

BEYOND SHELTER: HOUSING STABILITY AND HOPE

A Better Way to Serve Survivors of Domestic Violence

NAEH Families & Youth Conference

2/18/2016

OUTLINE

- * Vision for DV advocacy and services approaches
- * LifeWire's cultural changes and implementation of approaches
- * Systems integration in our communities
- * What can we all do to improve?

WSCADV Future of Services

- * **Celebrate all that we have accomplished!**
- * **Break down compartmentalization and pursue a holistic response to survivors**
- * **Renewal and sustainability**
- * **Changing societal culture**
- * **Collective and proactive work with funders**

Complex Needs of Survivors

Understanding of:

Diverse experiences

Range of needs

Brain development

Role of trauma

Parenting challenges

Impacts on kids

Key Findings from DV Housing First Pilot Project

Survivor-driven advocacy contributes to housing retention

Housing stability rebuilds lives, leads to independence

Independence leads to safety

Safety and stability contribute to nurturing environments for children

Housing stability and advocacy improve health & well-being and restore dignity & self-worth

Flexibility supports adaptability of culturally responsive services

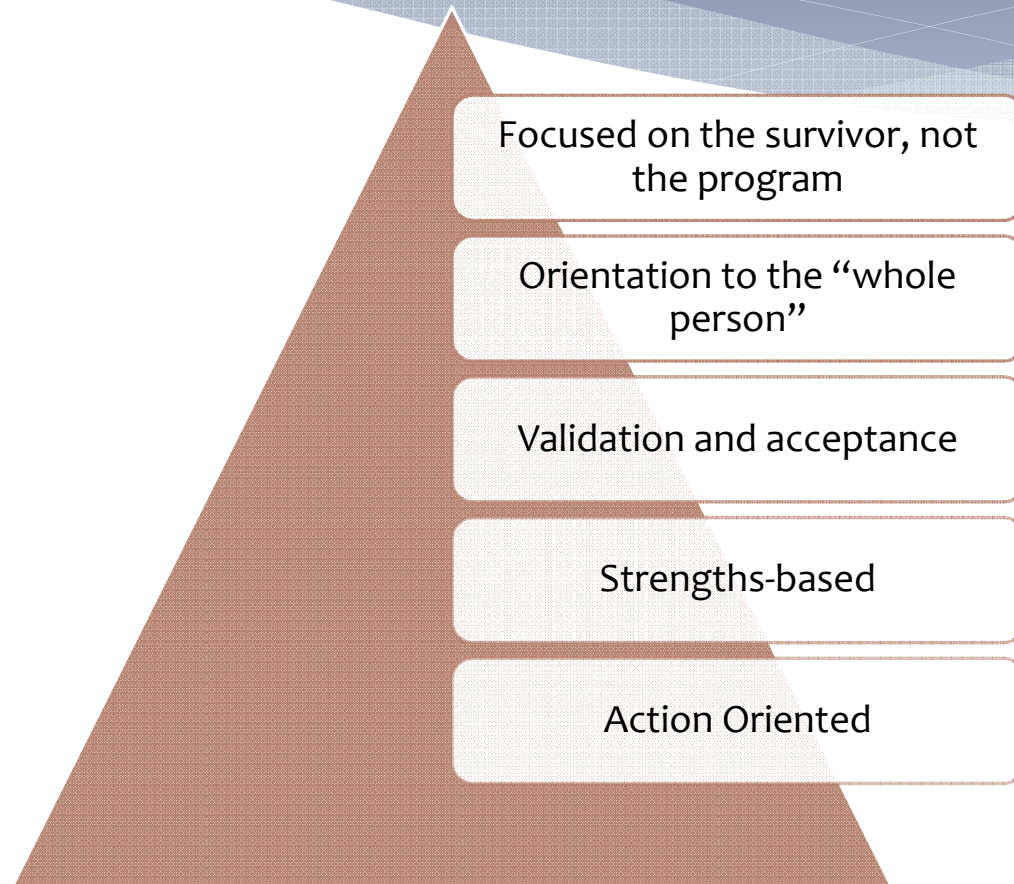
Community engagement enhances collaboration and sustainability

DV Housing First: The Approach



DVHF supports survivors and their children to rapidly access new housing, or retain their current housing, while maintaining safety and stability.

