

LIGHTLY EDITED FILE

DVHTAC COVID-19 Special Topic Series: Sexual  
Violence

in Housing during COVID

National Alliance for Safe Housing

Remote CART

June 4, 2020

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. CDT

\* \* \* \* \*

This text is being provided in a lightly edited draft format, and is the work product of the CART captioner.

CART

Any reproduction, publication, or other use of this file without the express written consent of the captioner is strictly prohibited. Communication

Access

Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility, and this

lightly

of

edited CART file may not be a totally verbatim record

the proceedings. Due to the live nature of the event, some names and/or terms may be misspelled. This text may also contain phonetic attempts at sounds and words that were spoken and environmental sounds that

occurred

during the event.

\* \* \* \*

\*

CART Provided by Jayne Carriker, RPR, CRR, CRC

Paradigm Reporting & Captioning, a Veritext Company

612.339.0545

[captioning-paradigm@veritext.com](mailto:captioning-paradigm@veritext.com)

2

>> Hello, everyone and good morning, good afternoon,

good noontime to you depending on where you are in the  
country and welcome to the Domestic Violence and

Housing

and Technical Assistance Consortium COVID-19 special

topic series on sexual violence in housing during  
COVID.

National

Sexual Violence Resource Center and also moderating

with

me today is Kris Billhardt and Debbie Fox, and our  
presenters today will be Cat Fribley from the Iowa

Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Rebekah Moses from

GBV

Consulting and Condencia Brade from the National Association of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault.  
Welcome.

We're so happy that you all are with us.

Next slide.

Okay.

So a little bit about our consortium.

We are funded by multiple federal partners and as you can see there, and then there are also multiple technical assistance providers, and we all work together as a team to provide training and technical assistance to you around all matters dealing with domestic violence, sexual violence and housing.

And you can reach us on our website, safe housing partnerships, and through multiple different means.

We are always happy and excited to help in whatever needs you may have around housing and violence.

Next slide.

Before we start any of these series, we really like to center the fact that -- well, everything in our country

is racialized, and we recognize that communities of color, black and brown communities experience homelessness at much higher rates due to systemic racism

that founded our country.

This is the time to say these things, and I'm saying them.

So these are just some statistics around that, and we also want to recognize that right now is a very difficult time for communities of color, for black and brown communities, and we want to stand in solidarity with black lives matter and we push all of our allies in

housing work to also stand with that and if you would like to get involved with us in the work that we're doing around centralized and racial justice work, please

also reach out.

Next slide.

And also since these are COVID-19 specific calls, we also know that the disease is hitting black and brown communities in very real and difficult and devastating ways, and we know a lot of that can connect directly to

we housing needs, so these are just some statistics, and

have one more slide of statistics.

real So we know that racial residential segregation is a

impact for COVID.

in We know communities of color disproportionately live

neighborhoods that are further from grocery stores, medical facilities, all of those pieces.

a And we also know that being a person of color could be

deterrent for someone seeking help for themselves, for their families, for their loved ones.

Next slide.

We wanted to briefly talk a little bit about the specific housing need of sexual assault survivors in this conversation because this is actually the first conversation we've had that's unique to sexual violence.

Next slide.

We know that sexual violence survivors -- we know that people experience sexual violence in domestic violence relationships, and that is a real and true need for a lot of survivors, but we also know that -- and I guess I put these in different orders.

We also know that being homeless or having housing un  
--  
sexual instability, excuse me, is a huge risk factor for violence in people's lives.

We know that children who live in a home where they're

5

run experiencing sexual violence are much more likely to away.

of We also know that LGBTQ children are often kicked out their homes for their sexual orientation or gender identity, and we know that that is a risk for sexual violence.

We know that trauma has very real long lasting impacts

on survivors that can lead to housing instability or homelessness.

Folks who live on campus where that is their home and they experience sexual violence may have no where else to go.

Folks involved in trafficking maybe linked to their trafficker in a sexually abusive situation and have nowhere else to go and the list, friends, goes on and

on

unfortunately.

talk

about how we can help those survivors.

Next slide.

survivors.

We know that about a fourth of sexual assaults occur in

and

the home, so the home can feel like an unsafe place,

not

it can an unsafe place for survivors even if they're

them.

living with the person who perpetrated it against

Or the assault may not have happened in the home and

they don't feel comfortable in that space anymore  
after experiencing assault.

Survivors may need a place to stay to process what to do  
next.

They may want to go for a forensic rape exam at the hospital and not want to return home.

They live with roommates.

They may not want to talk to their roommates or talk to their parents, dealing with the police.

All of those things that survivors may choose to do.

They may just want a safe place to process that and may not be that place.

Sexual assault or harassment by landlords is a very real issue and highly underreported, and right now under COVID-19 a lot of people are experiencing issues with landlords that were really unfortunately not talking about extensively.

