

HOMELESS POLICY DEPUTIES MEETING AGENDA

DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF ALL COUNTY BUILDINGS, MEETING PARTICIPANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NEED TO CALL INTO THE MEETING.

Date: Thursday, August 11, 2022
Time: 2:00 PM
Microsoft Teams Link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)
Teleconference Number: [+1 323-776-6996,,498852877#](#) (Ctrl+Click to follow link)

THIS TELECONFERENCE WILL BE MUTED FOR ALL CALLERS. PLEASE DIAL *6 TO UNMUTE YOUR PHONE WHEN IT IS YOUR TIME TO SPEAK.

| Agenda Item | Lead |
|---|---|
| I. Welcome and Introductions | Isela Gracian, Second District |
| II. Partnering for Domestic Violence Survivors | Amy Turk, Downtown Women's Center/ Domestic Violence and Homeless Services Coalition |
| III. Female Homelessness: Nexus with Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking | Nicolle Perras, Domestic Violence Council, DPH |
| IV. Domestic Violence and Homelessness | Ericka Battaglia and Elizabeth Vera, HOPICS |
| V. Items Recommended for Future Discussion | |
| VI. Public Comment | |

Next Meeting: September 8, 2022



Amy Turk, LCSW
Chief Executive Officer
Downtown Women's Center
Co-Lead of DVHSC

Partnering for Survivors

The Los Angeles Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC)

The **Downtown Women's Center**, co-lead with **Rainbow Services**, are leading a cross-sector Domestic Violence and Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC) to create a client-centered system that increases access to safe housing and supportive services for survivors.

Leading partners in the coalition include:

- **LA City Community Investment for Families Department**
- **LAHSA**
- **Community Legal Aid So Cal**
- **CSH Speak Up!**
- **LA County Domestic Violence Council**
- **LA County Women and Girls Initiative**
- **Los Angeles County Supervisor Shelia Kuehl's Office**
- **St. Joseph Center**
- **The Whole Child**
- **Community Advocates**



Supported by Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and Blue Shield of California Foundation

Survivor Voices Informed DVHSC Next Steps

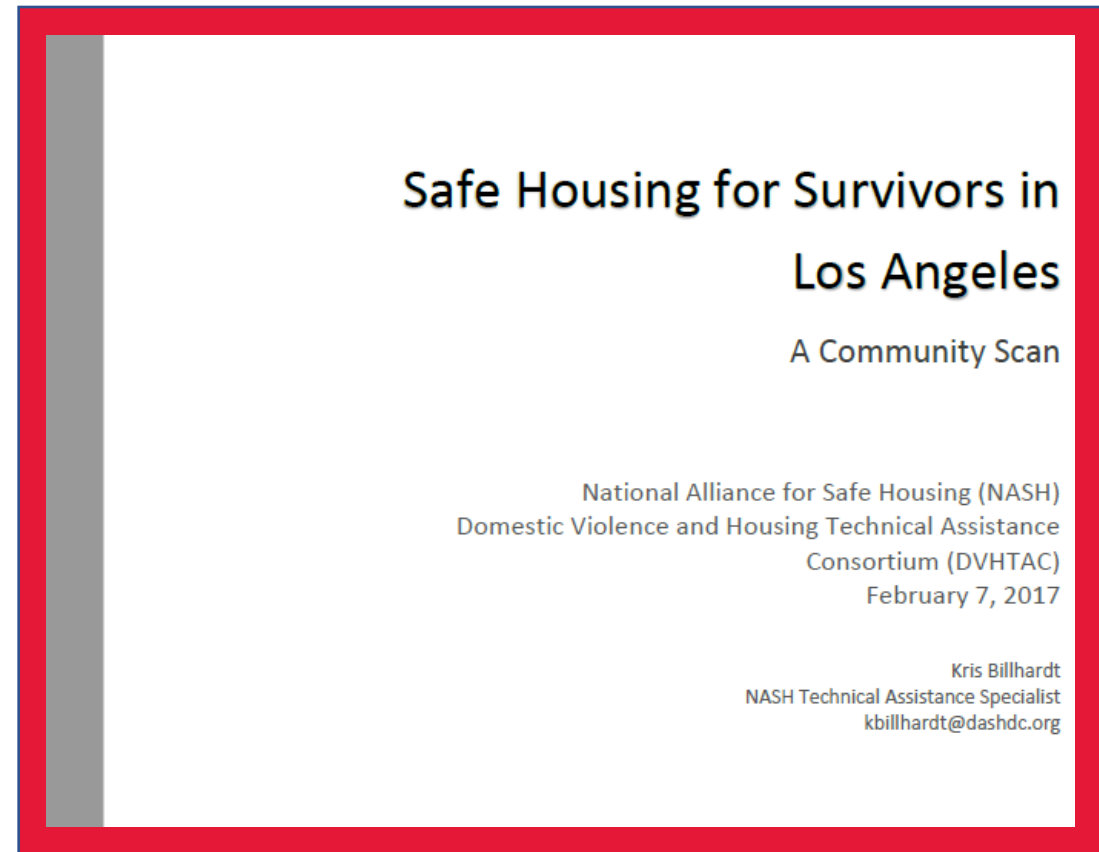
- Increase access to permanent housing for survivors
- Reduce barriers and increase access to services
- Understand trauma and its impact
- Increase domestic violence advocacy and education
- Reasonable accommodations for survivors with unique needs



