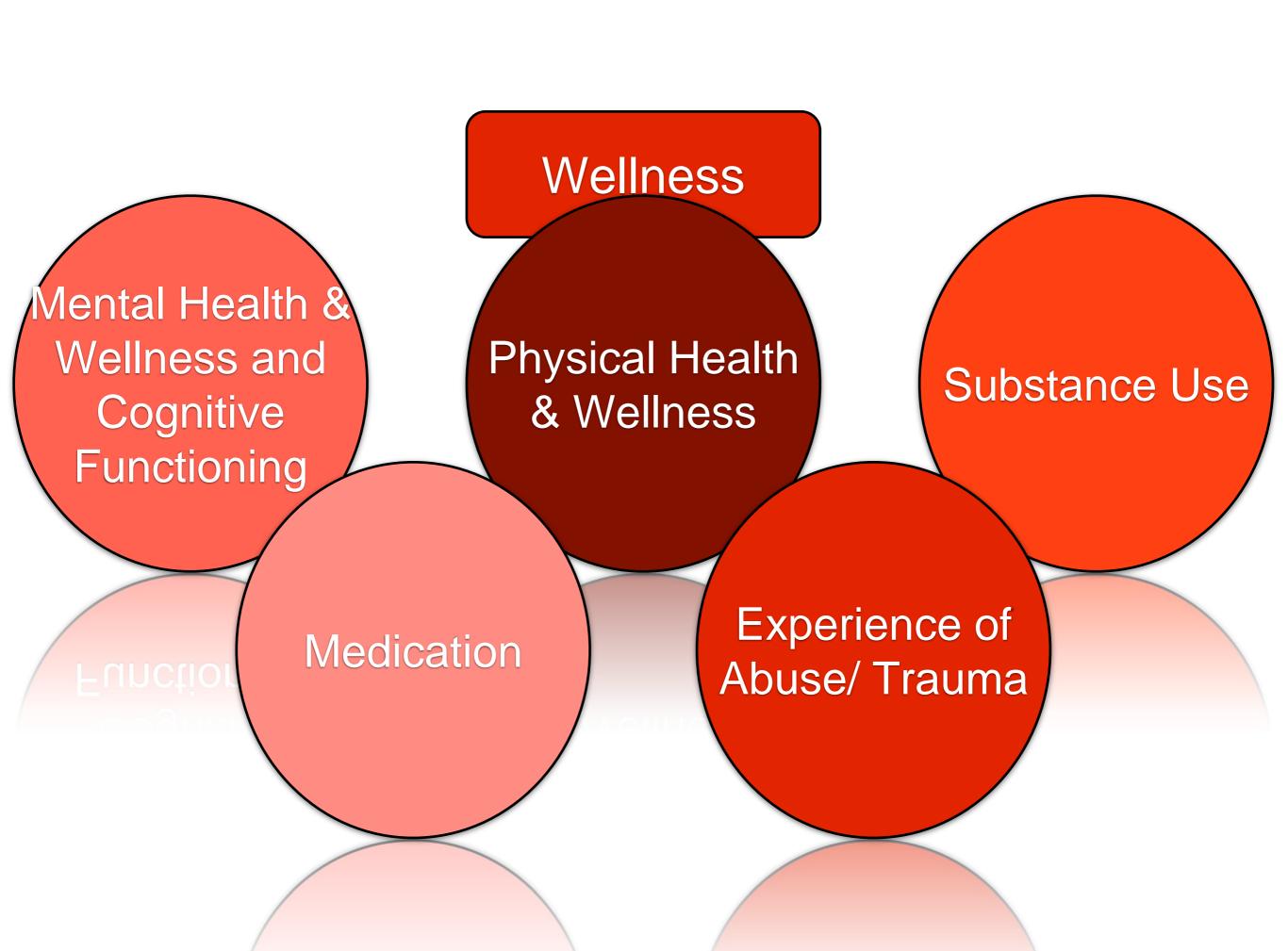
Designed to prioritize for all types of housing interventions, including when no intervention is recommended.

Has a version specifically for families.

# The Merger

- Combining the VI with the SPDAT began early in 2013.
- VI elements meshed with other SPDAT prescreen components.
- Survey tested in California, Louisiana, Michigan and Alberta in May and June 2013.
- Release of first draft at NAEH Conference.
- Further tested and revised with amended tool released October 2013.
- Built into all major HMIS 2014.