And then finally survivors might be experiencing trauma responses that dramatically impact their lives.

So that may not be directly related to housing, but they  
may not be able to continue in their line of work due  
to  
trauma and time to process things.  
They may feel unsafe in a certain environment with  
different people, and again, as I said, the list goes  
on  
and on.

7

I just wanted to share that brief introduction really  
to  
sort of center our conversation around sexual violence  
and housing needs.  
Next slide.  
So as I shared, these are our presenters today, and I  
will let them do a little brief introduction when they  
answer their first question about who they are and how  
they got involved in this work, but I want to thank  
all  
three of you for being here and sharing your voices  
and  
your thoughts with us.

Next slide.

And here are some -- oh, go ahead.

Here are some resources from safe housing partnerships and all the other member programs in the consortium around COVID-19.

Okay.

So we're going to start with our sort of Q and A with our wonderful presenters, so I'm going to start with

Cat

Fribley from the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Cat, can you talk about the link between sexual violence

and housing and how they're related.

>> I would love to.

Thank you, Karla.

Thanks to everyone for being here and especially to the consortium and safe housing partnerships for making this

8

happen.

I'm

This is a conversation and a journey we've all been on together thinking deeply about sexual violence and housing and the intersections for quite a while, and I'm excited to have the opportunity to be a part of this conversation today.

just

really briefly.

Cat Fribley.

the

sexual

have

over

I'm the director of the Resource Sharing Project for

Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and I've been

working on issues around support for survivors of

violence for the last 25 years, and I'm excited to

been working in collaboration both with NSVRC and

through them the safe housing partnership and the

consortium as well as with NNEDV's project to lift up

the specific needs of the sexual violence survivors

the last seven or so years.

Today I know I wanted to add to some of Karla's really important framing and so just talk about the ways that we're hoping to center our conversation today around sexual violence outside of the context of domestic violence or intimate partner sexual violence.

needs

I know that there is a lot to be done to meet the  
of survivors of sexual violence within the context of

9

in

domestic violence within housing and residential-based  
settings, and we also know that there's a real value

being able to focus on the needs of those survivors  
outside of a DV context which programs have pretty  
traditionally told us that they struggle a little bit  
more to incorporate into their housing based advocacy  
and housing responses.

around

So I just wanted to give a little bit of framing  
that, and I also really wanted to share that on our  
conversation today we're really thinking about the  
broadest needs of survivors of sexual violence.

We're not thinking about this tied to any specific  
funding stream or policy or way of approaching the  
housing work.

We know that you all come from lots of different

that

perspectives whether that's from advocacy programs provide housing, whether it's housing programs that provide advocacy, and we want to make sure that we're really thinking about it from the most abundant place possibly which is really the core of this which is how we acknowledge both the housing needs due to sexual violence and sexual violence due to housing needs because those two are sort of inextricably linked I think when we think about this or talk about it. So Karla, when you ask me about -- talk a little bit

10

related,

I think that I want to make sure first to just pull that

out, that there are ways in which this is really crucial

that we identify that folks have needs around housing due to sexual violence and that folks experience sexual

violence due to homelessness, housing instability and

other forms of housing insecurity.

So I just want to make sure that we're naming both of those things.

violence

And that when we're talking about this, we're really talking about not only immediate crisis, sexual

the

that has happened right now, but we're also talking about the ways that sexual violence and trauma over

lifetime can contribute to and/or cause a need for housing or cause homelessness or housing insecurity.

I

So clearly this is some foundational information, and

disparities

want to make sure I'm also pairing it, right, with the context, this current context of the racial

about

that we're seeing in COVID-19 in this really important and painfully necessary moment where we are seeing an uprising in our country talking very specifically

the ways that structural inequities and institutional racism have also played a deep part in sexual violence and in homelessness and housing insecurity.

stark

So I want to lift up and say that we're seeing the

need realities of this even more clearly that survivors

survivors housing solutions more now than ever and that

and most impacted by COVID, those who are already marginalized and facing the most structural inequity

about institutional racism are the ones we want to center in this conversation and make sure we are thinking about the needs and solutions from that perspective.

I think one of the things that I just want to say

spaces sort of housing and sexual violence is that survivors need a safe place to heal, right?

ways Housing advocacy can be a really powerful tool for survivors of sexual violence to be able to create

that people come into a need for housing, and I think that the -- as we're thinking about and talking about sort of the -- I think you said 25%, Karla.

I've heard statistics anywhere up to 50% of sexual

is

to

assaults that happen where the victim lives, whether that's their current home or on campus, whether that  
in a work-based residential setting, that that hugely  
affects the feeling of safety, the feeling of ability  
heal, the feeling of ability to -- the ability to even  
take next steps in terms of as you said consideration  
around reporting and many other things.

