

# The Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness and Housing

*for the San Francisco Bay Area*

*Since 1986, members of the RSC have identified problems that cross county borders and searched for solutions that prevent and end homelessness in all our communities.*

*RSC members collectively participate in policy development, peer support, information sharing, training, strategizing, and planning.*

Friday, June 23, 2017

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Hayward City Hall, Room 2A

777 B St

Hayward, CA 94541

## AGENDA

### **Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Best Practices**

*As more communities implement rapid rehousing programs, what strategies will help ensure their ongoing success?*

*Engage with other Bay Area innovators to discuss models that can be replicated across programs and communities.*

#### **1. Employment Options for RRH Participants:**

*Participate in a conversation with a diverse panel of experts about effective ways to secure job opportunities for individuals that face barriers to mainstream employment and need to increase income quickly.*

#### **2. RRH for Survivors of Domestic Violence:**

*Learn how communities are employing RRH to address the unique needs of this subpopulation. Topics include privacy and safety concerns as well as building community partnerships.*

#### **3. RRH Landlord Engagement Strategies:**

*Discuss how communities are maximizing RRH housing options through strategic landlord engagement tactics.*

# Commonly Used Acronyms

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Definition</b>
AHAR	Annual Homeless Assessment Report
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant (CPD program – federal)
CSBG	Community Services Block Grant
Continuum of Care	Continuum of Care approach to assistance to the homeless
CoC	Federal grant program stressing permanent solutions to homelessness
Con Plan	Consolidated Plan, a locally developed plan for housing assistance and urban development under CDBG and other CPD programs
CPD	Community Planning and Development (HUD Office)
ESG	Emergency Solutions Grant (CPD – federal program)
FMR	Fair Market Rent (maximum rent for Section 8 rental assistance/CoC grants)
HCD	Housing and Community Development (State office)
HEARTH	Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009
HPRP	Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HOME	Home Investment Partnerships (CPD program)
HOPWA	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (CPD program)
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (federal)
MHSA	Mental Health Services Act
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability
PHA	Public Housing Authority
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
SNAPS	Office of Special Needs Assistance Program (HUD office overseeing CoC)
SOAR	SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SSI/SSDI Application program)
SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TA	Technical Assistance
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
TAY	Transition Age Youth (usually ages 16-24)
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing

# MEMORANDUM

TO: REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS (RSC)  
FROM: HOMEBASE  
DATE: June 23, 2017  
RE: RRH FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## BACKGROUND

### ➤ WHAT IS THE ROLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROVIDERS IN YOUR COC OR COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM?

Domestic violence survivors need a range of options, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, cooperative housing, long-term subsidy, master-leasing, and *rapid re-housing*. Rapid re-housing works well for many survivors who want to establish themselves and their children as soon as possible in a neighborhood setting. The core components of RRH are:

### 1. HOUSING IDENTIFICATION: recruit landlords, address barriers, secure a unit.

#### Potential Challenges

- Landlords may anticipate trouble (e.g., police presence)
- Survivors may have poor housing history
- Pets
- Housing in certain areas may trigger trauma
- Some locations may be dangerous due to abuser proximity

#### Action Steps

- Coach and prepare survivors to speak directly with landlords
- Landlord education about DV and the strong incentives survivors have to maintain their rental agreements
- Offer landlord guarantees such as your commitment to support the survivor to ensure success
- Listen for Fair Housing violations

- ### ➤ HOW CAN LANDLORD ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES BE TAILORED TO DV RRH?
- ### ➤ HOW HAVE YOUR DV PROGRAMS SHIFTED IN PROGRAM DESIGN OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AS HUD HAS EMPHASIZED RRH MORE THAN TH?

**2. RENT AND MOVE-IN (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE): support quick move out of homelessness and stabilize in permanent housing (typically within six months or fewer).**

**Potential Challenges**

- Survivors unable to take on leases due to financial difficulties
- Debt
- Dislocation from social supports and resources
- Spotty employment record
- Aftermath of trauma

**Action Steps**

- Provide flexible length of rental subsidy with allowance for extensions
- Include discretionary funds in your budget
- Create a transfer policy for moving to new unit if necessary for safety

➤ WHAT SUPPORTS HAVE YOU FOUND TO BE KEY IN SERVING DV SURVIVORS?

**3. RRH CASE MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES: provide supports to aid stabilization.**

**Potential Challenges**

- Survivors and children need trauma-specific supports
- Survivors may have chemical dependency, criminal record, or face ongoing legal issues
- Fears about child custody or deportation
- A stalking-prone abuser

**Action Steps**

- Use trauma-informed and survivor-driven approaches to challenges
- Support restoration of natural support system and community
- Keep victim-blaming in check
- Tailor services and goals to match survivors' needs and priorities
- Remember safety planning is a process

➤ WHAT CHALLENGES HAS YOUR COMMUNITY FACED WORKING WITH DV SURVIVORS AND PROVIDERS?