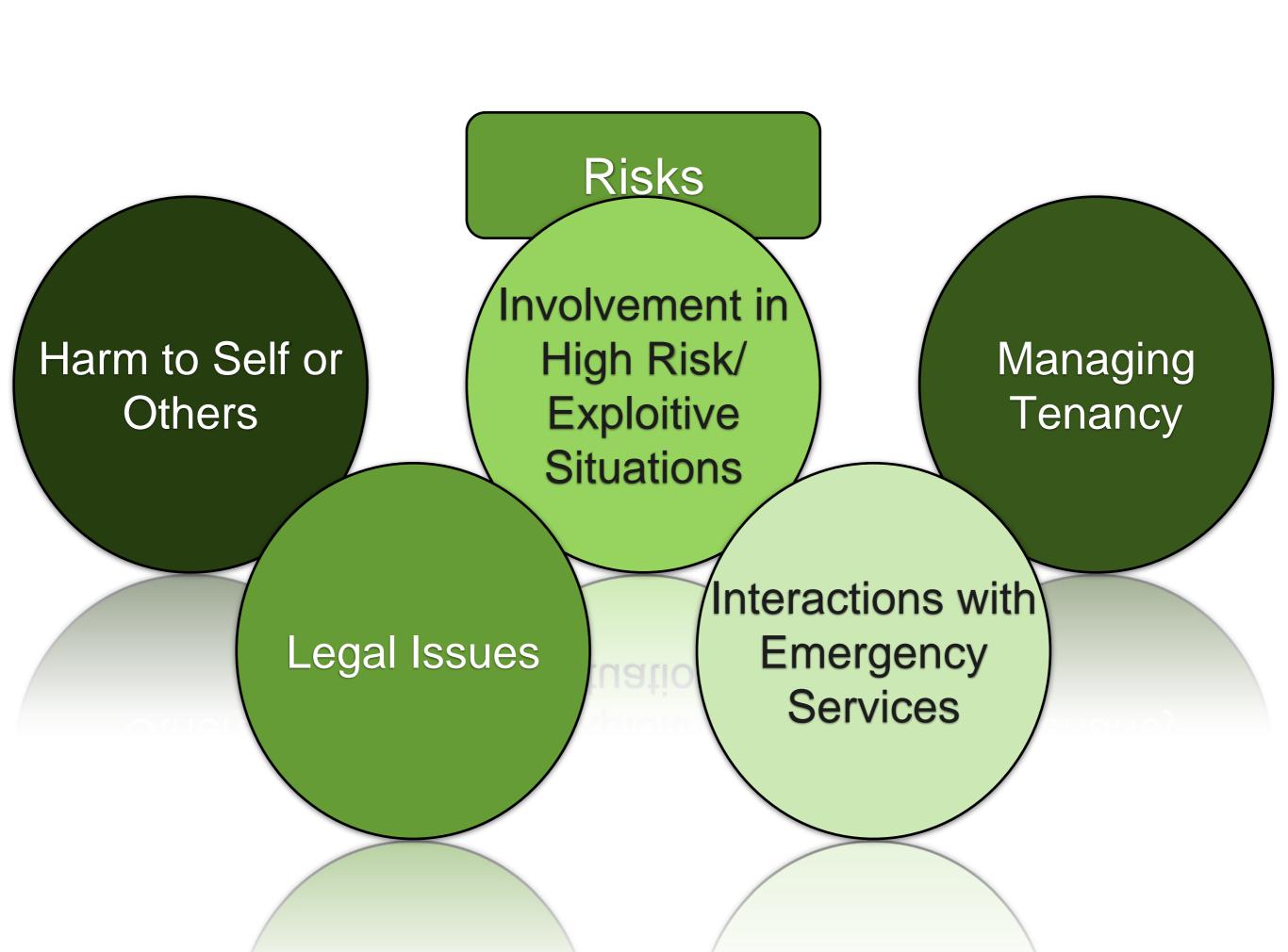


#### D. WELLNESS

QUESTIONS				
If Does Not Go For Care, score 1.		RESP	Prescreen Score	
21. Where do you usually go for healthcare or when you're not feeling well?		nic		
For EACH YES response in questions 22 through 25 (Medical Conditions), score 1.	•			
Do you have now, have you ever had, or has a healthcare provider ever told you that you have any of the following medical conditions:	YES	NO	REFUSED	Medical Conditions
22. Kidney disease/End Stage Renal Disease or Dialysis				
23. History of frostbite, Hypothermia, or Immersion Foot				
24. Liver disease, Cirrhosis, or End-Stage Liver Disease				
25. HIV+/AIDS				
If YES to any of the conditions in questions 26 to 34, then mark "X" in Other Medical Condition column.	YES	NO	REFUSED	Other Medical Conditions
26. History of Heat Stroke/Heat Exhaustion				
27. Heart disease, Arrhythmia, or Irregular Heartbeat				
28. Emphysema				
29. Diabetes				
30. Asthma				
31. Cancer				
32. Hepatitis C				
33. Tuberculosis				
OBSERVATION ONLY – DO NOT ASK:  34. Surveyor, do you observe signs or symptoms of a serious health condition?				

If any response is YES in questions 35 through 41, score 1 in the Substance Use column.	YES	NO	REFUSED	Substance Use
35. Have you ever had problematic drug or alcohol use, abused drugs or alcohol, or told you do?				
36. Have you consumed alcohol and/or drugs almost every day or every day for the past month?				
37. Have you ever used injection drugs or shots in the last six months?				
38. Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol problems and returned to drinking or using drugs?				
39. Have you used non-beverage alcohol like cough syrup, mouthwash, rubbing alcohol, cooking wine, or anything like that in the past six months?				