12

When we think about where sexual violence that happens  
where victims live, where survivors are, certainly I  
know that one of the things that you mentioned, Karla,  
was a list of many different places in terms of  
landlords.

I also want to lift up maintenance and other housing  
employees, right, who are working in those situations.  
I want to lift up the ways that roommates, other  
tenants, and then folks who are in settings that are  
residential overall whether that is incarceration,  
whether that is campus based, whether that is medical

or

in other institutional settings that folks are in, that

all of those we're talking about people experiencing sexual violence within the context of their living, within the context of their home, and so as we think about sort of sexual violence and housing, I wanted to just make sure to lift up the ways in which COVID is making clearer the types of sexual violence that have been happening all along.

It's intensifying sort of the circumstances that landlords and property managers rely on for victimization, right?

that

And for violence that they perpetrate, and the fact

we are hearing more right now about folks that are experiencing sexual violence at the hands of property

13

owners, property managers and landlords, to me really just again very clearly draws for us this picture of sexual violence that has been happening all along,

that

it relies on structural inequities oftentimes because one of the very clear issues that I think we will talk about more is -- are the ways in which it's our job to help then interrupt in those places where folks don't feel like they have other living options, right, other options for housing, and that's exactly what we're talking about in terms of advocacy and housing support for survivors of sexual violence.

I So I guess I want to just pause there, Karla, because

think I just answered a lot -- or said a lot of things

and I'm wondering if Rebekah has pieces she wants to add

to that or if you do, Karla.

>> Rebekah, do you have anything you want to add?

>> I thought that was a really great introduction to this issue of kind of what are the unique needs of sexual violence survivors in the housing context

outside

of looking at intimate partner violence, and I know I was going to talk a little bit about kind of what's

the

homelessness

relationship during housing insecurity and

and how that impacts survivors of sexual violence, and

I

think you've done an excellent job of lifting up the

fact that -- some of the things we don't necessarily

14

that

impact

up

can

think about when we're providing services which is basically sexual violence can happen anytime anywhere and anyone can choose to harm someone sexually, and

those harms that people have experienced wherever,

whenever, and by whomever last a lifetime and can

housing immediately but can impact housing, so child sexual abuse can impact someone when they're 35 and their ability to maintain their housing and their job.

And I think I also really appreciate that you lifted up

it up it can happen anywhere.

For folks who may be living in the street sexual

violence can occur there but if someone has been

incarcerated or living in a homeless shelter, or a

rental home or someone is doubled up sexual violence

occur in that space and anyone can perpetrate sexual

violence.

I also appreciate that you lifted up the fact that sexual violence and its housing impact are crisis for survivors and this really deserves prioritization no matter when the sexual violence occurred or who perpetrated it.

I think oftentimes we sit -- we want to focus on prioritizing in our housing assessments especially for folks funded by HUD in our assessments who are looking to prioritize folks who have experienced recent imminent

15

physical danger but when we talk about survivors oftentimes the crisis they're experiencing may be emotional, it may be economic and that those crises and

those experiences deserve the same prioritization and deserve the same access to housing as someone who may be dealing with imminent physical danger.

And then you really also started your conversation out,

Cat, by saying that sexual violence can create, you know -- can create conditions in which housing instability and homelessness can occur.

You also said that housing instability and homelessness

can create a situation where sexual violence can occur.

And this gets at the issue of if you're working within the homelessness system or if you're a victim service provider how do we really -- however someone presents, if they present as someone dealing with housing and homelessness or if they present as someone dealing with

sexual violence, how do we not shift them from system to

system and say, oh, I'm a -- I work in the local homeless shelter, you're dealing with sexual violence, I

can't help you, go to victim services, or on the other hand victim services oftentimes will have space and housing but if someone presents as someone whose major issue is homelessness or housing instability ,they will

say you're not a victim, I can't help you, go to this

other system.

How do we recognize that folks dealing with either of these issues oftentimes when we dig underneath when we're talking about people who are experienced sexual violence there's going to be economic and housing issues

and when we're talking about people who are dealing with

housing instability and homelessness that oftentimes there is sexual violence that has occurred anytime anywhere and has been perpetrated by someone other than

an intimate partner including landlords, maintenance folks.

And so yeah, I just wanted to echo what Cat had said and

put it in the context of for folks who are, you know, working within a different housing model to begin to think about how you -- how we need to begin to recognize

these unique needs so that we can respond differently to

those survivors.

>> Excellent.

Thank you, Rebekah.

I want to ask both of you how have you seen or what

have

you seen that has changed or stayed the same for survivors of sexual violence around housing and homelessness issues during COVID-19?