Safe Housing for Survivors in LA Community Scan Informed Next Steps

IMPROVING COLLABORATIONS:

- Opportunities for cross-system communication
- Cross training
- Partnering on projects
- Victims services voice in all decision making
- Co-located victims services advocates at CES sites
- Enact survivor-specific HUD guidance



Informed by Community Voices, Together We Increased Housing Resources for Survivors

- **Scaled the Domestic Violence Housing First Model**
 - LAHSA local pilot
 - CofC HUD DV-Bonus
 - LA City's Survivor First
- **Made Coordinated Entry more accessible**
 - Created a non-HMIS CES portal with LAHSA
 - Piloted Countywide (8) DV Regional Coordinators using Measure H funds transferred to CES funds through the HUD DV-Bonus
 - In 2020-2022 provided 238 trainings to 5,478 people (EHV, Safety Transfers, CES topics and more)
- **Established Enhanced Trauma Informed Bridge Housing Beds for Women**
 - Including The Willows and Gardner Street Library
- **Increased access to information and coordination**
 - DVHSC includes 860 individuals and 250 organizations.
 - Member meetings increase awareness of impact of trauma, provide TA for orgs for funding and partnership for permanent housing, evaluate the initiatives we advocate for
- **Increased bed capacity by 3000 through Project Safe Haven, a hotel COVID response.**
 - This more than doubled the amount of shelter beds that DV providers operate normally during COVID
- **Created systems change**
 - LA City & LA County designated Unaccompanied Women as subpopulation
 - State Bill 914-HELP ACT-Homeless Equity for Left Behind Populations authored by Senator Susan Rubio
- **Increased Awareness through Data**

Survivors Prevalence Now

LAHSA 2020 Homeless Count for LA County

- 48% of Unaccompanied Women in Los Angeles County reported DV/IPV experience
 - 19% homeless due to fleeing
- 29% of all adults reported DV/IPV experience

Downtown Women Center's 2019 LA City Women's Needs Assessment

- 26% experienced frequent violence within the last year
- 53.2% had experienced DV/IPV in their lifetime

Meeting the Needs of Survivors at Downtown Women's Center

DWC's Full Continuum of Services Include:

- Cal Office of Emergency Services (2018) & HUD Continuum of Care DV Bonus Funds (2021)
 - Increased permanent housing placements by 63% between 2020 to 2021,
 - Distributed nearly \$4 million in cash housing assistance in last two years
 - Maintained a 99% housing retention rate for our participants for the 158 permanently housed
 - Enrolled 282 survivors
- Victims of Crime Trauma Recovery Center (2016)
- Every Woman Housed (2021)
- Permanent Supportive Housing through a Survivor Lens
 - *Creating Permanent Supportive Housing to Meet the Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence: A Toolkit for Housing Developers, Architects, Property Managers, and Housing Service Providers* by Downtown Women's Center & National Alliance for Safe Housing