40. Have you blacked out because of your alcohol or drug use in the past month?				
OBSERVATION ONLY – DO NOT ASK: 41. Surveyor, do you observe signs or symptoms or problematic alcohol or drug abuse?				

If any response is YES in questions 42 through 48, score 1 in the Mental Health Column.	YES	NO	REFUSED	Mental Health	
42. Ever been taken to a hospital against your will for a mental health reason?					
43. Gone to the emergency room because you weren't feeling 100% well emotionally or because of your nerves?					
44. Spoken with a psychiatrist, psychologist or other mental health professional in the last six months because of your mental health – whether that was voluntary or because someone insisted that you do so?					
45. Had a serious brain injury or head trauma?					
46. Ever been told you have a learning disability or developmental disability?					
47. Do you have any problems concentrating and/or remembering things?					
OBSERVATION ONLY – DO NOT ASK:  48. Surveyor, do you detect signs or symptoms of severe, persistent mental illness or severely compromised cognitive functioning?					
If the Substance Use score is 1 AND the Mental Health score is 1 AND the Medical Condition score is at least a 1					
OR an X, then score 1 additional point for tri-morbidity.					
	YES	NO	REFUSED	Prescreen Score	
OR an X, then score 1 additional point for tri-morbidity.	YES				
OR an X, then score 1 additional point for tri-morbidity.  If YES to question 49, score 1.  49. Have you had any medicines prescribed to you by a doctor that you do not take,		NO			
OR an X, then score 1 additional point for tri-morbidity.  If YES to question 49, score 1.  49. Have you had any medicines prescribed to you by a doctor that you do not take, sell, had stolen, misplaced, or where the prescriptions were never filled?		NO	REFUSED	Score Prescreen	

