



District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH)

Presents:

Residential and Non-residential Service
Approach, Principles and Strategies

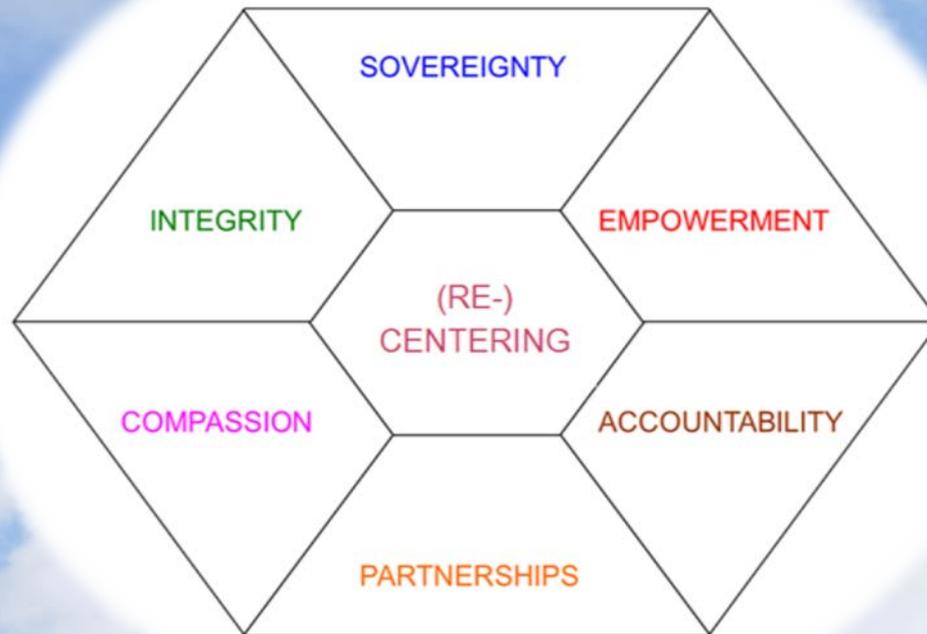


DASH Mission

- 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.



DASH Model





Our Principles

- **Integrity** – Behaving consistently with the values you promote; striving to know yourself and behaving authentically.
- **Sovereignty** – Having the freedom and responsibility to determine what is right for yourself and be self-governing.
- **Empowerment** – Giving voice to your own power, and providing the tools to help others recognize and access their power.
- **Accountability** – Being responsible for maintaining a set of professional standards, keeping clear boundaries between yourself and your work.
- **Partnerships** – Having mutually cooperative and respectful relationships with all who are doing the work, including program participants, service providers, investors, and the community.
- **Compassion** – Having empathy for others who are affected by misfortune, and working to understand and help them.
- **(Re-)Centering** – Finding the clarity, focus, and wherewithal to balance competing demands and pressures on us; having the ability to respond the way you choose in the face of change, working to keep grounded in the midst of chaos.



Domestic Violence statistics for the District of Columbia 2015

- 34,966 domestic violence-related calls were made to MPD, in 2015. (1 call every 15 minutes)
- 5,505 petitions for Civil Protection Orders were filed in court in 2015
- 5,867 people sought help at the court's Domestic Violence Intake Centers
- 27% of homeless families in DC report a history of domestic violence in 2015, with 15% currently homeless due to domestic incident

And average of 510 people are seen by various DV service providers monthly



DASH Programs

- **Cornerstone Housing Program**

A low-barrier facility for victim-centered housing in a 43- unit apartment building that we opened in 2010. Our Cornerstone program provides survivors and families with transitional and emergency housing.

Cornerstone is a space that is physically accessible to all survivors of sexual and domestic violence and provides a peaceful sanctuary from abuse.

- **Community Housing Programs (CHPs)**

- Housing Resource Center
- Empowerment Project Program
- Survivor Resilience Fund (SRF)
- HOPWA Empowerment Project
- Elder Services



Community Housing Programs

- Housing Resource Center
- Empowerment Project Program
- Empowerment Project (HOPWA)
- Survivor Resilience Fund (SRF)
- Elder Services
- DHS Collaboration
- Technical Assistance and Training



Homelessness Prevention Efforts

Housing Resource Center

The Housing Resource Center (HRC) is the hub of DASH's efforts to prevent homelessness among domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. We assist participants in identifying safe and affordable housing options, completing housing applications, obtaining safety transfers, navigating the public housing system, and making connections to community services. Survivors can conduct housing searches and work one-on-one with Housing advocates.