What Women Want As Informed by the 2022 Los Angeles County Women's Needs Assessment (in progress)

DWC's Research Partners, Urban Institute with the Hub for Urban Initiatives conducted listening sessions:

- 91 women total across 9 listening sessions in 7 SPAs, small number of one-on-one interviews in 1 SPA
- One bilingual Spanish/English group, one group primarily made up of LGBTQ+ individuals
- Mix of ages, race and ethnicity, and experiences of homelessness

Results:

- Women want safe, affordable, and private housing
- Women need immediate help with emergent needs
- Women would benefit from improved case management and trauma-informed approaches to services
- Opportunities that foster social connection and a sense of belonging are strongly desired

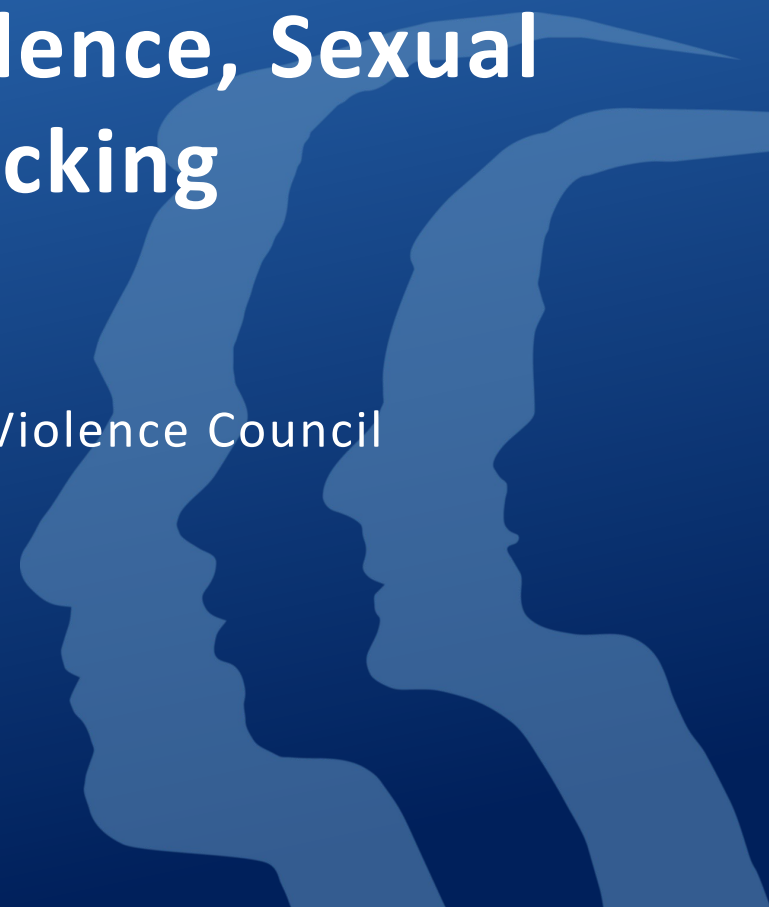
What We Need Now

Support and Expand:

- Los Angeles County DV Regional Coordinators
- Los Angeles' ability to score competitively for HUD Continuum of Care Funds
- Funding for PSH
- Every Woman Housed Initiative
- Survivor Experience via Advocacy Programs/Councils
- Los Angeles County DV Counsel policy and funding recommendations
- Community Based Research (Countywide Women's Needs Assessment)

Female Homelessness: Nexus with Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking

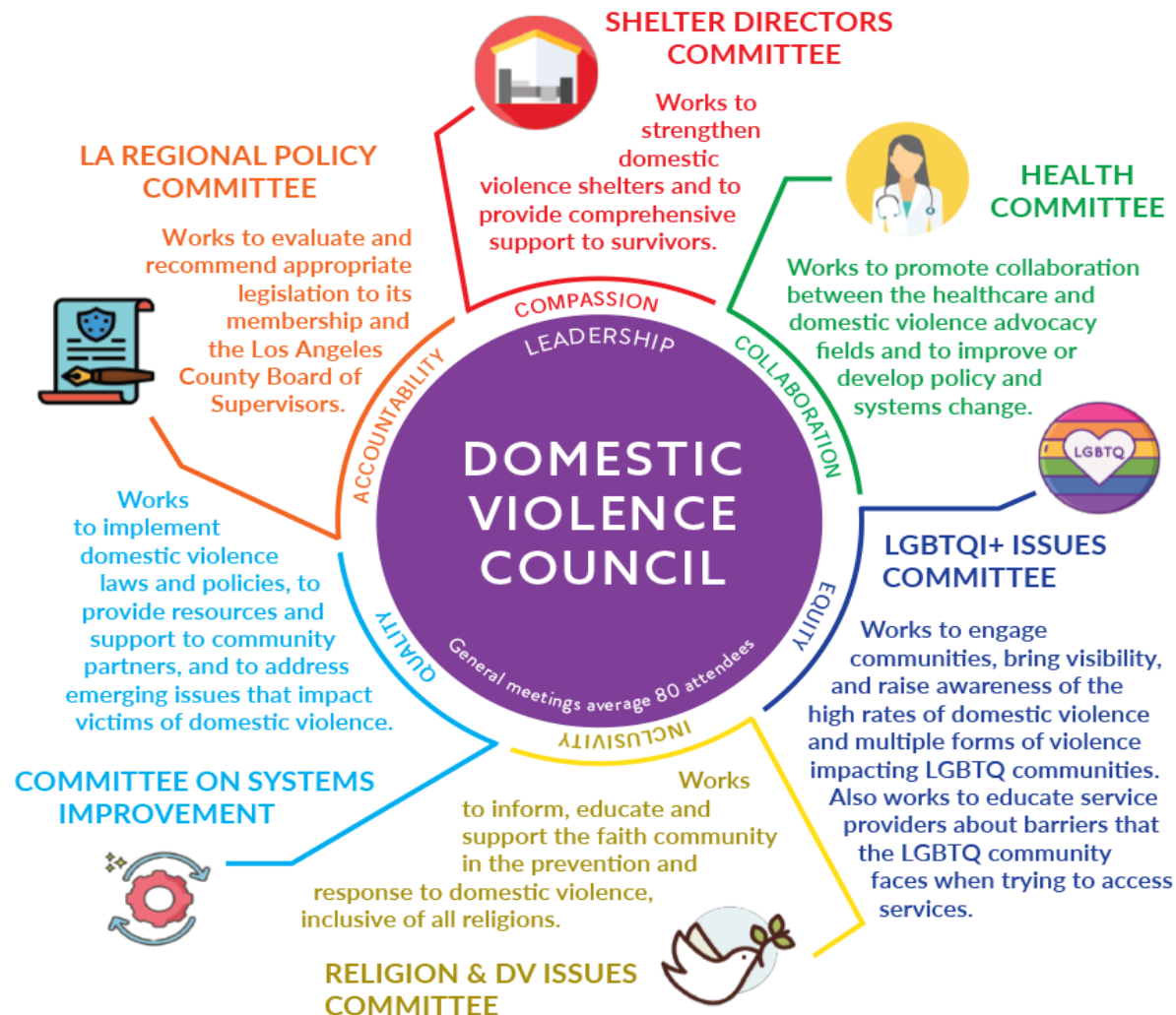
Nicolle Perras,
Interim Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Council
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
August 11th, 2022



Origin of the Domestic Violence Council (DVC)

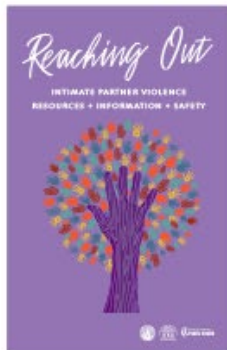
- Created in 1979 within the CEO's office to streamline DV efforts for the county
 - Providing a coordinating entity for DV providers to center provider and survivor advocacy, service delivery, and collaboration with a focus on systemic changes
 - Not to provide direct services
- DVC was transferred to Department of Public Health in 2018

Domestic Violence Council Structure



Domestic Violence Council Working with the Public

INFORMING THE PUBLIC



The DVC produced the “Reaching Out” booklet, a resource guide addressing intimate partner violence. **10,000** copies were distributed in just two months.