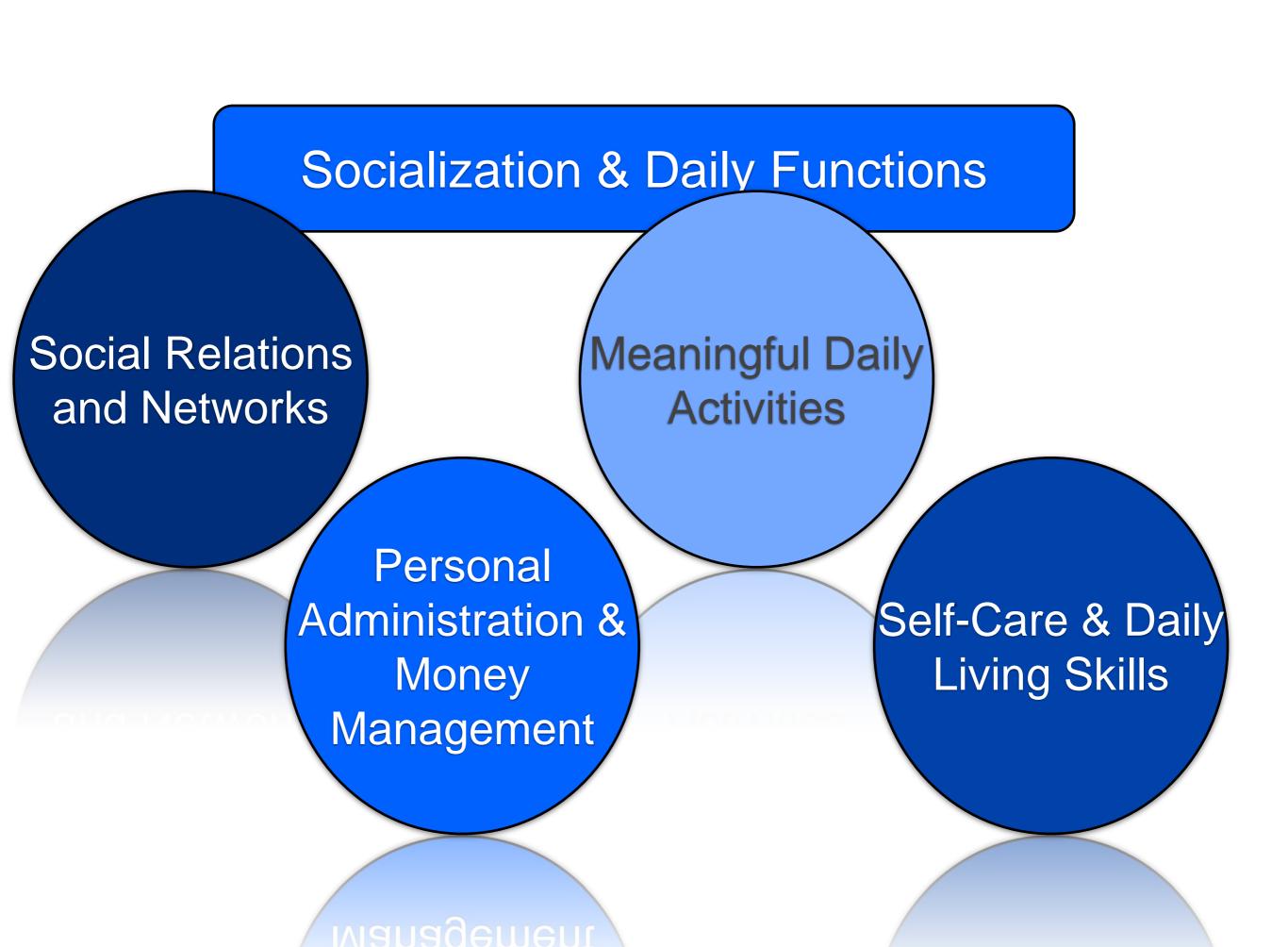


#### B. RISKS

**SCRIPT:** I am going to ask you some questions about your interactions with health and emergency services. If you need any help figuring out when six months ago was, just let me know.

QUESTIONS								
If the total number of interactions across questions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 is equal to or greater than 4, then score 1.	RESPO	ONSE	REFUSED	Prescreen Score				
3. In the past six months, how many times have you been to the emergency department/room?								
4. In the past six months, how many times have you had an interaction with the police?								
5. In the past six months, how many times have you been taken to the hospital in an ambulance?								
6. In the past six months, how many times have you used a crisis service, including distress centers or suicide prevention hotlines?								
7. In the past six months, how many times have you been hospitalized as an in-patient, including hospitalizations in a mental health hospital?								
If YES to questions 8 or 9, then score 1.	YES	NO	REFUSED	Prescreen Score				
8. Have you been attacked or beaten up since becoming homeless?								
9. Threatened to or tried to harm yourself or anyone else in the last year?								

If YES to question 10, then score 1.	YES	NO	REFUSED	Prescreen Score
10. Do you have any legal stuff going on right now that may result in you being locked up or having to pay fines?				
If YES to questions 11 or 12; OR if respondent provides any answer <i>OTHER THAN</i> "Shelter" in question 13, then score 1.	YES	NO	REFUSED	Prescreen Score
11. Does anybody force or trick you to do things that you do not want to do?				
12. Ever do things that may be considered to be risky like exchange sex for money, run drugs for someone, have unprotected sex with someone you don't really know, share a needle, or anything like that?				
13. I am going to read types of places people sleep. Please tell me which one that you sleep at most often. (Check only one.)	☐ Shelter ☐ Street, Sidewalk or Doorway ☐ Car, Van or RV ☐ Bus or Subway ☐ Beach, Riverbed or Park ☐ Other (SPECIFY):			
PRE-SCREEN RISKS SUBTOTAL				



