



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)

GENERAL MEETING

NOTES

Tuesday, November 21st, 2023; 12pm to 2pm (Pacific Time)

The California Endowment

1000 Alameda St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

DVC MISSION

The Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council (DVC) provides leadership in the creation and support of a victim/survivor-centered, countywide, and coordinated approach to educate, prevent, and respond to domestic/intimate partner violence.

DVC Chair

Lan Pham, DVC Executive Director

DVC Staff:

Cindy Hernandez, DVC Admin. Assistant

Meeting Attendees: The meeting was attended by 80 community members; including 18 attendees who participated remotely and 62 joined the meeting in person.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Lan Pham welcomed attendees and acknowledged that November was National Homeless Awareness Month. She provided an overview of the agenda and introduced presenters.

II. PRESENTATION: LA COUNTY WOMEN'S NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Amy Turk, Chief Executive Officer of the Downtown Women's Center and Sofia Herrera, Research Partner with the HUB for Urban Initiatives presented. (See November 2023 DVC General Meeting PPT Slides.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q: One of my questions is that I did not see anything about how many women veterans you had on your chart.

A: That's a very good question. I can tell you that there were not many. It was not even 5% so we did not encounter women who were veterans in our sample.

Q: I want to ask if you asked if the women were experiencing trafficking, and if you have status on that information?

A: We do not have any more information than what is in the report. We had a whole scale of victimization in the report which goes into a lot more detail when it comes to (human trafficking), but we did not expand on questions about sexual assault. That's the next step of the research. It's our agenda for the future. We had a 30 to 45 min. interview, and this was also done with volunteers who were very sensitive. In fact, we had 124 volunteers at around probably 40+ sites. We needed to be careful when asking those questions when it came to safety and all of that. But that's the next step in the research.

Q: You were talking about barriers to housing. What about women who do not have dependent children?

A: The whole study is about women who do not have children. Some women who had housing wanted to get housing so they can get their children back.

Q: What about older women with dependent children?

A: Most of the women were older. It's a constant challenge. They are experiencing the same challenges as other people are. We are lucky to have Downtown Women's Center and other service providers such as LAHSA. We want to explore what it means to age in grace once housed? That's the next phase of the research.

Most participants are people in their 50s and 60s. They need appropriate health intervention. We now know that younger people are homeless and stay street for a number of years until they are in their 50s/60s.

Q: When discussing barriers, was there a distinction between DV and homeless shelters?

A: There are differences. We were looking into homelessness side of things. When we interviewed, we were speaking to women who were homeless. Research on DV survivors who are homeless is another research project. We did go to DV shelters yet the rates for DV is high in the homeless population. 13% reported that they had lived in a DV shelter. There's a report by UCFS with a similar rate.

Q: We are seeing that homeless people are seeking DV shelters so this impact the available beds for those who

are actively fleeing. I left managing DV Housing First Program. I see inflation impact the number of clients we can serve. There is a lack of housing, and the cost is almost tripled. DV agencies must decide on who to take in based on lack of capacity. Those decisions are made depending on how recent the violence has occurred.

Q: Any data on ppl who are disabled?

A: 61% had a disability and received benefits in the amount of \$840. We asked about vision, mental health, hearing, etc.

Q: To what do we attribute the ongoing over representation of Black/AA women who are homeless? I have been hearing overrepresentation of Black/AA for years. Do you have any thoughts about that?

A: LAHSA convened the Black ppl experiencing homelessness ad hoc committee. Data showed that women were being placed into housing proportionate to the percentage experiencing but leave housing faster than any other group. The Mayor's Office partnered with Skid Row community to try to change that. We've done a lot of work on trauma-informed care training, and a lot more on hiring around Peer Specialists and culturally responsive programming. That data has not been re-evaluated since then, but obviously, we still know that's a huge problem and we need to keep responding appropriately. Therefore, this research is helpful in pushing the envelope.

III. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMELESS SERVICES COALITION

Amy Turk, Chief Executive Officer of the Downtown Women's Center presented on the work of the LA Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC). (See November 2023 DVC General Meeting PPT Slides.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q: Is this being driven by LAHSA? The last ED tried to get front line staff to receive salary increases and the Commission turned it down.

