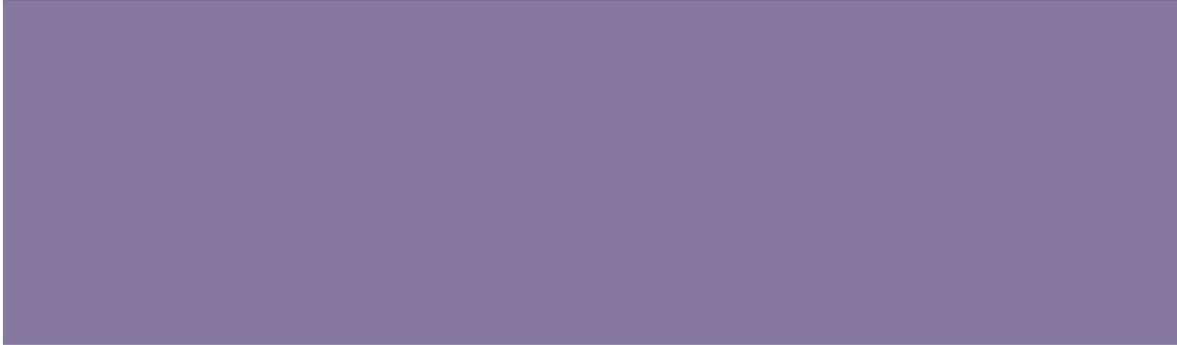


SBECH MEETING

ELIZABETH EASTLUND & SARAH WHITMAN
RAINBOW SERVICES
MARCH 23, 2022



1

RAINBOW SERVICES



Established in 1983, Rainbow Services provides shelter and support to anyone impacted by domestic violence, empowering them to move beyond trauma, towards safety & stability.

Our vision is Everyone deserves Respect, Love & Safety

Services include:

- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Shelter
- Community Housing
- Supportive Services
- Counseling
- Legal Services
- Children's Services



24-hour English-Spanish hotline (310) 547-9343

2

INTERSECTION
OF DV &
HOMELESSNESS

- Nationally, 57% of all homeless women report domestic violence as the immediate cause of their homelessness
- 38% of all domestic violence survivors experience homelessness at some point in their lives
- In Los Angeles, 49% of unsheltered adult women report a history of intimate partner violence in their lifetime

3

BASELINE-
SILOED
SYSTEMS

- Homeless systems of care were not set up to deal with safety issues survivors may be facing, and often survivors were being turned away if their last incident of abuse was within 12 months
- A lack of information about how the DV system of care operated and who qualifies for shelter created a lack of access for homeless advocates attempting to help survivors
- Lack of training in Trauma Informed Care

4

BASELINE- SILOED SYSTEMS

- Victims of DV were "falling through the cracks" as they attempted to find help from either system
- DV systems of care were set up to deal with immediate crisis – persons fleeing immediate danger
- In recent years DV agencies have seen increased requests to support survivors whose victimization may have been some time ago
- While some DV organizations have focused on ensuring households exit shelter to a permanent housing placement, there has been a lack of training in and focus on resources for permanent housing

5

Baseline: Lack of Strategy to Address Intersection of Domestic Violence and Homelessness (2016)



6

EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE INTERSECTION: DVHSC, HOME & CPEDV

- **Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition:** a cross-sector Domestic Violence and Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC) to create a client-centered system that increases access to safe housing and supportive services for survivors of domestic violence and their families
- **HOME Cohort:** The Housing Opportunities Mean Everything (HOME) Cohort is a multi-year project to advance and amplify the work of an existing, well-connected and trained network of community-based advocates to improve the safety and economic security of women in California who are experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence.
- **California Partnership to End Domestic Violence:** The CPEDV is a leader in policy to end homelessness and domestic violence. Recently they hosted a Lunch & Learn Series with the HOME Cohort addressing different aspects of homelessness and DV

7

SENATE BILL 914



RAINBOW
SERVICES
Providing help & hope



CALIFORNIA
**PARTNERSHIP TO END
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**
Together, We're Stronger.

8

SB 914 WILL...

1

Reduce gender bias and disparities in outcomes in California's response to homelessness by embedding a focus on domestic violence survivors and other vulnerable populations into local homelessness plans.

2

Require cities, counties, and continuums of care that receive state funding to address homelessness to include domestic violence survivors and unaccompanied women

3

Require the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to set and measure progress towards goals to prevent and end homelessness for these vulnerable populations.

9

FAQS

- **Who are "unaccompanied women"?**
 - Unaccompanied women are individuals who identify as female experiencing homelessness without children or other dependents.

- **Why is a specific callout for including DV survivors and unaccompanied women needed?**
 - Too often, domestic violence programs and the survivors they served are not fully incorporated into the homelessness response. It is not often well understood or well recognized that the federal definitions of homelessness include fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, and that every domestic violence shelter is serving a population of homeless survivors and their children

10

FAQS CONTINUED

- **Don't the state and cities/counties already support domestic violence survivors?**
 - Historically, domestic violence services have been grossly underfunded given the volume of unmet need. Of the 11 largest CoCs in California, only one allocates the percentage of funding equivalent to the percentage of homeless individuals who have experienced DV.

11

PLEASE SUPPORT US

We are so thrilled that State Senator Rubio is advancing this bill, and that we are scheduled for two upcoming Senate Committees.

Senate Human Services Committee:

Tuesday March 29 – committee hearing

Senate Housing Committee:

Thursday April 28 – committee hearing

12

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Elizabeth Eastlund, Executive Director
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 - Please send questions about SB 914 and how to support this bill
- Carielle Escalante, Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator
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 - Carielle is the DV Regional Coordinator for SPA 8. Please contact her for any DV specific questions