DVHTAC Special Topic Series

Coordinated Entry Decision Tree: Putting It Into Practice

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SAFE HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS

Presenters

- **Heidi Notario**, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
- **Cris Sullivan, PhD**, MSU Research Consortium on Gender-Based Violence
- **Kris Billhardt**, National Alliance for Safe Housing
- **Lisa Coffman**, HUD Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS)
- **Abby Miller**, HUD Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS)

Panelists

- **Lea Aromin, MSW**, Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence
- **Catherine Huang Hara, MSW**, Clark County Social Service
- **Sarah Prout-Rennie**, Michigan Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence

Domestic Violence & Housing Technical Assistance Consortium (DVHTAC)

FEDERAL PARTNERS

- Family Violence Prevention & Services Program/HHS
- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs/HUD
- Office for Victims of Crime/DOJ
- Office on Violence Against Women/DOJ
- US Interagency Council on Homelessness

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

- National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH)
- Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI)
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)
- Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)

SAFE HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS

FRAMING TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- Domestic and Sexual Violence
- COVID-19
- Housing Insecurity

Domestic & Sexual Violence: Lifetime Prevalence

NISVS
The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey
2011

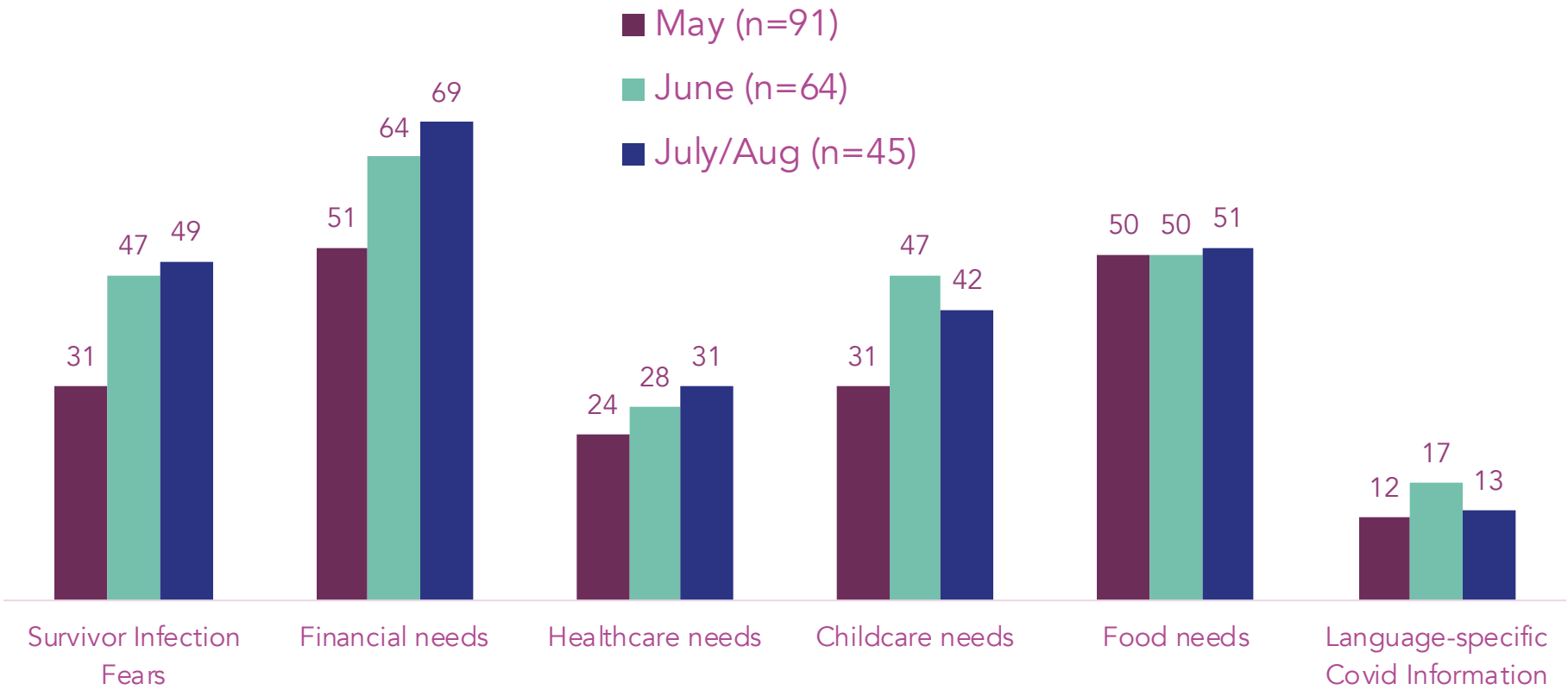
Physical Violence by Intimate Partner	Women	Men
Multi-racial	51%	39%
American Indian & Alaska Native	52%	43%
Black	41%	36%
White	31%	27%
Hispanic	30%	27%
Asian & Other Pacific Islander	15%	12%

