

The logo for the Center for Victim Research features the text "CENTER for VICTIM RESEARCH" in a blue, sans-serif font. The word "for" is smaller and positioned between "CENTER" and "VICTIM". The text is enclosed within a stylized, curved graphic element that resembles a protective shield or a supportive arch, with a dark blue outer curve and a lighter blue inner curve. A thin horizontal line is positioned below the text.

CENTER for
VICTIM RESEARCH

Building an evidence base for victim services

How the Center for Victim Research is Supporting Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Evaluation

American Evaluation Association

November 2019

Acknowledgements

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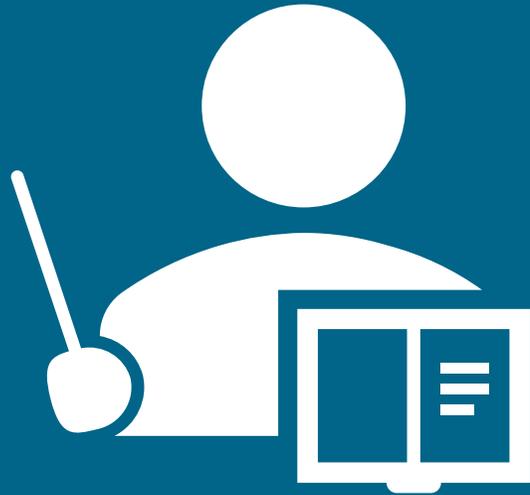


CENTER for VICTIM RESEARCH

- CVR is a one-stop resource for victim service providers and researchers to connect and share knowledge
 - ✓ User-friendly website
 - ✓ Library of victim research
 - ✓ Directory of researchers
 - ✓ Free research TA
 - ✓ State-of-the-field syntheses
 - ✓ Fellowships, podcasts & more
- Partnership of researchers and practitioners



What do we mean by
“researcher-practitioner”?



Researcher

Academic
Independent Consultant
Government
Nonprofit



Practitioner

Direct Service Provider
Funding Decisionmaker
Membership Organization
Subject Matter Expert

Groundwork for Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Victim Services

Major funding increases for victim services

Demand for an evidence base

Concerns with protecting victims in research

Value of practitioner experiential knowledge

Building a Researcher-Practitioner Partnership

PARTNERSHIP
Funding needs
Level of involvement



COMMUNICATION
Develop shared goals
Modify as needed

DISSEMINATION
Invite all stakeholders
Translate for different audiences

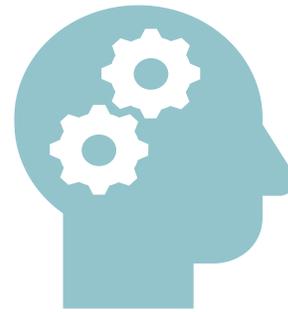
DATA COLLECTION
Gain access
Assess quality and completeness

What Results? A Mutually Beneficial Partnership



OPPORTUNITY FOR A LONG-LASTING PARTNERSHIP

- Funding available
- Need for evidence



CROSS-LEARNING

- Research skills
- Victim services knowledge



INFORMED AND USABLE DATA AND RESEARCH

- Buy-in from stakeholders
- Translated

Victims of Crime Act Administrators and Statistical Analysis Centers

VOCA-SAC Partnerships

Funded 12 VOCA-SAC Partnerships



IOWA
Rapid Rehousing Program: Process
Evaluation and Evaluability
Assessment



MAINE
A Partnership to Enhance Victim
Services: Evaluating Somerset House

Iowa Project

Janelle Melohn, MPA

Director, Crime Victim Assistance Division

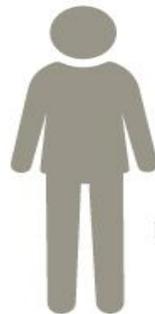
Iowa Attorney General's Office

2013 Iowa Victim Service Program Restructure Priorities

- Greater focus on stand alone, comprehensive sexual assault services
- Mobile advocacy-meeting victims where they are
- Housing First service model