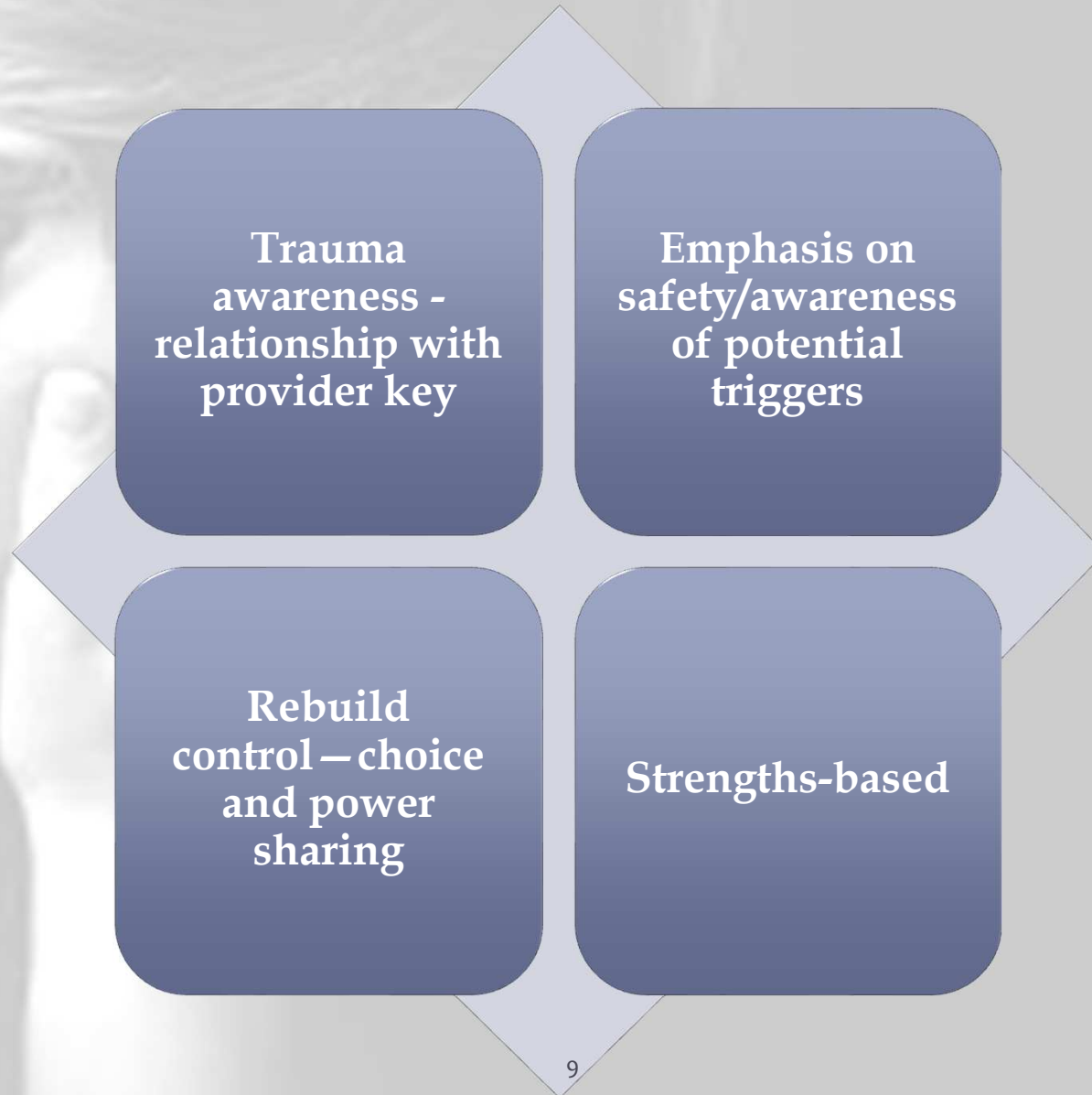
Survivor-Centered, Survivor-Driven Advocacy (Victim Defined)