We Offer the following:

- Safe and confidential office location (appointments only)
- Weekly Housing Clinic located in a discreet location
- Partnerships with DC Volunteers Lawyers Project and My Sister's Place
- Co-located at the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center



How HRC Assists Survivors

- about 10% of calls are to provide TA to non DV service providers
- about 10% of calls are regarding homelessness unrelated to DV/SA
- about 10% of calls need housing crisis support
- about 15% of calls are about safety transfers or maintaining current housing
- about 55% of calls are about Cornerstone or other transitional housing programs

Monthly Average

- 40-50 survivors seek assistance monthly from HRC and Virginia Williams Family Resource Center
- 15 housing placements monthly (transitional, RRH, shelter, units in the community)



CHPs Programs

The Empowerment Project (EP)

Is a 2-year transitional to permanent scattered site housing program for survivors of domestic violence with a focus on safe stable housing and financial independence. Currently 15 families are in EP. Apartments are leased by landlords directly to participants with a subsidy paid by DASH. At the end of the program, residents assume paying the rent and able to remain in their units.

- Home Visitation
- Financial Education
- Tenant Rights and Responsibilities
- Self-Care and Parenting Skills
- Referrals and Resources



Empowerment Project (HOPWA) Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS

(HOPWA) is a 2 year transitional to permanent scattered site housing program for survivors of domestic violence with a focus on safe stable housing and financial independence. Currently the program is able to provide housing assistance and support for 17 survivors and their families. Single survivors are eligible as well. Apartments are leased by landlords directly to participants with a subsidy paid by DASH. At the end of the program, survivors assume paying the rent and are able to remain in their unit. Survivors must be living with HIV/AIDS, and all housing must be in the District of Columbia.



Empowerment Project (HOPWA)

- HUD's Office of HIV/AIDS housing to provide housing assistance for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS
- Must have dual diagnosis (Domestic violence and HIV/AIDS)
- Provide rental subsidy for 2 years & supportive home-based advocacy
- Collaborating with organizations that work the HIV/AIDS populations (Greater Washington Urban League, Housing Counseling Services and The Women's Collective)
- Working in the community to bring awareness about DV and the intersection of HIV/AIDS
- Creating and fostering relationships with service providers to increase referrals, share information, and provide learning opportunities



Survivor Resilience Fund

(SRF) is a flexible spending fund that provides emergency cash assistance to help survivors address needs which might threaten their (permanent) housing. The average grant amount has is between \$1,000-2,500 dollars. Grants have been awarded for major car repairs, rental debt, and credit repair to name a few.

- Funds and resources are based on availability
- Prevents survivors from entering/re-entering into the cycle of homelessness
- Is accessible to HRC survivors as well as Cornerstone residents
- Advocates work with survivors to identify resources and assistance that may be available in the community.



Elder Services

New initiative added to CHPs FY17. CHPs has partnered with the Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVR CDC) to assist survivors of Elder Abuse.

Providing Assistance with:

- Legal services
- Safety Needs/Service Plans
- Emergency and Transitional Housing
- Supportive Counseling
- Goal setting



DHS Collaboration

DASH staff is co-located at the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center(VWFRC). It is operated the same way as our Housing Resource Center. (Survivors are referred by DHS workers)

- Technical Assistance for DHS Staff and Co-located Service Providers
- Monthly Training and Professional Development
- Housing Options
- Landlord and Property Search's
- Housing Placements (Transitional/Shelter)
- Rapid Re-Housing



Technical Assistance and Training

DASH envisions a community where survivors have a multitude of safe housing options so that regardless where a survivor turns for help, they will be met by service providers who can provide information and support that directly addresses the impact of abuse.

CHPs plays an important role of educating service organizations, workers, first responders, hotline workers, community partners and allies for change on how to work from a trauma informed lens to serve, advocate and support survivors.