RAISING AWARENESS



The DVC provides leadership and training about intimate partner violence. In collaboration with the DVC, Domestic Violence Awareness Training is now available to all County employees online.

HONORING THE COMMUNITY



The DVC hosts annual awards to acknowledge individuals and agencies for their outstanding work in supporting survivors and their tireless effort to break the cycle of abuse.

Domestic Violence Council Functions

- Subject matter resource, trainings, technical assistance
- Advocates for survivors and service providers in all County strategies and programs
- Resource linkage for Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Human Trafficking (DV/SA/HT) services
- DV policy review and recommendations
- Evaluation and research into DV related activities and programs
- Empower providers and community members to promote health relationships and interrupt the cycle of violence, with additional training on serving specific populations (youth, LGBTQ, disability community, older adults)

Policy and Programs for DV/SA/HT and Homelessness

- LA County lacks policies that explicitly address the intersection of DV/SA/HT and Homelessness.
- Current housing entry points for DV/SA/HT victims/survivors
 - 211, DV Hotline (County and National), DV Shelter hotlines
 - LAHSA DV Regional Coordinators
 - LA City Crisis to Shelter and DART (healthcare, law enforcement referrals)
- DVC refers inquiries to DV agencies and one HT agency for limited shelter and transitional housing services.
- Office of Women's Health oversees contracts for shelter-based programs and domestic violence super services.

Program and Policy Gaps for Unhoused Women

- Issues of Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Human Trafficking and Homelessness are siloed
 - Evidence indicates roughly half of female identifying PEH are actively fleeing or have experienced DV
- DV support services providers are not funded to serve non-CalWORKs recipients
- Infrastructure does not exist for a “real time bed count” or a 24- hour call center to field/direct requests
- Single women underserved

Program and Policy Gaps for Unhoused Women

- Currently there are no housing agencies serving sexual assault survivors within the county, and only one for human trafficking
- DV providers are barred by Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) from entering DV client data into Homelessness Management Information System (HIMS) for the HUD Coordinated Entry System (CES) due to confidentiality
- LAHSA DV Regional Coordinators are allocated at one per SPA and are focused on systems change rather than direct client services

Current Bed Availability and Estimated Need

- DV housing experts estimated bed counts have ranged from 1,200 – 1,500
- OWH bed count will be completed in late August
- Before the pandemic, shelters frequently at capacity and had to turn people away
- COVID resulted in additional reductions on availability due to spacing and isolation requirements

Shelter System Policy Recommendations

- Plan for a continuum of housing options for DV/SA/HT clients
- Fund shelters to improve infrastructure/resources to accommodate clients with varying needs – disabilities, mental health, substance abuse, serious and chronic health conditions
- Require safety protocols of housing options for all DV/SA/HT clients
- Fund and promote best practices in trauma informed and environmentally sound housing elements

Long-Term Housing Policy Recommendations

- Include DV/SA/HT advocates and survivors in planning and oversight of all initiatives related to housing policies and programs
- Stabilize and adequately fund current DV/SA/HT shelter systems
- Housing programs should establish dedicated resources to serve DV/SA/HT clients and their unique needs
- Funding should incorporate design of housing programs and policies that best serve DV/SA/HT clients

SPA 6
COORDINATED
ENTRY SYSTEM



Domestic Violence (DV) & Homelessness

SPA 6

Elizabeth Vera | Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator

Ericka Battaglia, LCSW | Manager, Community Engagement & Social Impact

Background: HOPICS

Mission: HOPICS is dedicated to providing the highest quality innovative social service to South Los Angeles with an emphasis on behavioral health and housing stability

Vision: To provide the best quality of service to homeless and low-income households in South Los Angeles and surrounding areas and to employ the most qualified staff available and build our services and programs to meet the diverse needs of the community

Serving: South Los Angeles, Lynwood, Compton, & Paramount

Agency Makeup:

- 30+ years of service to the community
- Multi-service agency (45+ programs within 8 service categories): Homelessness and Eviction Prevention; Outreach and Street Based Engagement; Regional Leadership, Behavioral Health; Interim Housing, ReEntry Services; Benefits Services & Income Support, Employment
- Over 15,000+ households served a year
- 4 offices; Co-located at 9 different locations; 4 access centers
- 400+ Employees (professional, paraprofessional, lived experience)

Lead Homeless Agency for two homeless systems of care: Single Adults and Families

Key Regional Roles: Deputy Director, Manager of Community Engagement & Social Impact, Regional Coordination, Matching, Housing Navigation Coordination, Data Coordination, Outreach Coordination, Targeted Populations:

Domestic Violence (DVRC), Older Adults, & Faith-based



Stats



01

Approximately 18,000 individuals in Los Angeles County experiencing homelessness were survivors of DV in 2020. (Los Angeles Almanac, 2020)

02

Per 2020's Homeless Count results, 3,269 individuals in SPA 6 identified with the DV/ Intimate partner Violence (IPV) space while 755 were homeless due to fleeing DV/IPV

03

From July 2021- June 2022 HOPICS alone had:
314 individuals that reported fleeing DV enrolled into services at our access points: Single Adults and CD8 Navigation Center
&
80 families reported fleeing DV enrolled into services at our family crisis housing sites

04

In 2020, our data showed that 1 in 5 persons that walked through our doors identified with domestic violence

The Role of our DVRC



- Supports our unhoused and/or fleeing DV survivors by
 - Working collaboratively with CES (regional roles) and with victim service providers from the emergency shelter/transitional shelter network
- Extends network beyond SPA 6
- Educates SPA 6 on DV resources and ongoing evidence based practices
- Identifies system gaps
- Provides case consultations to frontline staff and/or leadership
- Provides specialized safety transfers as requested
- Hosts specialized training monthly for community partners and victim service providers
- Invites victim service providers to homeless & housing spaces
- Provides ongoing legal resources
- Participates in community-facing outreach & engagement events
- Uplifts training opportunities hosted by HOPICS spa-wide
- Shadows and familiarizes frontline staff to identify and approach clients experiencing DV

How does a survivor of DV enter the system?

Survivors can access emergency supportive services at any Coordinated Entry System (CES) Access Point. All persons fleeing Domestic Violence are prioritized within the Coordinated Entry System. The following are various way survivors are addressed:

- Connection/transportation to emergency medical services as needed
- Connection to emergency shelters via the hotline (referred by frontline staff) as needed
- Access Cal-works, Temporary Homeless Assistance Program, Hotel Vouchers up to 32 days (does not apply to survivors who are experiencing exploitation and/or trafficking) upon needs
- Access to Single Adults Access Center for 24+inclusive of the OlderAdult population
- Access to Casa de Zulma co-operated by Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team (APAIT) - SSG (transgender women clients)
- Access to Family Solution Center for families with minor children (pregnant women)
- Connection to Ruth's Place (Transitional Age Youth TAY population) operated by Coalition For Responsible Community Development (CRCD) TAY Lead
- Outreach and engagement teams that are field-based throughout SPA 6\
- Access to linkages from Council District 8 Navigation Center



Policies that Support the DV Population

Internally:

HOPICS is currently working on policy to address safe spaces, messaging, and advocacy avenues for survivors that engage with our staff/sites. The following ways we are creating safe environments for survivors experiencing, actively fleeing or seeking services:

- Public information and messaging in all common areas, lobbies, bathrooms that have PSA and emergency shelter hotline information
- Creating resource guides and brochures that enlist local DV programs, access points, and our Trauma Resource Center
- Development of “safety messaging” that survivors can use to communicate with staff
- Shadowing of front line staff to ensure they adhere to protocols and proper messaging
- Educating security on best practices to engage with DV/IPV community\
- Creation of DV Safety Assessment for access point staff

Externally:

- **Category 4:** Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence: Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; Has no other residence; and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing/ “Domestic Violence” includes dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member that either takes place in, or him or her afraid to return to, their primary nighttime residence (including human trafficking)
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** supports the ability to make profiles censored for the DV population
- **Domestic Violence and Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC)** requesting Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness for continued advocacy and streamline of PEH and survivors of Domestic Violence
- Prioritized access to HUD allocation of 70,000 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

What makes HOPICS different?