>> This is Cat, and as I think I sort of referred to earlier, I feel like COVID just like lifts up and makes

17

so clear the types of sexual violence that have been happening all along, right, within especially within housing systems, within situations where folks are negotiating for rent especially issues right now.

and

We know that there are so many people who have lost their jobs or who are hugely economically impacted, we know that again that that isn't happening equally across the board.

black

We know that that's happening really specifically in low-income communities and in communities that are

and brown who are experiencing COVID at very different

rates.

kinds  
So I just want to lift up the fact that this, the

now  
of things that we're hearing about especially right

about landlords who are using violence and/or  
intimidation or coercion around requiring sex rather  
than rent or threatening to evict folks in the middle  
of

all of this, certainly those are the kinds of things  
that we've been hearing about for a long time, and  
they

are, again, being more clearly like sort of seen and  
lifted up just in this moment as so many things are  
being stripped there, right, and sort of peeled back  
those layers.

Really curious to hear from the folks who are joining  
us

all of you, are these the kinds of things that you've

I remember thinking back, you know, you all maybe -- gosh, I'm trying to think.

I started doing this work back in 1994, so 25 years ago

about one of the first survivors that I worked with in the program that I was doing advocacy with was a -- which was a domestic violence and sexual assault dual program was a survivor who had been routinely sort of harassed by her landlord, the property owner, and who was struggling to think about how to -- whether there was a possibility to report that and maintain their housing and recognizing just the challenge of that.

So I think about the fact that 25 years ago I was working with someone who was experiencing that, and we've seen that of course continue because any time that

there's a power imbalance, any time there's a place of power imbalance I think there's a deeper possibility of sexual violence that happens.

So I just want to say like I feel like more than something new that COVID has simply made us more aware I

curious think as a society of what's happening, and I'm

if other folks have seen sorts of similar things.

And Rebekah, if you want to speak to that too obviously.

>> Yeah, I mean I think COVID has really showed how

19

heighten risks can compound barriers.

home

So if you are a child or youth or adult experiencing sexual violence where you are and there's a stay-at-

that

order that's supposedly created to protect the most vulnerable from the spread of COVID but then you have nowhere to go or if you're an essential worker who happens to be undocumented and you don't have work papers in the United States and you're experiencing sexual violence at work and a lot of places in the country you don't have access to a stimulus payment

might allow for flexibility to leave work or to have housing if you left because of the sexual violence.

folks

It's basically providing another kind of tool that

who choose to cause sexual harm are using to kind of entrap folks.

But I would also say on the flip side that communities

of people who have never been able to depend on the state or depend on a lot of helping systems are also figuring out ways to mutually assist and support one another outside of those systems, and I think there's

a

of

the remedies that are available to some folks were never

20

going to be available to them, have never been available.

and

don't

access

So COVID has lifted up that other side of kind of

oppression which is spaces in which people innovate

depend on one another and come up with solutions when their rights aren't being recognized and when they

have access -- when they're intentionally denied

to resources.

>> I love the both and of that, Rebekah, this is Cat,  
like you were just saying.

the  
While it has lifted up the incredible disparities in

mutual  
ways oppression continues to impact, right, those

places  
aid -- those places of mutual aid have been some

for us to learn from for sure, and it makes me think  
about, you know, some of the things that I've seen  
around housing folks in hotels, I know you all have  
been

about  
doing deep work around finding alternate places of  
emergency sorts of housing, and it makes me think

the fact that homeless people who have been sexually  
assaulted, they often lack access to so many different  
services, to legal, medical, mental health services,  
to -- facing these incredible barriers to service  
overall and certainly to healing.

So it makes me think about all the different ways that  
the current moment is teaching us new approaches,  
right,

do

that may very well be applicable moving forward when we're thinking about survivors for whom perhaps our housing as it stands isn't the best solution, but how

lifting

we then help them meet their housing needs no matter, you know?

I love the sort of resilience and creativity that has also come out of this moment that you were just

of

up, Rebekah.

>> Absolutely.

Absolutely.

That was a great conversation.

Thank you both for sharing.

but

If -- it feels like COVID is bringing out the reality so much of how we live in this country and the true struggles that people are experiencing.

in

We do want to share we haven't gotten a whole lot of questions for Q and A session which is totally fine,

I wanted to offer the opportunity for folks to share

the chat.

If you want to share any experiences or challenges

that

you've had professionally, personally around sexual violence, housing, homelessness during the pandemic, if

that would be helpful to anyone to share to sort of talk through.

And I think one more thing we haven't talked a lot

22

clearly about, which is survival sex for folks, which is

for sexual violence as well where people are trading sex

that a place to stay, to sleep, to be safe, and we know

that issue has been huge during COVID where people had places to stay, whether or not they were engaging in survival sex there and then have been asked to leave when people sort of were staying at home and this

wasn't

technically this person's home.

So that's another area where we've seen folks deal with

violence and homelessness in unique ways.

I want to talk a little bit about services.