HOUSING *first*

EMERGENCY CARE



EMPLOYMENT



HEALTH



TAX PAYER COST SAVINGS

STABILITY



**Image Courtesy of Father Bill's & MainSpring Homelessness Program, MA*

Housing Options

Short Term

- Traditional bricks and mortar shelter
- Hotel/Motel
- Safe Homes

Long Term

- Maintain Current Housing
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

Rapid Re-Housing



Identify and secure housing quickly



Provide short term rent assistance, relocation and/or basic living costs

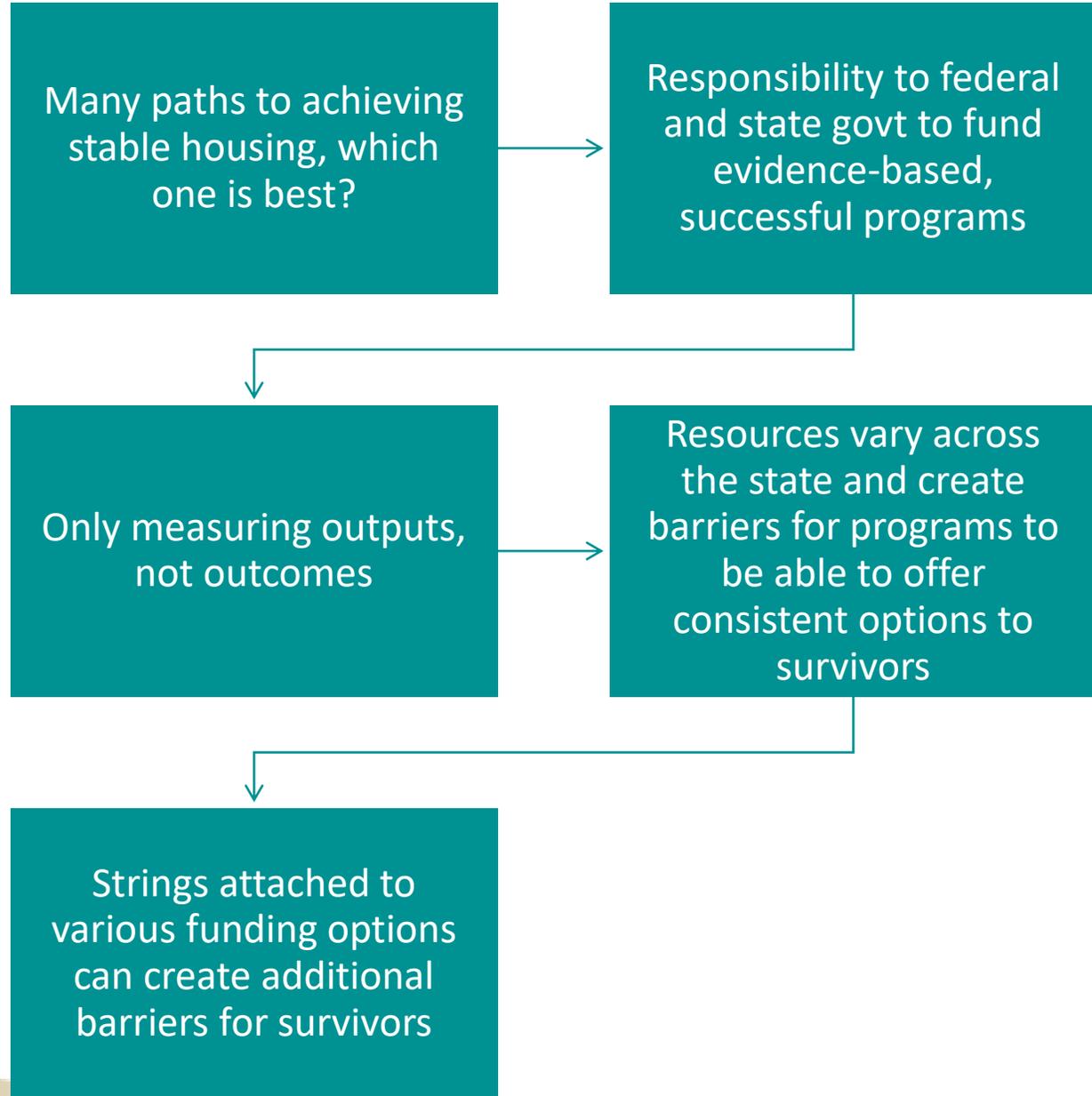


Identify needs and provide comprehensive services



If necessary, connect individual to collaborative community partners

Problems?