Sexual Violence (other than rape)	Women	Men
Multi-racial	64%	40%
American Indian & Alaska Native	55%	25%
Black	38%	24%
White	47%	22%
Hispanic	36%	27%
Asian & Other Pacific Islander	32%	16%

** over-representing total population rates*

How COVID-19 is Affecting Survivors

(% Respondents Reporting)



Source: Shanti Kulkarni, PhD, Professor of Social Work, UNC-Charlotte, 2020

COVID-19 : Exacerbating Survivors' Housing Insecurity

- 1 in 4 people (26%) reported housing insecurity
  - *Didn't pay last month's rent/mortgage on time*

  ~ and/or ~
  - *Slight/no confidence being able to pay next month on time*

- Black women (40%) and Latinas (44%)
  - 2 ½ times more likely than White men
- Rates even higher for Black women and Latinas with children (45% & 48% respectively)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Household Pulse Survey

The Intersections Between Domestic and Sexual Violence, Race and Housing Insecurity

ASSESSING FOR & APPROPRIATELY RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS

Cris Sullivan, PhD
MSU Research Consortium on Gender-Based Violence

Prioritizing People into Housing

- HUD requires CoCs to utilize a Coordinated Entry (CE) system in order to **prioritize homeless** people into limited housing options
- The system is intended to provide people with **fair and equal access to housing**, while also prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families
- While the idea behind prioritizing is laudable and was designed to minimize practices based on favoritism or prejudice, communities continue to struggle with how to **equitably and fairly implement CE**
- The most frequently used screening tool is the VI-SPDAT or one of its iterations

Critiques of the VI-SPDAT

- The VI-SPDAT was created to assess the vulnerabilities of chronically homeless individuals who are experiencing severe mental illness and/or substance abuse, and **does not work well for other groups of homeless individuals and families**

- An empirical study has now found that the VI-SPDAT lacks validity and reliability (McCauley & Reid, 2020)

- It also may result in racial bias in prioritization (C4 Innovations, 2019)

Prioritizing People into Housing

- People want a brief and easy-to-use scoring tool that reliably ranks people's vulnerabilities and documents their preferences and needs

- Overly simple solutions, however, are rarely the answer to complicated problems

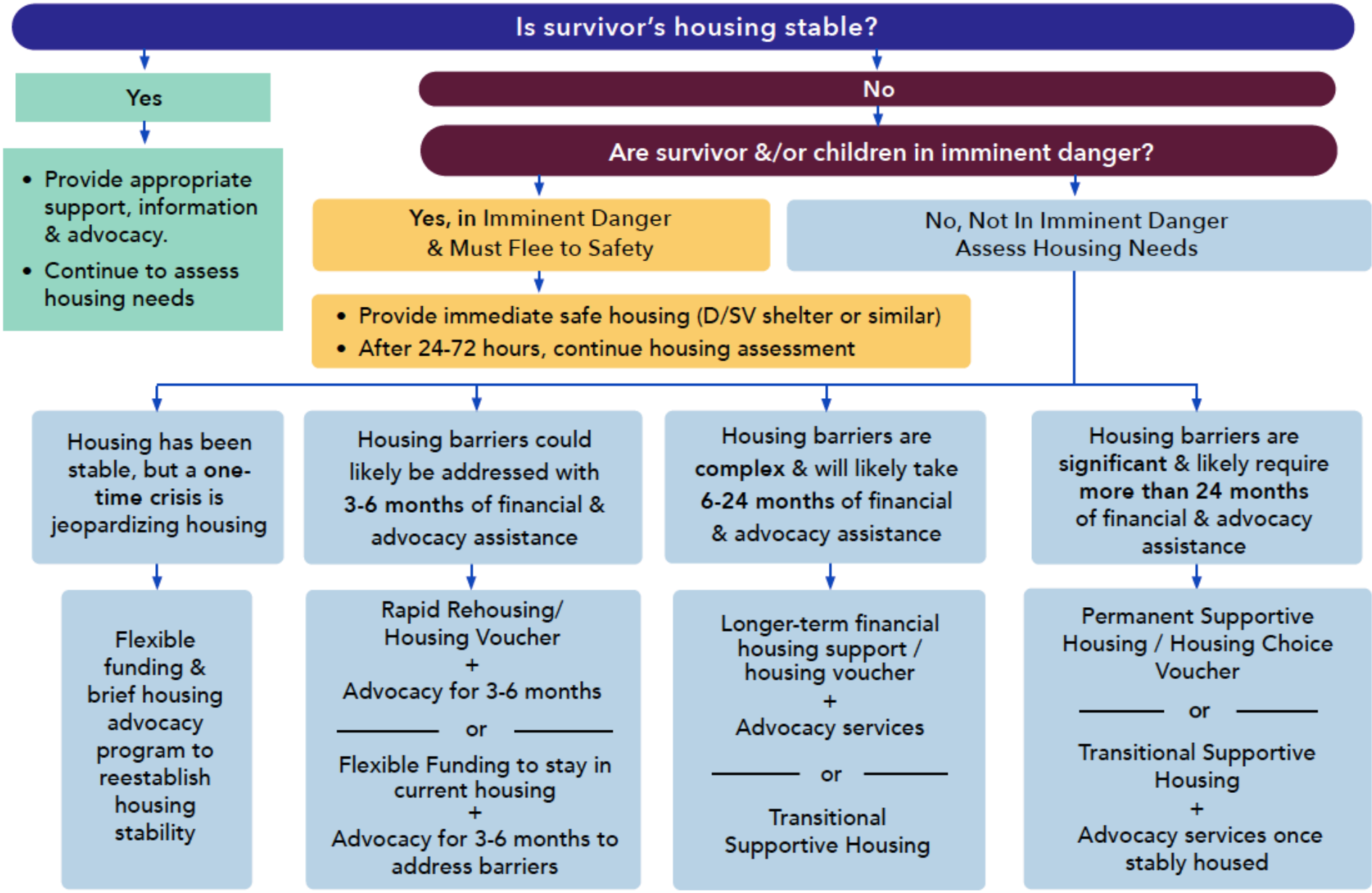
- We propose that the most promising solution lies in **a tool** that involves having **brief** but **focused conversations** with survivors that cover the topics most relevant to choosing strategies likely to lead to safe and stable housing