Either Cat or Rebekah, whoever want to go first, can  
we

talk a little bit about the services that you know  
that

aren't being provided at sexual assault programs that  
survivors are needing around housing.

>> Rebekah, I'm going to ask you to start us off  
unless

you want me to.

>> No, I'm happy to.

No, I put together some ideas again, and I know we're  
coming close to the time when Condencia is going to  
share about her work, so I want to be cognizant of not  
invading that space.

So I think there's really two issues here when we talk  
about the housing and services needs for sexual  
violence

survivors.

So sexual violence survivors need access to your housing or to your housing subsidy, so you have to be willing to work with folks who have experienced sexual violence anytime anywhere and it's been perpetrated by anyone. Whether that is they've been forced to trade sex and they chose not to and they lost their housing, you know, whatever their circumstances of sexual violence is to recognize that that's an instance of sexual violence that has impacted their housing and that that person needs to be eligible for your housing. I mean that's the big, big, big piece, right? We oftentimes focus on the services and we forget if people can't even get into our housing or into our services if they're not eligible for it, then we're stuck, right? They're not getting in. And so this, you know, these are some questions you might take back for the folks who participate in COCs and are participating in coordinated entry like how are your housing assessments asking about sexual violence, what happens when sexual violence is asked about, like how does the continuum of care respond to that. How are dual sexual and domestic violence programs or

rape crisis centers involved in the process of

24

coordinated entry and sitting at the COC table.

How is kind of sexual violence prioritized, when does COC decide what -- and I'm going to use head speak.

I personally don't like this word, but when they talk about subpopulations or groups of folks within the population of people experiencing homelessness, are people who have experienced sexual violence, are they

a

priority in your COC, and I know a lot of work has been

done around lifting up the needs of domestic violence victims in those policy decisions but what about

sexual

violence survivors outside the context of intimate partner.

So that's one piece, thinking about how they get in.

And the second piece is really services, and I've got to

stop too, and Karla, if you can let me know when

Condencia comes and I can just wrap it up.  
I've got about two more minutes.  
Thank you so much.  
So we've got that first prong which is access, right?  
So sexual violence survivors accessing your housing,  
accessing your services, accessing your subsidies, and  
then there's the aspect of services or support  
services  
in the housing world.  
You know, if you're on the call and you're a dual  
domestic -- if you're on the call and you're a victim

25

service provider, you understand support services is  
really advocacy.  
So once someone has got in the case of housing met how  
do we support their needs.  
In the housing world that for folks who aren't from  
the  
housing world on this call support services is really  
that advocacy piece.  
So the first thing we need in support services is

actively anti-oppressive culturally relevant services.

This always gets left to the end of what people need  
in

services, and it should be the first thing because if  
your program isn't thinking about the many oppressions  
oppressions people are facing and if it's not  
culturally

relevant or if you're a mainstream program and you're  
not collaborating with culturally specific services,  
sharing resources, taking the lead from culturally  
specific services, in terms of how to do housing or  
how

to do services, then it's time to kind of stop and  
think, and RSP has got a really great resource called  
antiracism that's fundamental to sexual assault  
services, you can Google that.

We can drop that in the chat.

It's a really great place to begin to think about how  
in

our services this is also a housing access piece when  
we're being actively anti-oppressive, when we're

recognizing that the sexual violence that people experience isn't the only type of violence that is preventing their healing that's putting them in danger if they're dealing with the violence of racism, if they're dealing with the violence of ableism, if they have a disability, if they're dealing with the violence

of homophobia, or the violence of ageism, all of those things need to be taken into account when we think about

how to support team.

Otherwise we're supporting this paper doll that we've put in our mind of a person and that's not actually what

people are needing.

Community beyond services, I said this. Our services are only 24 hours a day or sometimes they're only 8 hours.

What happens when the housing subsidy ends and people continue to need community.

What happens when at 2 a.m. and people need community.

How do you connect survivors to one another, how do you connect people back to their community.

For people who have left their communities, how do people -- how do people -- how do we -- for people who

have lost their community, how do we support them in creating new community beyond this kind of transactional  
this is a service for support.

27

But seeing community creation as essential to maintaining housing and as essential to safety and healing.  
Voluntarily services, trauma informed services, really big piece of this.  
People may come in, I'm going to wrap up in two seconds because my colleague Condencia is on the line.  
housing Voluntarily services, people may just need your subsidies.  
They may not need the whole list of other things you do.  
Don't force them to do that.  
Just give them the housing subsidy.  
Trauma informed, the last thing I want to say about this

we think about being trauma informed to deal with  
other people's trauma but we're not talking about our  
agency's, the trauma that the organizations we work  
within are experiencing and have experienced, how we  
can traumatize one another in our work because of the  
traumas we've experienced, how we traumatize the  
people we work with when our organization isn't working with  
its own issues of trauma.  
And so the research sharing project and the sexual  
assault demonstration initiative has great resources  
around building communities of care, looking at trauma  
within your agency, and with that I will hand it back  
to

28

the moderators.