Project Idea



FRIENDS[™]
of the **FAMILY**

Take Back Tomorrow. Today.

Deliverables



1. LOGIC MODEL



2. PROCESS
EVALUATION



3. EVALUABILITY
ASSESSMENT

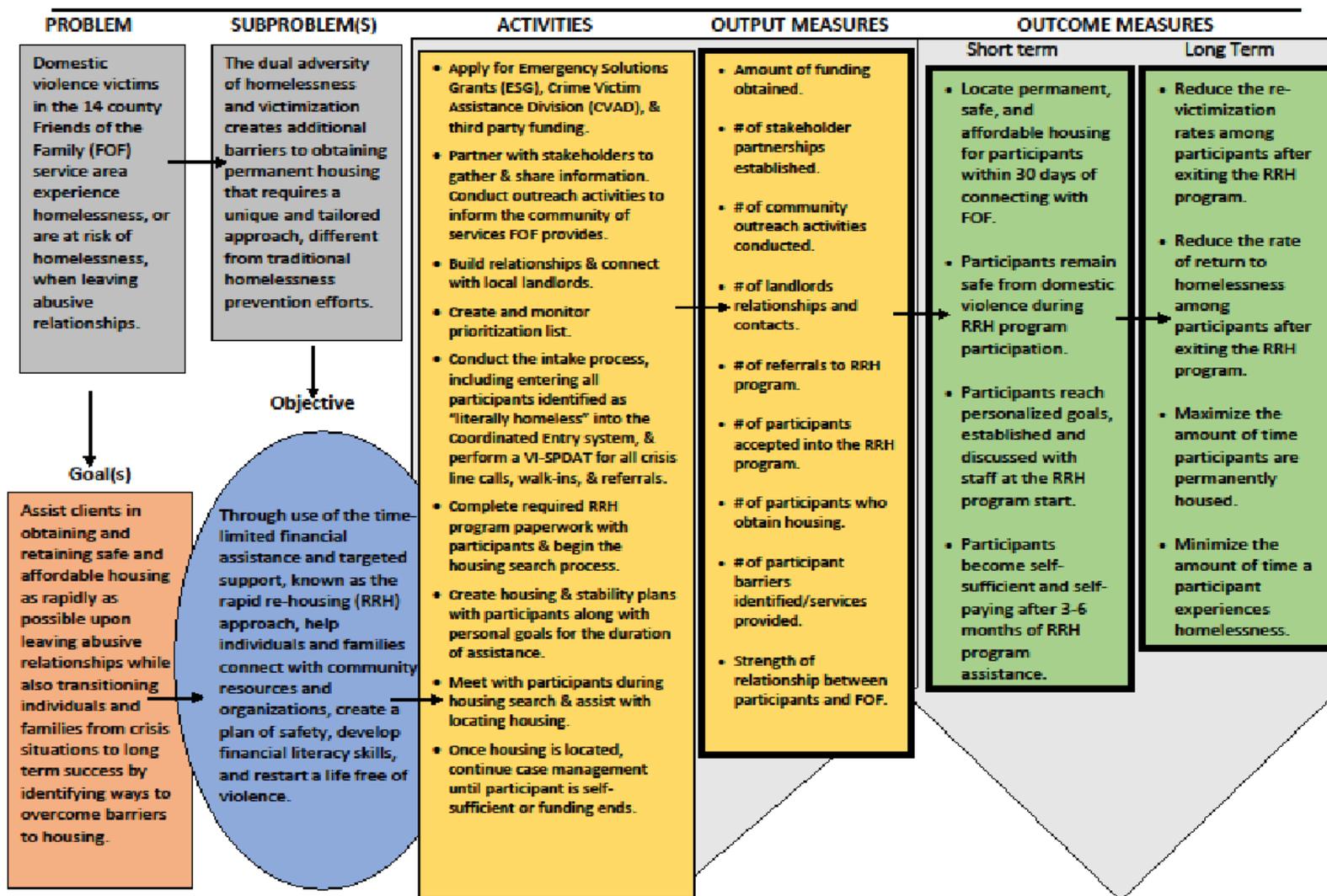


4. REVIEW OF NATIONAL
RAPID RE-HOUSING
PERFORMANCE MEASURES;
ANALYZATION OF FOF'S DATA
COLLECTION IN COMPARISON
WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS



5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
MODIFICATIONS TO CURRENT
DATA COLLECTION AND
REPORTING TO ENHANCE
REPORTING ABILITIES

FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM – LOGIC MODEL FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PARTICIPANTS





Takeaways

- Evaluating services is nearly impossible if the right data hasn't been captured
- Early partnerships with research and service practitioners is vital
- Revamping state reports with goal of higher quality, more accurate data that can be evaluated over time for successes and limitations
- There are both strengths and limitations of the FoF Rapid Re-housing model

Rapid Rehousing for Domestic Violence Victims

A Formative Evaluation

Family Violence Project Services

- Helpline,
- Advocacy work, including court advocacy,
- Support groups,
- Prevention & training programs,
- Children's work,
- Menswork, a program that works directly with abusers who want to change their behavior,
- **Shelter & supportive housing, including the Somerset Healthy Recovery House**

Somerset Healthy Recovery House

- DV shelter for women with addiction and their children
 - Provides comprehensive supports for clients with complex trauma histories and extensive involvement in the criminal justice and child protective systems.
 - Relationship-based approach
 - Staff intensive in short-term
 - **Shows early successes with complicated clients who historically have not responded to interventions.**

Why this approach?

- Recognition: not sufficiently meeting the needs of DV survivors with addiction with traditional DV shelter approach.
- **Each client has specific set of needs that should be considered and addressed simultaneously**
 - Homeless shelters address issues around housing.
 - Community mental health agencies address mental health and substance abuse issues.
 - Physicians address medical issues.
 - Welfare agencies address financial needs.
 - Child Protective Services focus on the wellbeing of children.

