



Public Housing Authorities: Partnering to End
Homelessness

A Provider's Perspective
District Alliance for Safe Housing
(DASH)

Presented by:
LaToya K. Young



DASH Mission

- DASH is an innovator in providing access to safe housing and services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families as they rebuild their lives on their own terms.
- No matter what the situation, we meet survivors where they are and strive to eliminate all barriers that prevent them from accessing safe housing. We work to ensure that all survivors have the tools and skills they need to be exactly who they choose to be and to create and maintain safe homes.
- We support partner agencies in the national capital region and throughout the United States in increasing their capacity to assist survivors in accessing safe housing. DASH educates policy makers and service providers nationwide on the principles and best practices of successfully assisting survivors of domestic violence in recognizing that they are empowered and whole.



Presentation Objectives

- Explore innovative approaches to engage with PHAs
- Gain tools to foster a relationship with your PHA
- Identify advocacy strategies to build partnerships



Creating a Partnership

- Examine the Issues
- Identify Allies
- Start the conversation



Examine the Issues

- Determine Needs
 - Focus groups
 - Listen to community response
- Policy
 - content that may create barriers
 - Offer suggestions
- Funding
 - Identify sources



Strategy: Identify Internal Allies

- Lower level staff
 - HCVP staff
 - Public Housing Property Managers
 - Director Assistants
- Senior staff
 - General Counsel
 - Directors/Management
- Community



Strategy: Identify External Allies

Domestic Violence and Housing Taskforce

TASKFORCE HISTORY:

In April 2009, DASH convened a group of nonprofit organizations and government agency representatives, local and national, to identify and address the systemic barriers facing domestic violence survivors in the District of Columbia.

TASKFORCE GOALS:

- Enhance Access and Safety for Domestic Violence Survivors in Federal and District Funded Housing and Shelter Programs;
- Enhance access and improve services for domestic violence survivors with a multitude of needs; and
- Increase public awareness around the unique set of housing barriers domestic violence survivors face and implement strategies for addressing them.



Start the Conversation

Communication

- Find out what's the best source
- Attend meetings
 - Residents, Landlords, Advocacy groups

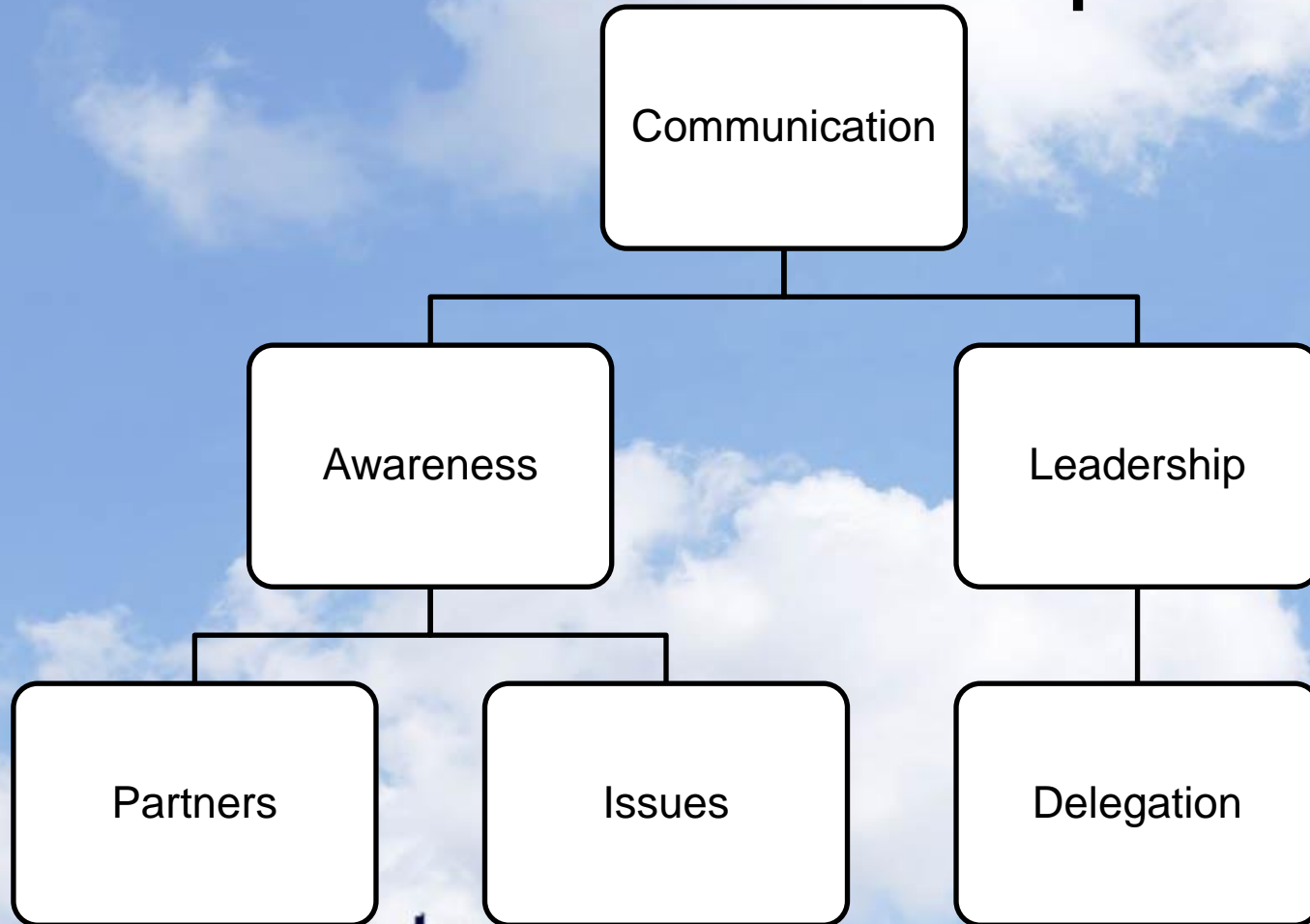
Leadership

- Determine the Who's Who
- Delegate appropriate staff

Awareness



Solid Partnership





Benefits to Partnering

Providers	PHA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change in local policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAFER and affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical Assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Recognition to encourage more collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Recognition to encourage more collaboration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education/Awareness



Challenges to Partnering

Provider	PHA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussing the issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussing the issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning the systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government Vs. Grassroots	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Experiences
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication



Partnership Successes

In 2010, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development issued a domestic violence housing report to highlight “Best Practices” for PHAs

- DCHA holds monthly meetings with community advocates
- DASH advocates for safety transfer in public housing
- DCHA proposed amendment to admission preferences
- DCHA approved a resolution authorizing the referral of and acceptance of victims
- DCHA to set-up MOUs with other jurisdictions to relocate
- Regs
- Internal clinics
- DASH as expert



Take Aways

- Always indicate how your organization can assist the PHA in your area
- Offer to provide Technical Assistance as needed
- Assert yourself in the PHA arena to establish working relationships and partnerships
- Keep your WORD- Maintain creditability



THANK YOU!

LaToya Young

email: Lyoung@dashdc.org

web address: www.dashdc.org

phone: 202-742-1728