Common Myths About DASH

- We operate a 24 hour hotline
- We are an emergency housing provider
- We have an intake process and wait list
- We can get survivors on DC Housing Authority waitlists
- We have DV specific housing vouchers
- We can guarantee housing



Golden Nuggets

- Survivors may react in very different ways-there is no “right” way to present as a survivor
- Survivors are male, female and transgender; of all ages and incomes, of all races and religions
- Survivors are often good at hiding what’s happening to them, they may not know if they can trust you to share what they are experiencing
- Domestic and sexual violence is extremely traumatic-it can be very hard for a survivor to share anything about their experience or even identify themselves as a survivor
- You may be the first person they tell; your reaction can determine whether they tell someone else or get help.

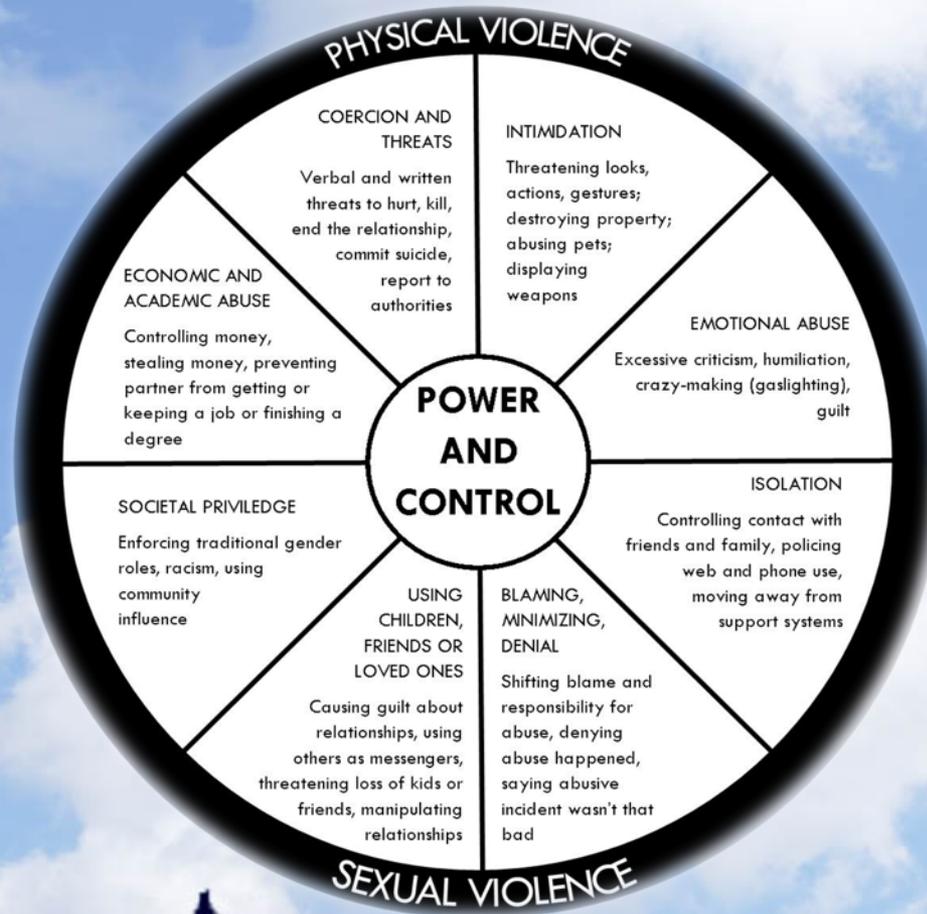


How to Support Survivors

- BELIEVE them
- Safety planning
- Understand how hard/complicated it is to leave an abusive relationship
- Be open-minded about trauma and possible triggers for the survivor
- Be prepared with resources
- Respect that they are the authority on their own lives
- Do not close yourself off as a resource/source of support
- Understand that children have experienced trauma as well



Power & Control





Local DV/SA Resources

My Sister's Place

SAFE

Crime Victims Compensation Program

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Network for Victim Recovery

DC Volunteers Lawyers Project

DEAF DAWN

Asian/Pacific Islander DV Resource Project

DC Rape Crisis Center

The Women's Center

Men Can Stop Rape



Brainstorming Activity

DASH as an organization strives to be survivor centered, trauma informed with a low barrier practices. For us to continue to be innovators and leaders in the DV/SA field we have to bridge the gap between with community partners and allies for change.

How do we do that?

Activity: Using the colored sticky notes that you were given at the beginning of the training. Think of ways that you feel that DASH can build a partnership with your organization and the population served.



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