Somerset Healthy Recovery House

- While each of these systems set out to support clients, navigating those systems concurrently is often beyond the capacity of any person in crisis.
- SH advocates provide wrap-around support to clients while they negotiate these often-complex systems.

Somerset Healthy Recovery House

- Small program, serving five victims and their children, 11 total beds.
- Smallness = flexibility
 - Provide individualized services and address clients/families' complex needs
- FVP previously ran a domestic violence shelter in SH's current location, with procedures much like those in other DV shelters.
 - Clients frequently asked to leave the program because of drug or alcohol use while at shelter.
 - We knew these same clients often faced serious safety risks.
 - They had no other safe place to go and no access to substance abuse treatment.

Somerset Healthy Recovery House History

- Clients who had been asked to leave shelter because of drug or alcohol use were invited to participate in a focus group
 - Shared what supports would have increased the likelihood of shelter meeting their needs.
- Feedback used as core of FVP's proposal to the Office of Violence Against Women to fund a pilot program to shelter DV survivors with addiction and their children.
- SH partners with Kennebec Behavioral Health, a community mental health agency, to provide intensive outpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment.

Somerset Healthy Recovery House

- Homelike atmosphere
- Environment conducive to recovery and wellbeing.
- Groups focusing on financial literacy, parenting and domestic violence.
- Support navigating the medical system, addressing legal issues, establishing new healthy recreational interests, promoting healthy diet and exercise, as well as issues specific to client or family.

Somerset Healthy Recovery House

- Clients receive domestic violence advocacy, highly individualized intensive outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment, transportation
- Childcare during treatment
- Trauma-informed interventions such as yoga and mindfulness trainings, could help clients increase self-efficacy, tolerance for discomfort and stress reduction
- Strong collaborative relationships with other professionals (clinicians, physicians, law enforcement, and child protective services).