Housing Prioritization Decision Tree

We have created a **Decision Tree** that involves asking about the following issues:

- Safety ***as it relates to housing*** – **not just severity**
  - If housed, could they stay home if we offered safety precautions and/or financial help to do so?
- Recent housing stability / instability and housing barriers
- What do they want? What are they willing to accept, and why? What else is going on that's important to them?

Decision Tree as an Alternative to a Score Sheet



TRANSFORMING OUR COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEMS TO INCREASE SURVIVORS' ACCESS TO HOUSING OPTIONS

Kris Billhardt
National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH)

Transforming Our Coordinated Entry Systems to Increase Survivors' Access to Housing Options

"There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not lead single-issue lives."

- Audre Lorde

Survivors Need All the Options

- Survivors seeking housing help are often routed to shelter
- Sometimes that's a good call, but sometimes they are seeking something else
- When screened for housing programs, survivors' specific vulnerabilities may get missed
  - Intimate trauma is hard to discuss with a stranger
  - Systems have let them down or done damage
  - Complex and intersecting challenges are hard to capture and quantify
- Understanding the strands of each person's complicated web is what most assists in finding the best available fit – and not just for survivors!

People Seeking Housing Help May Need:

- To establish safety and begin addressing the immediate crisis
- To tackle barriers to becoming/staying safely housed
- To embed safety and lasting stabilization

Re-envisoning Coordinated Entry: Why Now?

- Data

  If inflow remains high and housing success remains low in disproportionately impacted populations, failing to "move the needle" begs the question about how racial bias is baked into established systems and tools

- COVID

  Its disparate impact when disaggregated by race has amplified equity concerns – and its urgency necessitated moving away from waiting lists and crowded shelters and toward expedited connection to housing

- Trauma

  A trauma-informed and individualized approach responds better to the complex realities of people experiencing homelessness – including the lived experiences of survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking

Emerging Community Strategies

- Modifying how the VI-SPDAT is used
- Developing community-tailored assessment tools
- Incorporating training to better equip assessors to move away from rigid processes and "see" people
- Adopting conversation-based assessment
- Exploring ways to deepen partnership with victim services providers, BIPOC, and people with lived experience

EXAMPLES OF ALTERNATE APPROACHES

Panelists

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TRANSFORMING COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEMS

Lisa Coffman, HUD Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs

Abby Miller, HUD Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs

Coordinated Entry Principles
from HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS)

Principles for Coordinated Entry

- Person-Centered
- Flexible and equity-oriented
- Trauma-Informed

New-ish Resources for Coordinated Entry

- Serving Survivors through Coordinated Entry
- 5 Tips to Approaching Rehousing with Racial Equity
- Advancing Racial Equity through Assessments and Prioritization
- Equity Driven Changes to Coordinated Entry Prioritization
- FAQ on CE Prioritization During COVID-19
- Coordinated Entry Toolkit

Assessment and Prioritization

CONSIDERATIONS AND FINAL THOUGHTS

Audience Questions / Discussion

Mapping DV/SV Housing Practices

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GN65ZFK

- Identify housing-related practices:
  - Alternate assessment tools
  - Co-located advocates
  - DV bonus funds
  - DV Housing First
  - Point-in-Time participation
  - Flexible funding
  - Joint component programs
  - Parallel Coordinated Entry systems
  - Rapid re-housing

Consortium COVID-19 Resources

- **Safe Housing Partnerships:** https://safehousingpartnerships.org/news/
- **NASH:** DV and Housing-Related Coronavirus Resources
- **NNEDV:** COVID-19: Coalition Guidance for Programs by the National Network to End Domestic Violence
- **NRCDV:** Preventing & Managing the Spread of COVID-19 Within Domestic Violence Programs
- **NSVRC:** Resources for COVID-19 Response
- **CSI:** HUD and DV Resources - COVID-19

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