GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND SAFETY IN THE HOME DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Wednesday, June 17 at 11:00am est

ZOOM LINK: https://hsph.me/299

Dr. Karestan Koenen Hosts:

Lily Kay Ross - University of Otago
Peg Hacskaylo - National Alliance for Safe Housing
Gudrun Burnet - Standing Together

HARVARD T.H. CHAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Safe Housing Practices during COVID

Updated 6/17/20

Presenter
Peg Hacskaylo,
National Alliance for Safe Housing
Coping with COVID and DV

• Increased demand for services due to spike in DV exacerbated by lockdowns and economic downturn
• Communal shelters working to prevent infection and spread of coronavirus in programs
• Housing providers turning to DV shelters for assistance due to increase in DV in homeless programs
• Hotel placements for survivors may not be an option in areas where hotels are being reserved for hospital or homeless overflow
• Budget cuts resulting in furloughs and layoffs which result in fewer staff to respond to increased demand
• Programs may need to conduct frequent deep-cleaning of facilities
• Staff functioning operating in shifts, remotely, and are often working without necessary PPE
How COVID Crisis Affects Organization’s Ability to Support Survivors

- Reduced shelter capacity: 43%
- Increased demand for non-shelter services: 34%
- Housing more survivors in hotel or other off-property settings: 35%
- Shifting to virtual advocacy activities: 63%
- Enhanced safety planning for survivors: 58%
- Survivors more fearful about seeking help: 40%
- Increased need for food resources: 59%
- Increased need for financial resources: 62%
- Increased need for healthcare resources: 28%
- Increased need for childcare resources: 40%
- Not sure: 4%
- Other (please describe): 7%
Biggest challenges your organization faces in meeting survivors’ needs

- Not enough direct service staffing: 17
- Low staff morale: 9
- Limited Community Resources: 56
- Limited alternative housing options: 58
- Lack of existing policies/procedures for...: 6
- Increased difficulty with staying in...: 36
- Few COVID information resources for...: 14
- Not sure: 8
- Other (please describe): 8
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working more hours</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff reductions</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not having adequate PPE (personal)</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming infected with COVID 19</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caregiving responsibilities at home</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inability to work remotely because of caregiving at home</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inability to work remotely due to unforeseen obstacles</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough communication/support</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please describe):</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Safe Housing for Survivors Now More than Ever

1. Access to services with minimal barriers and bureaucracy
2. Advocacy and support in the community untethered to shelter
3. Survivor choice to select the supports that are most useful and safe
4. Safety planning which is dynamic and broadly focused
5. Flexible financial assistance to maintain safety and housing stability
6. Individualized services without rigid time limits, rules, or expectations
7. Safe housing options in a variety of different settings
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
Thank you!

Peg Hacskaylo
Founder/CEO

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The Coordinated Community Response and COVID 19

Gudrun Burnet, CEO @GudrunBurnet
Standing Together @STagainstDV
Every agency who has a responsibility for safely supporting victims of violence against women and girls and their children within their own agency AND with all the other agencies who also have that responsibility in order to secure the safety of the victim and their children and hold perpetrators to account.

The process by which this work is integrated and managed is known as the CCR.
Standing Together and COVID-19

- How are people accessing support?
  Police, neighbours, pharmacies, maternity services, supermarkets, online
- Increased demand to Refuge - national helplines and Women’s Aid live chat
- Mobile advocacy – cases more complex and resource intensive
- Housing options depleted
- Best practice guidance for housing, health, Multi agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and Criminal Justice
Examples of best practice:

1. Mayor’s office and specialist agencies - £1.5 Million

2. Housing First and Multiple disadvantages -

3. Surge – move on –Linking refuges and housing
   [https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/resources/information-on-covid-19/](https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/resources/information-on-covid-19/)
Support professionals and the community to confront domestic abuse with confidence

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