Maine Housing's Emergency Shelter and Housing Assistance Program (ESHAP)

- ESHAP:
 - Shelter Operations Share (Operation Share): available to agencies that have a fixed facility, and is for reimbursement for costs to operate the facility including staffing.
 - Rapid Re-housing/Long-term Stayer and Stabilization Share (Stabilization Share): available to agencies to provide Navigator services necessary to help clients achieve permanent stable housing.
 - Incentives and Performance Share (Performance Share): available to agencies as an incentive to achieve specific performance measure outcomes
 - In addition, Maine State Housing also provides rental subsidies.
- Rapid Re-housing is considered the best practice when serving homeless persons.

Because of the complexity of the people FVP serves, is rapid re-housing is the best practice for Somerset House clients?

Maine SAC Collaboration

- *For domestic violence survivors who have multiple needs and are still building internal and external supports, when or how soon should survivors be transferred from emergency shelter to permanent housing?*
 - Develop a **program evaluation** framework that includes the development of outcomes (initial, intermediate, and long-term), performance indicators, a **logic model**, and program **theory of change**.
 - Determine what **data are already being collected**, and what **new data sources need to be created** to address the outcomes included in the framework.
 - *To come...Analyze process and outcome level data to describe how Somerset House residents fare once they move into permanent housing.*

Theory of Change

1. Results Statement (Vision)

The population-level condition you are trying to address

Theory of Change

1. Results Statement (Vision)
Domestic violence survivors with co-occurring addiction issues will live in stable, secure housing free from violence and addiction

Theory of Change

1. Results Statement (Vision)

*Domestic violence survivors with co-occurring addiction issues will live in stable, **safe**, secure housing, and remain sober*

2. Root Causes

The factors and issues that drive and contribute to the population-level condition

2. Root Cause Analysis

Survivors experience setbacks, addiction relapses, or struggle to maintain housing because...

2. Root Cause Analysis

Survivors experience setbacks, addiction relapses, or struggle to maintain housing because...

Past, ongoing, and intergenerational trauma and abuse...abusers continue to abuse...challenges are not addressed or supported by family, peers, service providers, criminal justice systems, or the community...may not have opportunity to develop job skills or continue with their education...barriers exist to accessing services...not enough affordable, safe housing ...easy access to drugs and alcohol...critical shortage of substance abuse treatment...treatment unaffordable to many...rural area.

Theory of Change

1. Results Statement (Vision)

Domestic violence survivors with co-occurring addiction issues will live in stable, safe, secure housing, and remain sober

2. Root Causes

Survivors experience setbacks, relapse, or struggle to maintain housing because of complex needs, barriers to accessing systems, and lack of wrap-around support