Community or Mobile Advocacy



Trauma-Informed Approach



Agency Culture

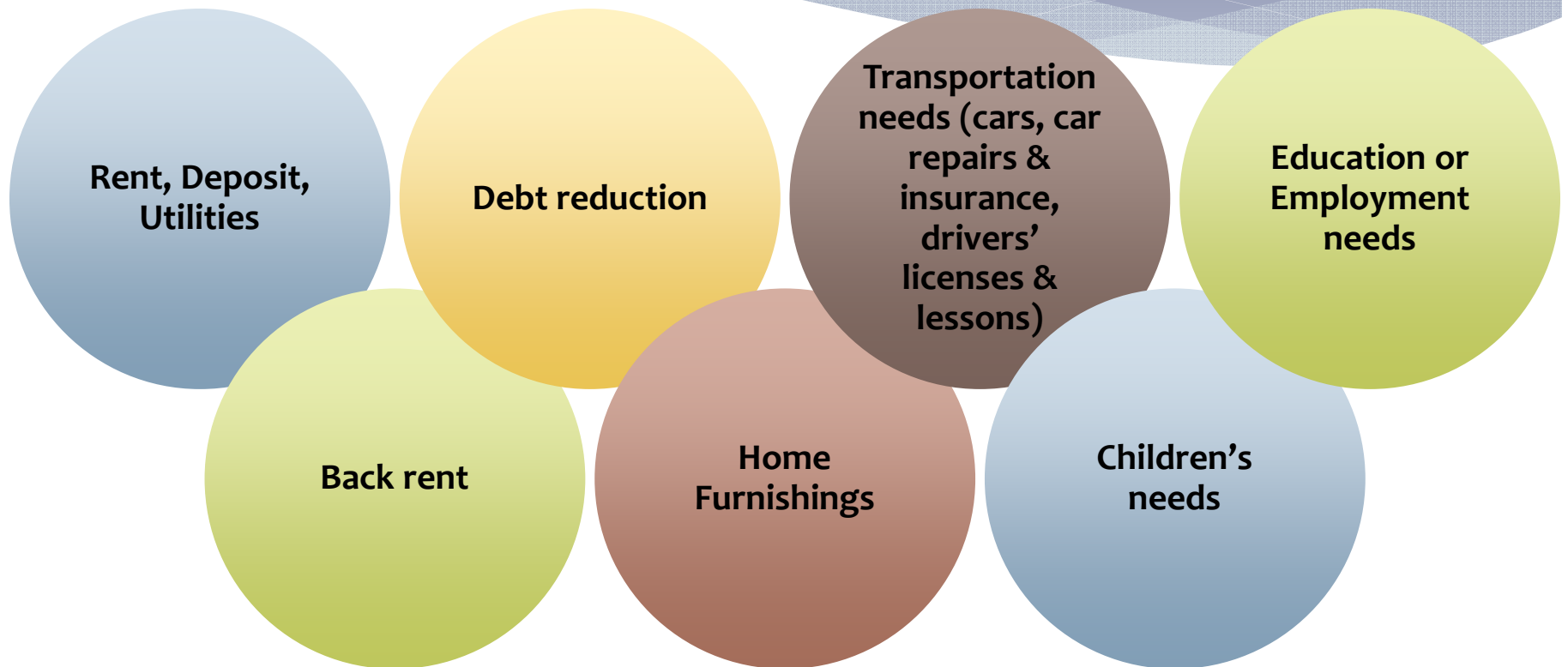


Recognize and address vicarious/secondary trauma at all levels of an organization