A: LAHSA is at the DVHSC because they're incredibly helpful in systems change, but the group is not led by LAHSA. Statewide and nationwide, LAHSA is uniquely more resourced at the intersectionality of DV than any other continuum of care. Not related to the point about salaries, but very helpful, and it needs more support as we make sure that DV survivors are not blocked from the resources that are provided.

IV. PRESENTATION: COUNTYWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOMELESSNESS COORDINATION

Sarah Whitman, Domestic Violence Systems Coordinator of the LA Homeless Services Authority presented on the LA county domestic violence and homelessness coordination. (See November 2023 DVC General Meeting PPT Slides.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q: What happens when we refer a client to a specific Spa and they're not getting the help needed, or they are not being assisted to a CES agency? I have encountered a lot of incidents at shelters. Sometimes emergency clients did not get assistance. Now that I'm working in a different setting, I've referred, and they said that they're no funding.

A: There are different nuances to your questions. We may need to provide more training and assistance to homeless providers. Survivors should be referred to any Spa. If you're having trouble, reach out to your Regional DV Coordinator. Sometimes there is a lack of funding. Sometimes clients may do better with other options. You can always reach out to me.

Q: It's frustrating that clients are being bounced back and forth. Can you provide me the contact for the Regional Coordinator?

A: Sometimes funding runs out at the end of the fiscal year. We can also support if you need resources strategize.

Q: We're having all these conversations about Coordinated Entry System. I know that the lack of availability of beds for DV emergency is only 30-45 days. We need to connect with second step entities for longer term housing. I'm hearing the same that the second step programs are maxed out. What are we doing to educate the second stability step? There's more and more need that is impacted and depleted.

A: LAHSA is moving people from emergency to permanent housing as fast as possible with wrap around case management. We need housing navigation. This is where we need community support to tell City/County/HUD that we need more support for survivors. We need to focus on the through put and placing people into permanent housing.

Q: I saw a lot of mention of different data collection methods. Are resources in development for male survivors? We also want to see some stats.

A: Our program, we don't discriminate. Housing Navigation and other programs are for everyone. The DV stats are not broken down by gender. When we get the data, it's not broken down in that way.

Q: Just for clarification, when we are doing needs assessment, it's always saying women's needs assessment. We want to move away from gender-biases. It's still excluding male survivors and it drives away male and

LGBTQIA+. Just want to bring this up. We want to shift the narrative a little bit.

A: We have seen a strong increase for unaccompanied women. LAHSA data does not specify women or men/gender. API DV Institute and LAHSA are working together to improve our response. As a group, we can brainstorm and discuss this. Sometimes women turned down shelter because there are men there.

V. UPDATE: DVC'S SHELTER/HOUSING COMMITTEE

Krysta Warfield & Veronica Sandoval, Co-Chairs of the DVC Shelter Directors Committee provided an overview of the work of the Committee and updates.

The Committee is a public space for homeless providers, systems providers to come and discuss barriers. Krysta and Veronica encourage decision makers to attend Committee meetings so that the collective can make decisions on addressing barriers. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024. The meeting will be back to back with Interfaith Committee.

VI. PRESENTATION: COUNTYWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOMELESSNESS COORDINATION

Nicolle Perras, Health Analyst II with LA County Dept. of Public Health – Office of Women's Health provided an overview and update of the October 3rd Board Action, "Addressing Physical Safety and Mental Health for Women Fleeing Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, and Human Trafficking." (See November 2023 DVC General Meeting PPT Slides.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q: It would be nice for the transportation option to have folks trained. Sometimes staff, facilities, and sites, can be compromised. If I'm a cab driver, I may not care about the safety of the passenger. We need a conversation with Life and the vendors. It must be a realistic conversation because there are a lot of risk factors. What can be done?

Q: The main concern that I have is if there are any conversation between County and City about building more mental health facilities. It's so low on what the needs are. There are concerns about the mental health situation. Where are we supposed to take them to get the help necessary? Meetings on where and what can be done?

A: Part of this motion is asking collaboration with Dept. of Mental health. Addressing not only capacity but also wait time. After intake, when does service start? We must work very closely with the mental health dept.