3. Strategies (Mission)

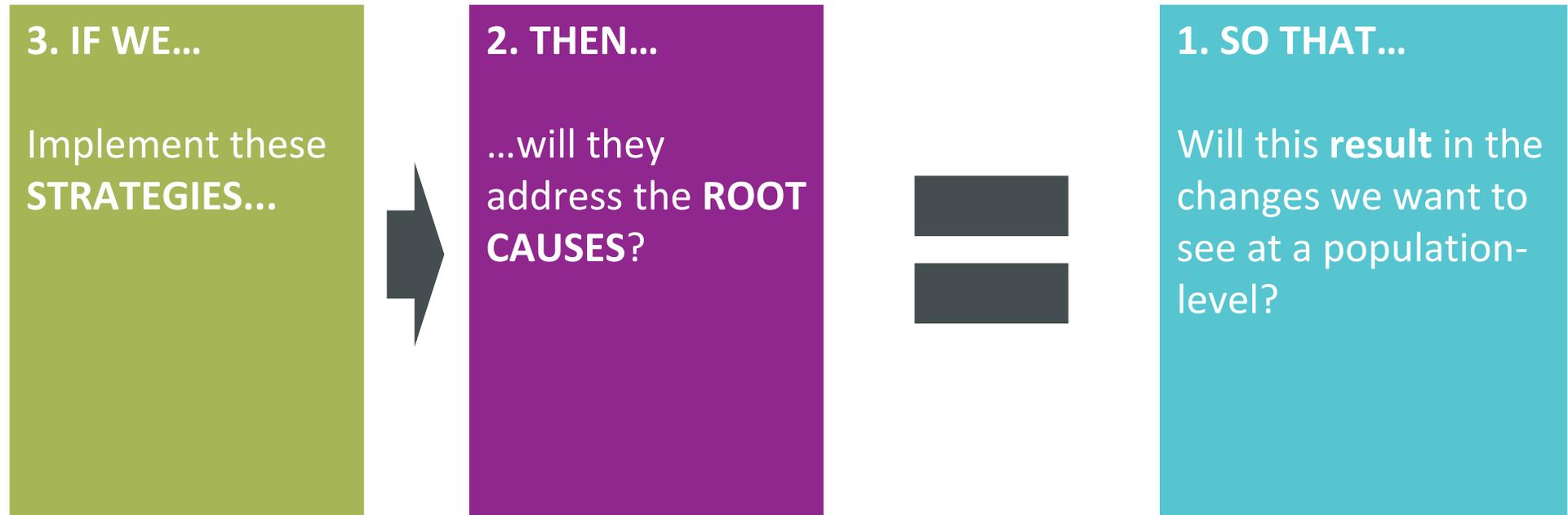
Specific interventions that address the root causes

3. Strategies

Specific interventions
that address the root
causes

- Prioritize relationships with survivors to develop a trusting, welcoming space.
- Create individual education and support plans for survivors while they are in shelter and beyond.
- Provide access to treatment and recovery services.
- Promote trauma-informed care to empower survivors through their treatment and beyond.
- Provide education on dynamics of domestic violence and trauma to survivors.
- Encourage and build community partnerships.

Somerset House Theory of Change



Somerset House Theory of Change

3. IF WE...

Prioritize relationships with survivors to develop a trusting, welcoming space...
Create individually focused education and support plans for clients...
Provide wrap-around holistic services addressing DV trauma, substance abuse treatment AND housing....



2. THEN...

Survivors will experience fewer addiction relapses, setbacks and will be better prepared to find and maintain long-term housing...



1. SO THAT...

Domestic violence survivors with co-occurring addiction issues will live in stable, safe, secure housing, and remain sober.

Somerset House Logic Model

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-term outcomes	Intermediary outcomes	Long-term outcomes
Current agency resources	What needs to be done to implement your strategies?	How do we know we are doing the work?	What knowledge, skills, capacity or perceptions will change?	What behaviors, practices or systems will change?	What long-term population conditions will change?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency personnel (housing navigator, advocates, Director of Housing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case management Safety plans Monthly reviews with each survivor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of times transportation was provided # of survivors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survivors feel safe Survivors have knowledge of available supports (internal/external) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survivors learn decision-making skills Survivors have developed sober social supports in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survivors remain free from violence Survivors are stably housed
Resources	Implementation	Program counts	Program Measures	Program Measures	Population Indicators

Somerset House Data Inventory

- What **data** do you need to be able to track your **outputs** and **outcomes**?
- Do a **Data Inventory** to see what data you **HAVE**.

Sample Data Inventory

Output/Outcome	Metric	Source
Outputs		
<i>How many? How much?</i>		
# of times transportation was provided	# of times transportation was provided	EmpowerDB, already collect
Short-term Outcomes		
Survivors feel safe	#/% of victims who feel safe	Do not collect, can add to exit survey
Survivors have knowledge of available supports (internal/external)	#/% of victims who have knowledge of available supports	Do not collect, can add to exit survey
Survivors participate available treatment programs (substance abuse, mental health)	#/% of victims who participate in available treatment programs	Database only tracks referrals; Housing Navigator would know how many people attend. Everyone who is in Somerset House is required to attend some treatment or they will be moved somewhere else. However, we may want to know if they are attending all available treatment options while in shelter.
Intermediary Outcomes		
Survivors learn decision-making skills	#/% of victims who report learning decision-making skills	Do not collect, can add to exit survey
Survivors have developed sober social supports in the community - AA, for example	#/% of victims who report that they have developed sober social supports	Referrals and navigator services submitted into database
Long-term Outcomes		
Survivors remain free from violence	#/% of victims who report they have not experienced violence or abuse since leaving shelter	Currently do not collect. Housing Navigator 9-12 month follow-up survey (to be created)