01

Weekly case conferencing to support wide spectrum of DV-related services: CES and VSP providers/professionals

02

Creating policy internally to address safe spaces and advocacy for SPA 6

03

Broad participation in various DV spaces: human trafficking & batterer's treatment

04

Cross-program training: facilitating DV 101 monthly and shadowing access staff

05

Ensuring all SPA 6 providers receive formalized 40 hr. DV certification training by Project Peacemakers, Inc.

06

Advocacy to address underserved areas in DV space and collaborate with internal/external spaces: HOPICS'Trauma Recovery Center, support groups and expanding on batterer's treatmentThe Vera Institute of Justice (Disability Justice),The National Office of Victims Assistance (Military/Civilian DV Services Program), US Department of Homeland Security, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Children's' Institute International, REACH Program, Tarzana Treatment Center, LA County Mark Ridley Thomas Behavioral Health Center (MRT-BHC)

07

Ideating new ways to support survivors and those in need of batterer's treatment



System Gaps: What can the County do better?

- Cover all areas of victims of crime:
 - Human Trafficking victims
 - Victims of crime resources
 - Batterers' services
 - Visually impaired survivors
 - Males experiencing Domestic Violence
- Fund and mandating education for frontline staff on:
 - Cultural humility and emotional intelligence
 - DV 40 hr advocate certification training to all system leads
 - Centralized training academy DV course before receiving access to HMIS for homeless service providers
 - Require housing providers/staff trained as 40-Hour DV certification
 - Internal messaging for those that access services in communal spaces
 - Specialized training and education for security staff at housing and access sites countywide
- Ensure that language barriers are addressed:
 - Disability impairment
 - ASL services
 - Translation services for
- Create a streamlined of standardized assessment for those experiencing homelessness that report DV
- Disengage the need for law enforcement involvement
 - Restraining Orders pose on-going safety issues to placement in both Domestic Violence/Interim Housing/Time Limited Subsidy placements
- Increase specialized housing:
- Create more resources for permanent housing solutions and integration:
 - DV shelters need increased funding to support the overwhelming need for ER shelter space
 - Increase capacity to support survivors with special needs, families with 4+ children
 - Housing for those who offend (justice-impacted background)
 - Survivors who are undocumented; unable to apply for various public assistance/ housing voucher
- Provide more funding specialized behavioral health services:
 - Batterers treatment programs
 - Support groups for human trafficking, DV, IPV, etc.
- Support the implementation of Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness to reflect the presence and participation of a DV survivor, Human Trafficking Survivor

Q&A

HOMELESS POLICY DEPUTIES JULY 14, 2022 MEETING SUMMARY VIA TELECONFERENCE CALL

| DEPUTIES IN ATTENDANCE: | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniella Urbina, First District • Isela Gracian, Second District • Lily Sofiani, Second District • Rachael Simon, Third District | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanya Ortiz, Third District • Elan Shultz, Third District • Ivan Sulic, Fourth District • Tyler Cash, Fifth District |
| ITEMS/PRESENTERS | ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS |
| I. Welcome and Introductions - Lily Sofiani, Second District | N/A |
| II. Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool - Sarah Mahin, DHS, Leepi Shimkhada, DHS, and Amy Cole, Brilliant Corners | The deputies requested data on the percentage of Housing For Health funding received from health sector revenue sources (Medicaid, CalAIM) versus funding from health providers. Additionally, a schedule of flexible housing pool funding by sources was requested. |
| III. Predictive Analytics - Janey Rountree, California Policy Lab at UCLA | No additional follow up. |
| IV. Homeless Prevention Unit - Dana Vanderford, DHS | No additional follow up. |
| V. Public Comment | N/A |
| VI. Items Recommended for Future Discussion | Discussion on the difference, pros, cons on project-based and tenant-based Section 8 vouchers. |
| VII. Next Meeting | August 11, 2022 |