➤ WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW YOUR SYSTEM IS TRAUMA-INFORMED FOR DV SURVIVORS?

**PRIVACY AND SAFETY CONCERNS**

Safety planning, including careful housing location and limited data-sharing, is key. Some components of safety planning include:

- Know federal, state and local laws that protect survivors
- Be able to rehouse someone if safety becomes compromised
- Discuss whether it may be best to have case management visits and avoid home visits if the abuser knows the survivor's housing location or is stalking the survivor

## REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS | JUNE 2017

- Know how the survivor wants you to handle being seen together with abuser
- Have a plan for a chance encounter with the abuser
- Ensure your program knows where you are and keep your cell phone charged and handy

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- HOW ARE YOU MAINTAINING PRIVACY AND SAFETY FOR DV CLIENTS IN YOUR HMIS OR PARALLEL DATABASE?
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### BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with neighboring DV providers, housing/homeless organizations, housing partners, funders, and community members can support survivor safety, independence, and housing stability. Community engagement also includes case managers being closely familiar with the resources available, DV agencies developing relationships with landlords and housing authorities, educating the community about DV, and cultivating relationships with survivors that last beyond services. Communities are *vital* for ensuring safety, providing a supportive network, and healing trauma.

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- WHAT PARTNERSHIPS WITH DV PROVIDERS EXIST IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
- FOR COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE DV PARTNERS AT THE TABLE IN COORDINATED ENTRY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION, WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR SUCCESS?
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### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

#### VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA'S HOME FREE: MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OR

- The DV system has allocated HUD funds for RRH and additional federal and local funds through the PHA. This allows all 12 DV programs to offer rental assistance and tailored support to survivors. RRH programs vary between agencies, including different rental subsidy periods. All DV agencies use a common assessment tool, and housing resources are distributed through a DV coordinated entry system. The DV Resource Coordination Team meets to do case conferencing and match referrals with available resources. SSA is designed to identify survivors who need privacy and confidentiality.
- VOA Home Free was included in a DV Housing First Pilot Project study in Washington State funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Post-project evaluations showed that 88% of participants obtained or retained housing. A primary finding from the study was that a mobile advocate was KEY in success. The mobile advocate met survivors where they were, which honored them and helped address social isolation. The advocate was also able to share knowledge about other systems with case managers to give a better sense of the client's world.

RESOURCES

“Best Practice: Rapid Re-Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence,” *National Alliance to End Homelessness*.

[http://www.endhomelessness.org/files/2680\\_file\\_Home\\_Free\\_Best\\_Practice\\_Write\\_Up.pdf](http://www.endhomelessness.org/files/2680_file_Home_Free_Best_Practice_Write_Up.pdf)

“Innovative Program Design to Serve Domestic Violence Survivors,” *Rural Supportive Housing Initiative*, presentation by Suzanne Marcus, Director of Training and TA, DASH and Kris Billhardt, Technical Assistance Specialist.

“Rapid Re-Housing/Housing First: Innovative Practices,” Webinar offered by National Alliance for Safe Housing. June 2, 2017. <http://www.nrcdv.org/ta-training/recent/>.

“Rapid Re-Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence,” presentation by Kris Billhardt, VOA Oregon - Home Free at NAEH 2016 National Conference on Ending Homelessness

“The Washington State Domestic Violence Housing First Program,” prepared by Lyungai Mbilinyi, *Innovative Programs Research Group*. February 2015. [http://wscadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/DVHF\\_FinalEvaluation.pdf](http://wscadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/DVHF_FinalEvaluation.pdf)

For more information please contact Talia Gilbert at [talia@homebaseccc.org](mailto:talia@homebaseccc.org), or 415.788.7962 ext. 333.

# Regional Steering Committee on Rapid Rehousing Best Practices

Friday, June 23, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (PDT)  
Hayward City Hall - 777 B Street - Room 2A - Hayward, CA 94541

	Last Name	First Name	Qty	Ticket Type	Payment Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alford	Sharon	1	Pay at the door (cash or check only!) - \$15	Free Order Order 34866146583-634516416
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alvarado	Stevan	1	Pay at the door (cash or check only!) - \$15	Free Order Order 34866146583-633091171
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Hammerle	Ellen	1	Pay at the door (cash or check only!) - \$15	Free Order Order 34866146583-632838081
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hawkins Leyden	Sharon	1	Pay at the door (cash or check only!) - \$15	Free Order Order 34866146583-634516416
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Keese	Deborah	1	Pay now - \$15	PayPal Order: 8WP16251BM709011U Completed: Jun 20, 2017 Order 34866146583-641652107

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