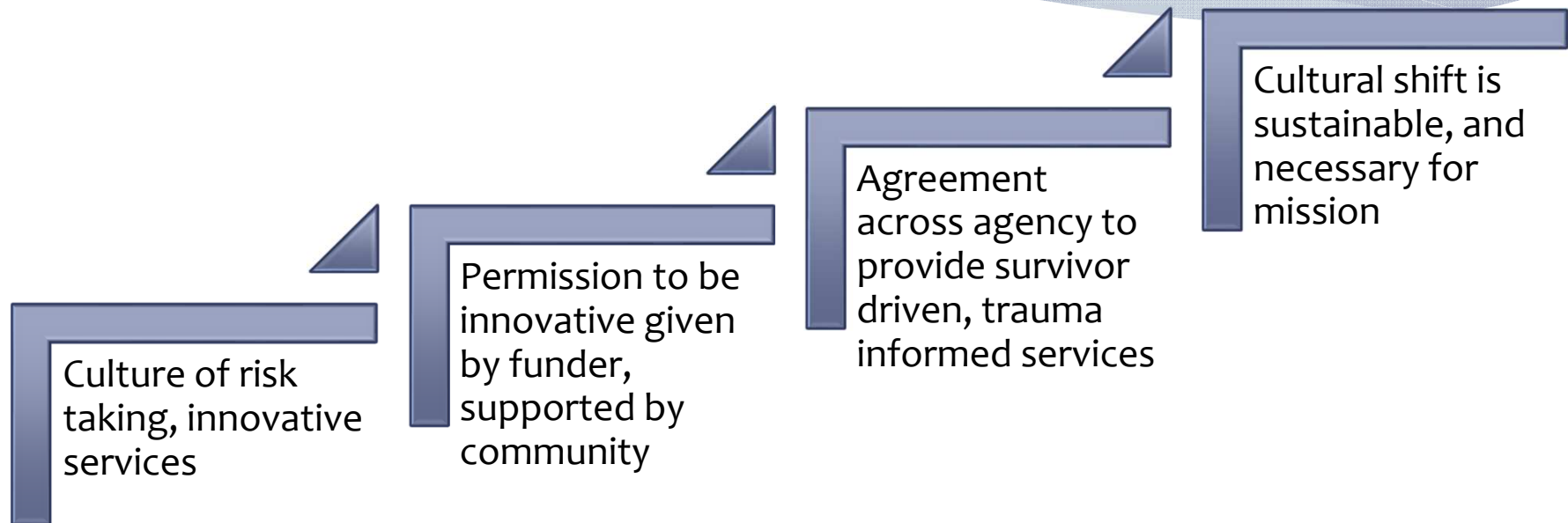


Incorporate “wellness” throughout agency culture

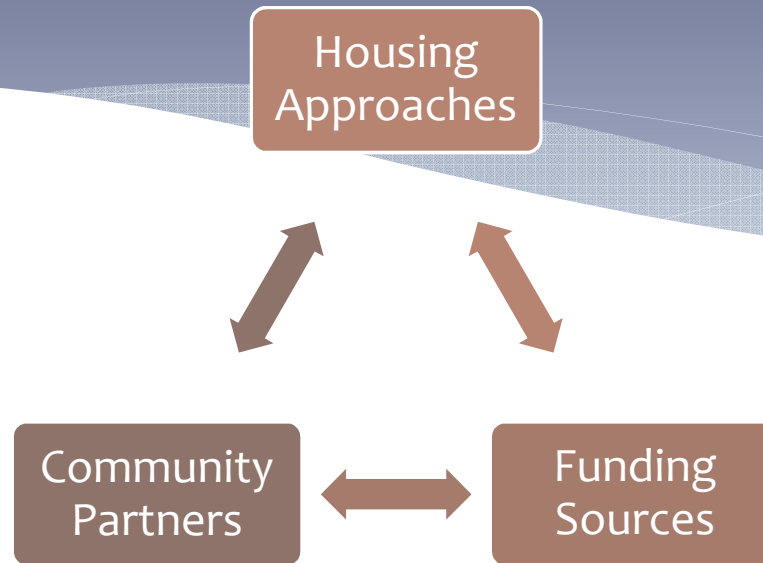
Flexible Financial Assistance



LIFEWIRE : Cultural Shift

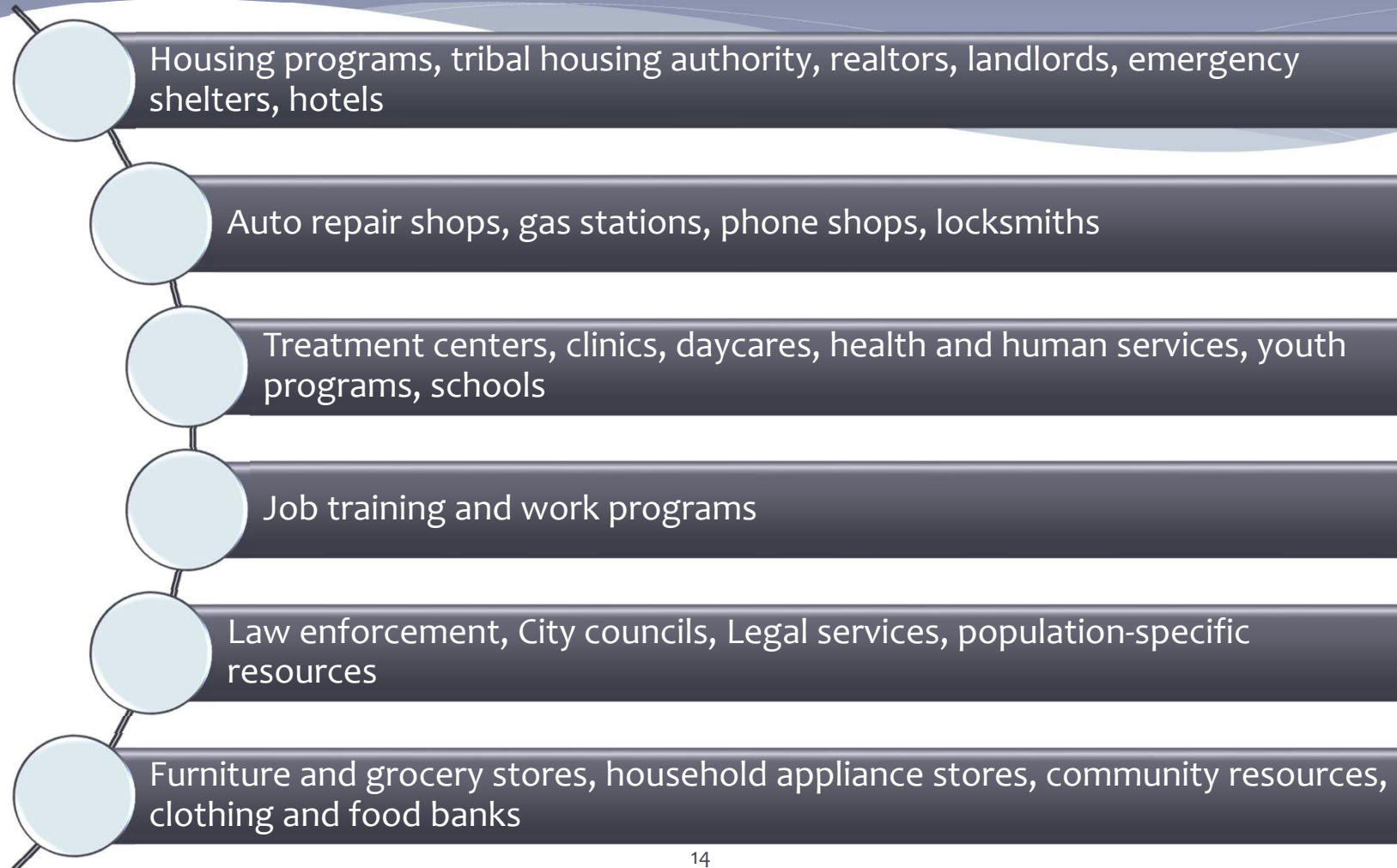


Housing Stability Approaches



- Housing retention (diversion or homeless prevention—survivor may never leave the home or may leave temporarily if safety is a concern)
- Rapid ReHousing/Flexible Engagement
- Subsidized housing with services available
- Permanent supportive housing

Community Engagement: It's all about the relationships!



Restoring Connection



Community is vital for restoration of social network.

Community is vital for a survivor to heal from trauma and for children to build resiliency.

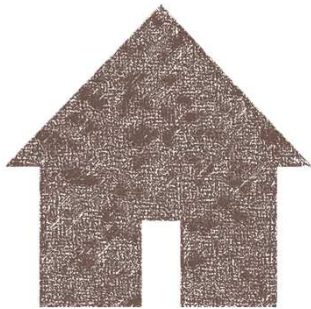
Community is vital for connection to resources and relationships.

Community is vital for safety.

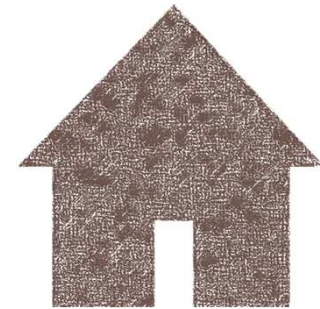
LifeWire

Providing assistance to housing providers, survivors are staying in their communities

Funders are taking risks to follow lead of influential foundations



Success of inexpensive, survivor driven, trauma informed programs influences policy