Thank you so much for the opportunity.

>> Thank you, Rebekah.

That was fascinating and wonderful and something to  
really think about.

Oh, I should have mentioned we are recording this presentation, and we will post the link to the resources.

My apologies for not saying that sooner.

So Condencia Brade from the National Organizations of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Violence is our next presenter, and she's going to talk a little bit about a

grant where she was able to do focus groups with communities of color around sexual assault and housing.

Welcome, Condencia.

And I just wanted to share, you should be able to unmute yourself.

I know Jenny is being supportive as our technical assistance help.

I wanted to share a little bit, I know folks were asking for the resources around the sexual assault demonstration initiative and creating antiracist organizations.

I see Elizabeth did that, so that is in the chat, and we will be following up with an e-mail after this call

them to -- with all of those resources so you will have

in other areas.

Are things set up?

Condencia, can you share?

Oh, we're giving her a number to call in.

wonderful

So Cat, since we have you and we have a little bit of time, would you talk a little bit about the sexual assault demonstration initiative and all these

resources came out of this project.

>> Yeah, happily so.

through us

So this initiative was a project that was funded

an

the Office of Violence Against Women and a number of

assault

on this call worked together on it, and it was really

opportunity for six demonstration sites to help inform larger conversation about how we elevate sexual

awareness

services within dual and multiservice settings, how we think about organizational capacity, community

and knowledge about who we are, the services that we provide, and the core sort of philosophy and grounding that allows sexual assault survivors to feel welcomed into our spaces, our services, and that makes sure that

folks who maybe traditionally have not had the same level of access, especially folks who are again survivors of sexual violence outside of the context of domestic violence and especially adolescent survivors,

30

male survivors, survivors from immigrant communities, refugee communities, migrant survivors, all of the sorts

welcomed of folks who perhaps haven't felt traditionally welcomed

into our organizations and our services.

So the demonstration initiative was an opportunity to work very specifically with six sites across the country

and to learn from them as they built solutions that were

focused very specifically on the unique needs of their

own communities, and a lot of the resources you're talking about, I know, Rebekah, you mentioned the antiracism is fundamental to sexual assault services.

We also have a number of like what I think of as pretty

fantastic opportunities to do ways of assessing your readiness around providing these kinds of services, and

we're excited to be able to share those.

Condencia, I think you're here now.

No, we can't hear you, friend.

You may need to star 6.

I know sometimes that solution works when old school mute buttons don't.

Weirdly it seems like star 6 is the universal unmuting.

Jenny, I wonder is there a way that we can unmute one participant ourselves?

>> I think Jenny needs the number.

>> I think --

>> Okay.

>> Yeah, it's an 860 number, and sorry for this technical moment, friends, while we figure out how to get Condencia's voice into this conversation.

We're working on that.

And it -- yeah.

>> I was just going to say I did see a question that  
we could start by addressing.

Someone was asking about children who are in homes  
right

now, abusive homes being sexually abused.

What are some solutions?

What can we do?

Which is quite a loaded question, and I think we all  
feel that heavily in our hearts.

And I don't know, Cat or Rebekah, if you have any  
thoughts on that

those

>> Yeah, I think there are all kinds of things that  
we've been having conversations about that, right,  
Karla, in terms of how to best to support survivors of  
childhood sexual abuse especially in this moment of  
stay-at-home orders or shelter in place or safer at  
home, and then the ways that we believe that once

more

restrictions are lifted that we might begin to hear

from folks, more disclosures about responding to the needs of survivors, and I think, you know, one of the

32

key things that I'll say here that is true overarchingly

is looking at what services are available from your own

agency, what services are available in your community, if you are not the one who is providing services around

sexual violence, who is providing services to ask how you can show up in those spaces, talking to your state sexual assault coalition or dual coalition about what kinds of resources are available for responding to the needs of survivors of child sexual abuse in this moment

I think are all good first steps that we can share here.

>> Thanks, Cat.

Can you hear me?

>> Yay, hi, friend, yes, we can.

>> Hi, I'm so sorry about that.

For some reason of course you know when technology is supposed to work, it just doesn't.

So I'm so sorry about that, and I really appreciate you

all being so intentional in trying to make sure that I can participate, so I really appreciate that.

>> Okay.

Welcome, Condencia.

We're so happy that you are here.

Would you be willing to share a little bit about your focus groups with communities of color around sexual violence and housing.

33

>> Yes, absolutely, absolutely.

I want to try and make sure that I'm not echoing.

Do you all hear an echo?

>> No, you're good.

>> Okay, good.

Good, good, good.

I have so many things open trying to log on that I think

I've created like surround sound right here.

I thank you all again and I'm so glad we're having  
this

conversation.