Q: I want to add about transportation. We have a special account for transportation. It would be great to get an Uber card. I would appreciate to get a Lyft and Uber card; wherever client feels safe to be picked up. It's challenging to send car to where the DV is occurring. It's also challenging to not let driver know where DV agencies are because of confidentiality. We use the Life Program but for something else. What can be done?

Q: I want to add to this about County funds. The use of language line and how incompetent they are. It's difficult to have the information shared in client's language and not inferred in the language they're suppose to be interpreting. Language line should not be a barrier, but interpreters are inferring opinions and promising housing and services which is not correct. What can be done about this?

A: We are having conversation with the Language Access in our dept.

Q: We have huge problem. There will never be enough shelters. We must start on the prevention aspect of this. There's no talk on prevention. We must go that way.

A: The DVC historically has been pushing for prevention. We need prevention. This is something that we have been reiterating to the board. Please feel free to reach out and express need and lack.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lan Pham shared that there will not be a General DVC meeting for the month of December 2023. **The next DVC General Membership meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, 2024.** However, there will be several special DVC meetings held before the January DVC General Membership Meeting. A handout was distributed with dates/times for the meeting.

Please note that some of the following dates/times below are different than what was shared at the meeting:

DATE/TIME	MEETING	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MEETING RESULTS
CONFIRMED: Thursday, December 7th, 2023, 1:00pm – 2:00pm	DVC Discussion: DVC Black/African American Caucus	DVC Co-Chairs and members of Association of Black Social Workers meet to discuss potential for DVC Black/African American Caucus. INVITEES: DVC Co-Chairs and Representative of Association of Black Social Workers.	MS Teams	Attendees discuss options and strategies for DVC to better integrate/ highlight/ address the unique needs and gaps in ending gender-based violence in the Black/African American Community.
CONFIRMED: Tuesday, December 12th, 2023, 9:00am – 4:00pm	DVC Co-Chairs Retreat	DVC Co-Chairs meet for annual retreat to review 2023 and plan for 2024. INVITEES: DVC Co-Chairs and DPH Bureau of Health Promotion Directors.	In-person; CA Endowment	DVC Co-Chairs confirm 2024/2025 draft workplan and identify next steps.
UPDATED: Thursday, December 14th, 2023, 10:00am – 12:00pm	DVC Discussion: Implications of VOCA reduction on LA County’s Coordinated Community Response.	DVC shares out data collected from DVC members on impact of VOCA funding reductions for community feedback/ discussion. REGISTER FOR MEETING BY 12/11/23 via email: dvc@ph.lacounty.gov; SUBJECT: REGISTRATION – DVC VOCA	MS TEAMS	Attendees are informed on potential impact and discuss options and opportunities for stop gap funding.
UPDATED: Thursday, December 14th, 2023, 1:00pm – 3:00pm	Access to Advocacy: Needs and Gaps for Immigrant Survivors of DV	DVC shares out result of August 2023 listening sessions and proposal to launch quarterly “Access to Advocacy” meetings to improve access for all survivors, especially those from historically marginalized communities. INVITEES: DVC members, key system stakeholders, service providers, survivors, and the public. REGISTER FOR MEETING BY 12/11/23 via email: dvc@ph.lacounty.gov; SUBJECT: REGISTRATION – DVC ACCESS TO ADVOCACY	MS TEAMS	Attendees are informed on needs and gaps; and opportunity to identify and discuss potential solutions. This works feeds up to DVC 2024/2025 workplan.
UPDATED: Friday, December 15th, 2023, 10:00am – 12:00pm	DV and Child Maltreatment	DVC Members meet to discuss standing up DV and Child Maltreatment Workgroup. REGISTER FOR MEETING BY 12/11/23 via email: dvc@ph.lacounty.gov; SUBJECT: REGISTRATION – DVC CHILD MALTREATMENT	MS Teams	Attendees review DVC issued report released on December 2022; and discuss next steps

VIII. CLOSING

Lan thanked presenters and attendees. She announced that information about 2024 DVC General Membership and Committee meeting dates, times, and locations will be posted via the DVC webpage in December 2023. The link to the webpage is as follows: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dvcouncil/calendar/calendar.htm>

Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.