Innovation for Long-term, Systemic Change

Improve health
and well-being
for DV survivors

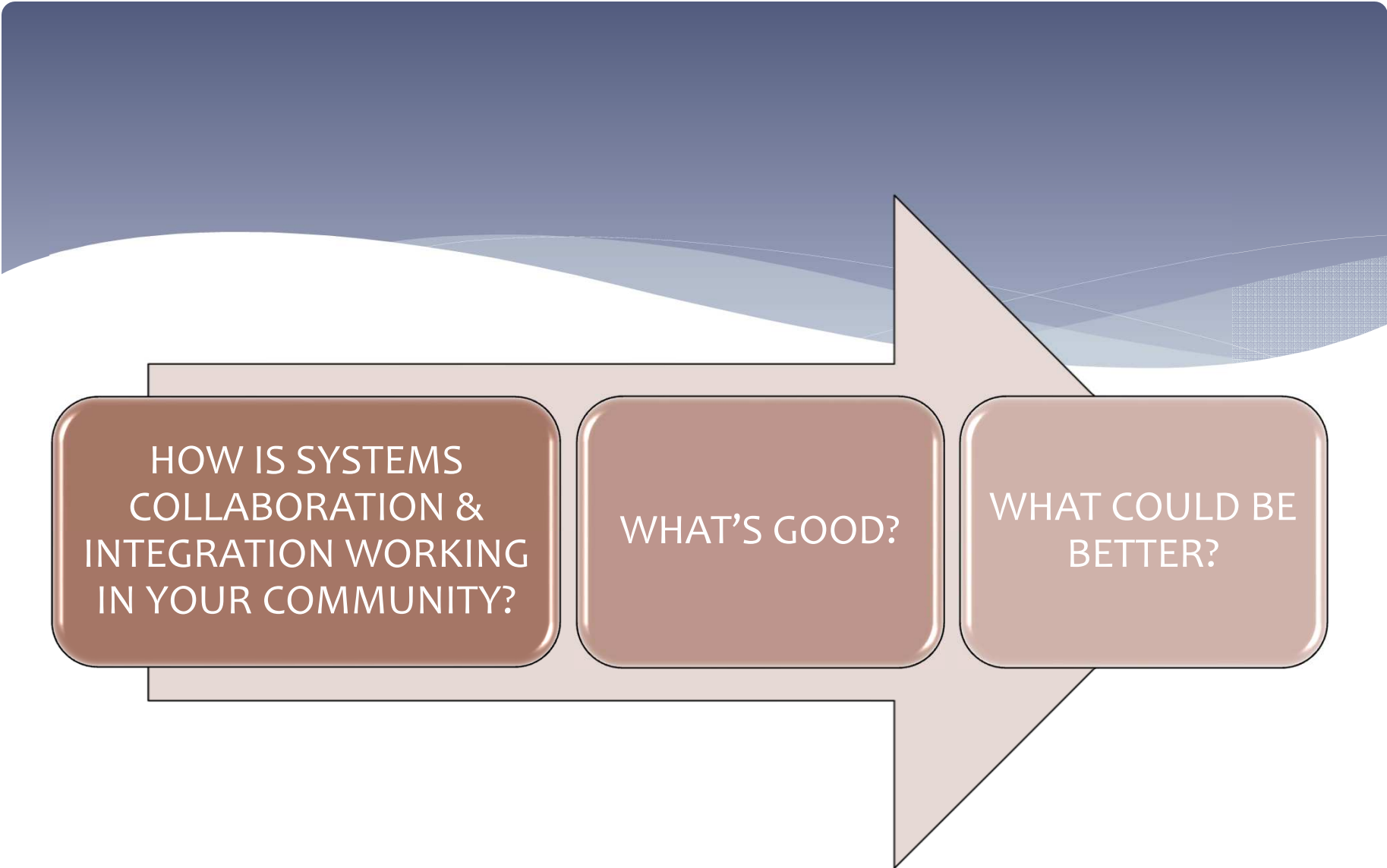
- Robust organizational change to include policies, advocate training, and staffing structures

Research

- Increase the level of evidence that documents the relationship between domestic violence advocacy, housing stability, and improved health and well-being for survivors and their children

Regional
Transformation
of Services

- Partnerships with neighboring DV providers, housing/homeless organizations, housing partners and funders to expand and coordinate services within the region



HOW IS SYSTEMS
COLLABORATION &
INTEGRATION WORKING
IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

WHAT'S GOOD?

WHAT COULD BE
BETTER?