It's so very timely, so very appropriate, and so I'm  
glad that I'm able to participate.

So my name is Condencia and I'm with Sisters of Color  
Ending Sexual Assault.

And we have been working on the interconnection  
between

housing and homelessness and looking at women of color  
who were sexual assault survivors and their needs as  
they relate to housing, so this has been, you know, an  
ongoing work for our agency, and recently we were able  
to get some funding to do a -- begin to do listening  
sessions which we were really thrilled to be able to

do

it and realize, you know, how kind of like midway  
through so much really great information, and then

also

so much of a need to do -- continue to do this kind of  
comprehensive assessment of what's happening.

I think one of the things that was clear is that, you know, what I've heard from so many folks was when it comes to looking at housing needs and particularly talking about communities of color, there are some, you

know, preconceived notions and preconceived biases sometimes as to why there are housing needs.

So I think that sometimes that can overlay, you know, when we're women of color trying to access housing.

That was something we heard a lot.

So I really think it's something we kind of have to unpack and look a lot at.

So what we did, I know that we have shortened time so I'll tell you we really tried to crisscross the country,

we held listening sessions with impact of women of color.

We had conversations with advocates that were working on

sexual assault women of color advocates working on sexual assault as well as people of advocates working in the housing.

So really trying to have a cross section of folks that we were engaging with that looked at housing either

folks that were impacted themselves or folks working  
to  
respond.

So got a lot of really rich information.

Of course, I cannot even go through all of it.

35

I want to pick out some things.  
It was clear, you know, folks talked about seeing a  
lot,  
there were a lot of black and Latino women showing up  
for services, also a lot of urban native women that  
were  
needing services.

Oftentimes when it came to urban native women, there  
were a lot of challenges in terms of getting resources  
to the local programs.

Some of the women we talked with they talked about  
they  
lived in reservations and now were trying to adjust to  
life in urban neighborhood without adequate support  
and  
often these women ending up in homeless programs and

having a higher vulnerability to sexual assault.

Also this issue of language access and concerns if immigration status makes it harder for Asian and Latin women to access program.

That sometimes housing programs don't want to work  
with

black and brown women and those women feeling that and often when they get to showing up and needing support around housing, they have like -- this is like the absolute last resort because they so much don't even want to show up there.

preferring

not

to go to their friends even though their friends may be safe instead of a homeless program.

36

I think one person we talked to said it so well.

She said for trans women the treatment is so wrong.

I thought that was so insightful.

They talk about youth and youth coming from families

about where there's a history of incest and they talked even in the context of sometimes when there's information about youth, it talks about youth broadly, and that LGBTQ -- I'm sorry -- when they're talking about youth, they talk about youth broadly number one. And then they may talk about LGBT youth but often there's LGBTQ youth of color are often missed in that so that being an issue.

that They talk about lots of youth who are quote unquote on the street because they came out of the foster care system, either they left because it was unsafe or because they aged out of the foster care system and

that

being an issue, and often these youth are trying to survive with many underlying trauma and also being survivors of sexual assault.

for

So the idea that many survivors had multiple incidents of sexual assault and most times women of color are coming in with, you know, compacted mental health and trauma issues and having experienced sexual assault

a number of years and in a number of ways and not getting any intervention.

do And the idea that unfortunately many housing programs  
not come from a trauma informed context and oftentimes  
can be in the place of trying to move folks along and  
housing them for, you know, a short amount of time and  
then moving them and then the idea of the rapid  
rehousing has -- there are some pluses to that, but  
some of the unintended consequences that this quick to move  
doesn't allow for there to be some comprehensive  
response to the survivors, sexual assault survivors  
women of color that are showing up.

women Talking about this need to address the survivors,  
of color survivors as a whole person and that wanting  
survivors impacted women talk a lot about they want to  
be seen and treated as a whole person and also want to  
be seen and treated as a respectful person that, you  
know, I think one survivor in one of the sessions we  
had one survivor said this and it was echoed so many times  
that safety for survivors is about options, that I'm  
coming to you to seek resources and help and I'd like

to

have options and be able to choose what options work best for me so that was something that folks talked about.

assault

Also another thing lifted up is sometimes sexual survivors just want to be able to get out for a short time and have no place to go.

38

felt

I think one person that we recently talked about that going to -- sending a sexual assault survivor to a DV shelter feels disingenuous and it feels like a quote unquote a slap in the face and you don't see me.

We asked some of the other folks we talked to what do you think about that and folks oftentimes said that

to

like a pretty good -- that was a pretty good comment reflect what they were seeing themselves.

I think of this -- again, there's so much that I could go on and on.

I will -- I'll stop there because I know in terms of time just to kind of share.