#### C. SOCIALIZATION & DAILY FUNCTIONS

QUESTIONS					
If YES to question 14 or NO to questions 15 or 16, score 1.	YES	NO	REFUSED	Prescreen Score	
14. Is there anybody that thinks you owe them money?					
15. Do you have any money coming in on a regular basis, like a job or government benefit or even working under the table, binning or bottle collecting, sex work, odd jobs, day labor, or anything like that?					
16. Do you have enough money to meet all of your expenses on a monthly basis?					
If NO to question 17, score 1.	YES	NO	REFUSED	Prescreen Score	
17. Do you have planned activities each day other than just surviving that bring you happiness and fulfillment?					
If YES to questions 18 or 19, score 1.	YES	NO	REFUSED	Prescreen Score	
18. Do you have any friends, family or other people in your life out of convenience or necessity, but you do not like their company?					
19. Do any friends, family or other people in your life ever take your money, borrow cigarettes, use your drugs, drink your alcohol, or get you to do things you really don't want to do?					
OBSERVE ONLY. DO NOT ASK! If YES, score 1.	YES	NO		Prescreen Score	
20. Surveyor, do you detect signs of poor hygiene or daily living skills?					
PRE-SCREEN SOCIALIZATION & DAILY FUNCTIONS SUBTOTAL					

## History of Housing

History of Housing & Homelessness

Homelessness

#### A. HISTORY OF HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

QUESTIONS				
If the person has experienced two or more cumulative years of homelessness, and/or 4+ episodes of homelessness, then score 1.	RESPONSE	REFUSED	Prescreen Score	
What is the total length of time you have lived on the streets or in shelters?				
2. In the past three years, how many times have you been housed and then homeless again?				
PRE-SCREEN HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS SUBTOTAL				

### Lower Acuity

May still need affordable housing and/or government assistance. Unlikely to need support to find, access or maintain housing beyond mainstream services.



## Moderate Acuity

**Higher Acuity** 

A time limited approach, through the likes of Rapid Re-Housing is probably best. Usually some type of financial assistance (voucher or rent supplement) and/or case management.

The most intensive support resource your community has available, through the likes of Permanent Supportive Housing and/or Housing First. Supports (financial and case management) will last a long time - perhaps even permanently.

# Difference Between the Full SPDAT and VI-SPDAT

- The VI-SPDAT is a prescreen or triage tool. It is looking to confirm or deny the presence of more acute issues.
- The SPDAT is an assessment tool. It is looking at the depth or nuances of an issue and the degree to which housing may be impacted.

## The Full SPDAT

- Provides baseline acuity at time of assessment and measures changes in acuity over time.
- Improves case management by providing a framework for the intervention.
- Helps indicate when housing may become unstable.
- Allows for graphing of changes over time.
- Improves system planning.

# By Comparison...

0	Has activities related to employment, volunteering, socio- recreation, etc. that provide fulfillment intellectually, socially, physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc., occupying most times of day and most days of the week, and which provide a high degree of personal satisfaction.
1	Has some activities related to employment, volunteering, socio-recreation, etc. that provide some fulfillment intellectually, socially, physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc., occupying some times of the day and/or some days of the week, which provide a good degree of personal satisfaction.
2	Attempting activities that may provide fulfillment intellectually, socially, physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc. but not occupying most days or most parts of any given day, and not yet providing a good degree of personal satisfaction.
3	Discussing or in early stages of attempting activities that may provide fulfillment intellectually, socially, physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc. but not fully committed. At times disengaged from activities, and activities are not yet occupying most days, nor providing personal satisfaction.
	Not engaged in any meaningful daily activities that provide fulfillment intellectually, socially, physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc. Very little to no personal satisfaction.

	Yes	No	Refused
Do you have any planned activities each day, other than just surviving, that bring you happiness and fulfillment?			

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# Independent Testing

- Strong inter-rater reliability.
- Positive summative evaluation.
- Positive outcome evaluation.
- Determined by government to be appropriate for various departments/ministries.
- Presented at peer-reviewed conferences by evaluators.



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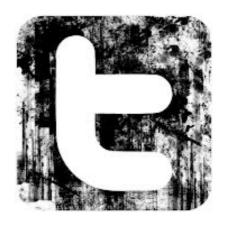
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