Somerset House Exit Survey



Somerset House: *Exit Survey*

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey. The answers you provide will be extremely valuable in advocating for additional resources and support for both Family Violence Project and Somerset House. Your answers will be kept confidential.

1. To the best of your ability, please provide the date you entered Somerset House: _____
2. What is the date you are leaving Somerset House: _____

These questions ask you about how your feelings, perceptions, and knowledge have changed since entering Somerset House:

3. Since your stay in Somerset House, is your overall daily life better, the same, or worse?
 Better Same Worse
4. Since your stay in Somerset House, has the violence in your life increased, stayed the same, or decreased?
 Increased Stayed the same Decreased

Somerset House Follow-Up Survey

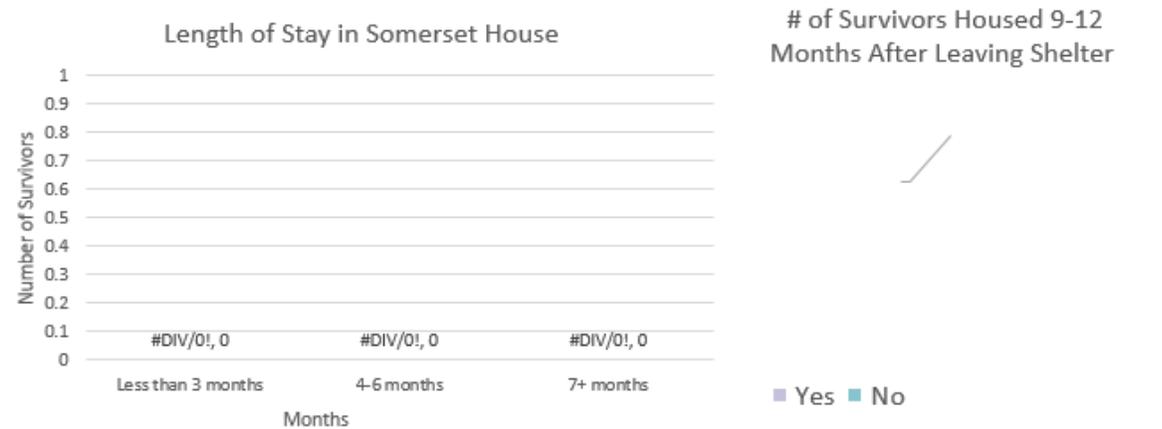
Thank you for taking time to fill out this survey. The answers you provide will be extremely valuable in advocating for additional resources and support for both Family Violence Project and Somerset House. Your answers will be kept confidential.

1. Were you employed when you entered Somerset House?
 Full-time (35+ hours per week) Part-time (<35 hours per week) Not employed
2. What is your current employment status?
 Full-time (35+ hours per week) Part-time (<35 hours per week) Not currently employed
3. Are you currently attending school?
 Yes No
4. Since leaving Somerset House, do you think you have healthier relationships with your family?
 Yes No I'm not sure

Somerset House Data Dashboard

For over 40 years, Family Violence Project (FVP) has worked in Maine to support victims of domestic violence across Kennebec and Somerset counties. Through the provision of comprehensive direct advocacy services, a twenty-four hour helpline, support groups, and crisis intervention for victims, FVP has built a strong coalition of committed individuals and partner agencies.

The mission of the Family Violence Project is to end domestic abuse in Kennebec and Somerset counties.



Limitations...

Thank you!



Muskie School of Public Service
University of Southern Maine



CENTER for VICTIM RESEARCH

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Thank You

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