Integration Strategies

Awareness and
Understanding



Communication and
Coordination



Collaboration



Large/Urban Communities

Struggling with
volume of those in
need and capacity

Medium Communities

Great success stories

Small Communities

Often only one or
two agencies

HMIS & Data Collection

- * Washington State is an opt in state (needs informed, written consent to enter data into shared data base)
- * DV agencies enter non-personally identifying information about survivors
- * Separate but not necessarily comparable data bases for victim services agencies

Strategies for Success

1

Location

2

Assessment and Process

3

Staffing

4

Outcomes



1) Location

Are the assessment locations safe and private?

Are there safe and private alternatives?

Is there mobility to meet someone where they are?

Are there emergency accommodations for a survivor in immediate danger?

2) Assessment and Process

What about screening for domestic violence?

Does the staff know how to ask the questions to make the safest and most appropriate referral?

How do referrals work back and forth between to systems?

Is there regular communication with the local DV agency(ies)?

3) Staffing



Approach

- Using empowerment, strength-based, survivor-driven approaches to providing services



Knowledge

- Understanding the dynamics of domestic violence and the barriers survivors face when rebuilding their lives
- Legal protections for survivor



Collaboration

- Partnering with DV advocates to ensure the needs of survivors are being met
- Working with other community providers to ensure appropriate referrals