Like I said, this was something we hope to continue -- we got some really rich information and we are wanting to continue, we're continuing to gather information and

talk to folks.

of

There is, you know, housing and housing needs and communities of color is complex, and then when you're layering on communities of color who are survivors of sexual assault it's even more complex, and I think one of the things that we're hearing so many times is that if you -- this idea that if you only see I think one

the quotes that we said is that, you know, because the housing needs are so much more than just poverty, when you marginalize all communities of color to housing

39

because of poverty, you're not clearly seeing our real needs, so that was something that came up a lot.

The last thing I'll say is that, you know, there are

and

their

culturally specific communities of color organizations  
that are across the country addressing sexual assault.

We need many, many more of them but there are those

they're by and for their community and grounded in  
community.

They're where many women of color go when they need  
support and services.

Oftentimes these culturally specific communities of  
color organizations are not a part of the continuum of  
care.

They're not able to sit at the table.

communities

to the table, and that's really a challenge and really  
is an unintended consequence when we're trying to --  
that can be very harmful when we're trying to respond  
to

women of color, survivors of sexual assault and their  
housing needs.

So wanted to mention that.

Karla, I know I kind of went really fast, but if folks  
have questions, happy to answer them.

right

I heard some of the folks -- boy, folks were talking  
about in terms of COVID and what's happening, how

now the pandemic has impacted for women of color,  
survivors of color who are sexual assault survivors.  
So much of what you said rings true.

kind

What we know and are seeing really the pandemic has  
really kind of -- as folks have said in other ways

tried

of ripped a Band-Aid off these things that we have  
tried  
to fix with short-term solutions that really need  
comprehensive responses.

trauma

And we are seeing the increased vulnerability and  
that is impacting for survivors of color in the  
pandemic, and the heightened -- just the heightened  
vulnerability to sexual assault as well.

of

trapped

I think one of our programs I was talking to was just  
saying that, a comment that she heard from a survivor

feeling

color was that feeling the sense of that they're  
in their -- and sexual assault survivors they're

trapped in their minds and bodies right now, and the pandemic and the need for social distancing there's an isolation that makes them feel even more trapped now because now they're trapped in their home as well.

So I think, you know, really been intentional about thinking about what does that mean and what kind of support and services we can provide survivors in that context.

So I said I would stop talking and I continued, so I

41

really am going to stop now.

>> No worries.

We love hearing you talk and thank you so much for sharing all of that.

Does anybody have -- I don't think we have any questions.

I wanted to let folks know that we do have a survey to find out what folks need around COVID, what are --  
what  
do survivors or your staff need around COVID.

There's a short survey if you'd like to fill that out.  
We do this every week and try to get experts to share  
with you on different topics.

So please share more.

Do any of the panelists have any final thoughts before  
we wrap up for today?

>> This is Cat.

Just my hope is that this is the beginning of a  
conversation and that while this conversation was  
within

the context of COVID that so much of what Condencia  
was

sharing, so much of what I know Rebekah and I were  
hoping to have conversations about overall that all of  
that feels like the beginning of a conversation with  
programs who are seeking to provide housing and  
advocacy -- and housing advocacy to survivors of  
sexual

violence, so yeah, just hoping that folks get in touch

the

provide or answer, and then also that this might be

launching of a larger opportunity to be in community around this.

>> Excellent.

Anyone else?

Rebekah, Condencia?

Okay.

Well --

this

>> I think I want to echo what Cat said in terms of

about

being a beginning conversation and the opportunity for us to continue to engage and really be intentional

addressing these issues and making sure that the survivors of sexual assault have access to the housing needs that come up for them.

we

So I think, you know, absolutely echo this idea that

need to continue to look at this and this is beginning and not necessarily, you know, just the one time conversation, so yeah, definitely echo that.

>> Thank you.

And this is Karla.

Condencia

I just wanted to say thank you everyone, all of our speakers, but I also want to echo what Cat and

said.

As people that have worked in the sexual violence

43

movement for many, many years, we have known this has been an issue for survivors of sexual assault and we have known that our service providers really struggle to

meet this need, and there are many different reasons for

offer that, but we just aren't able -- we aren't able to

offer to survivors what they need, and so this is something that we have been dedicated to addressing for a long, long time.

So we want to thank everyone for showing up and listening, and we do ask for your commitment to continue

the conversation because we want to be able to serve survivors wholistically.

So I think that's it.

Thank you all so much and have a safe rest of your day.

CART

Access

lightly

of

44

occurred

[This text is being provided in a lightly edited draft format, and is the work product of the CART captioner.

Any reproduction, publication, or other use of this

file without the express written consent of the

captioner is strictly prohibited. Communication

Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to

facilitate communication accessibility, and this

edited CART file may not be a totally verbatim record

the proceedings. Due to the live nature of the event,

some names and/or terms may be misspelled. This text

may also contain phonetic attempts at sounds and words

that were spoken and environmental sounds that

during the event.]