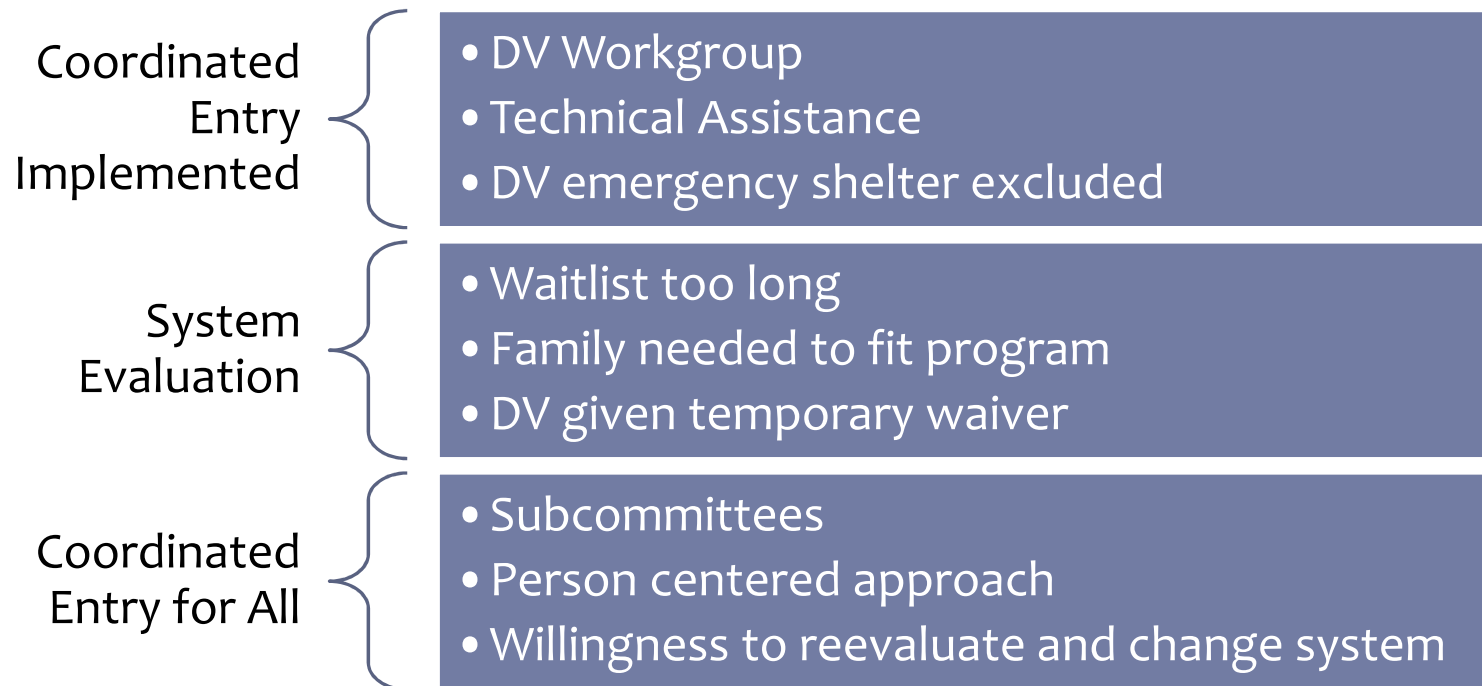
4) Outcomes

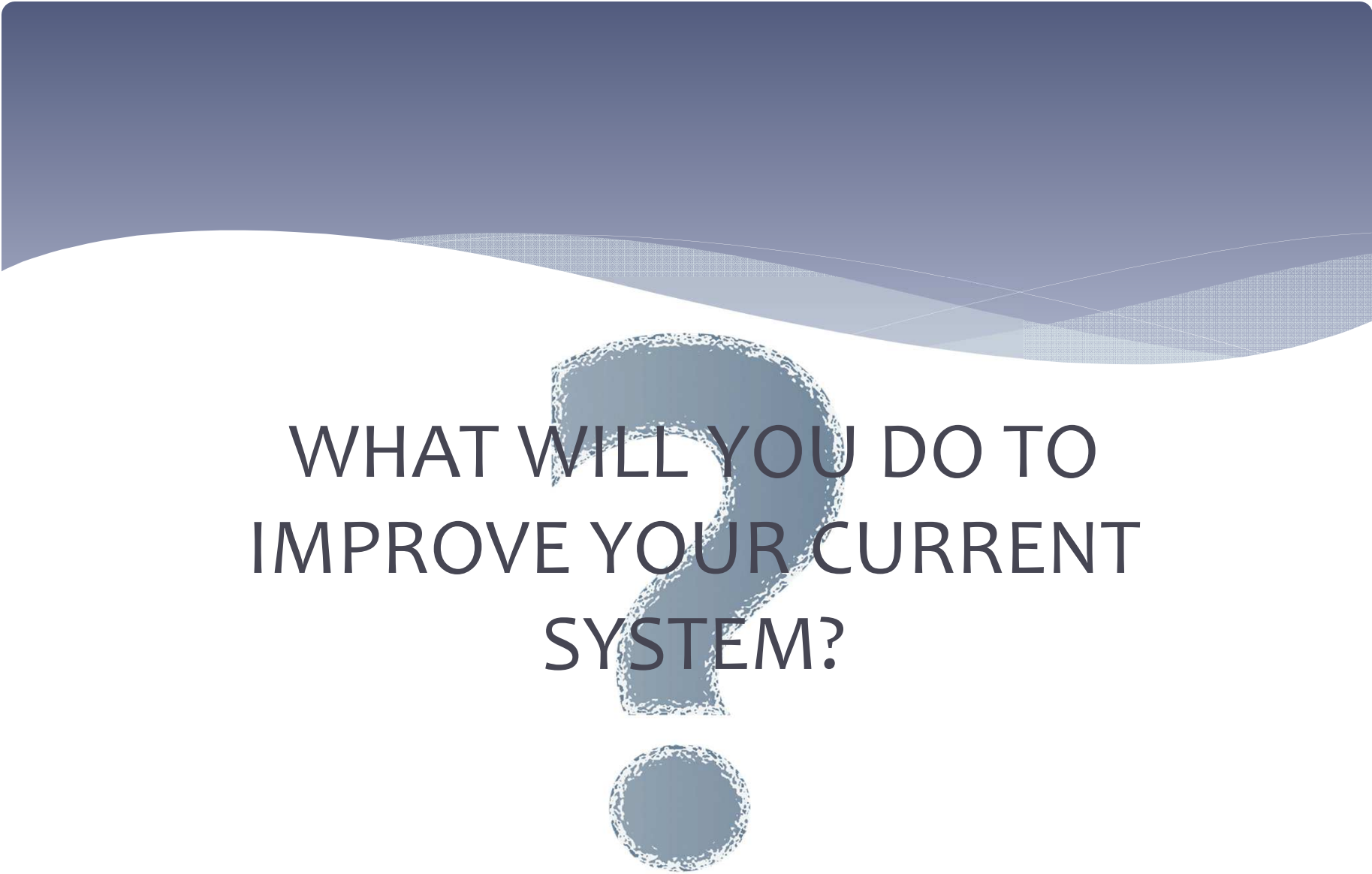
Are DV providers working with homeless assistance providers to connect survivors to stable housing?



Even when DV providers have a their own coordinated entry system, there needs to be a strategy for how connections across systems will be made.

Life Wire & King County Process





WHAT WILL YOU DO TO
IMPROVE YOUR CURRENT
SYSTEM?

QUESTIONS?

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