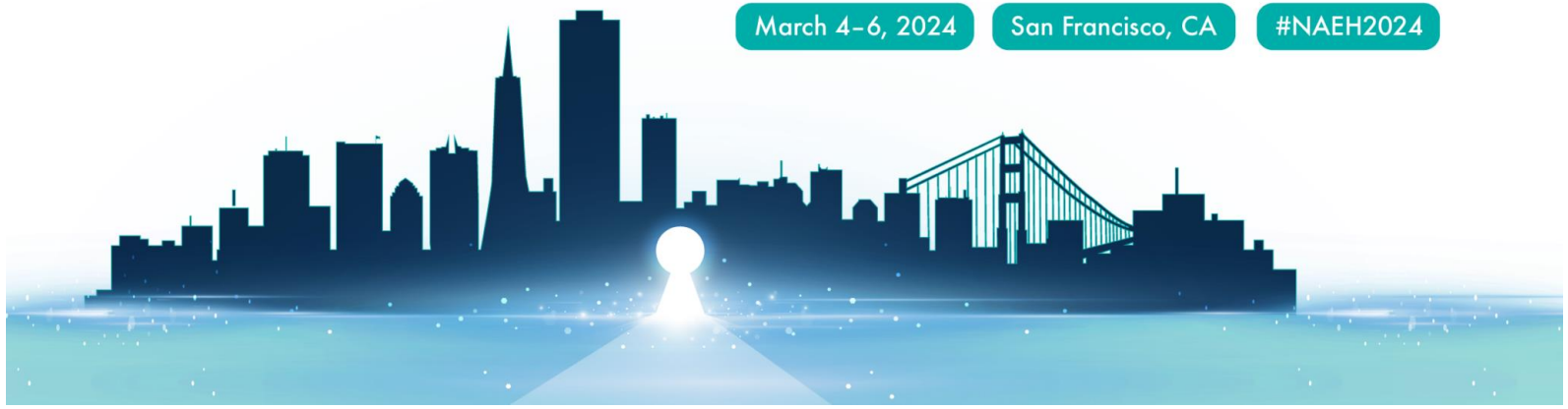
National Alliance to End Homelessness

INNOVATIONS & SOLUTIONS
for Ending Unsheltered Homelessness

March 4–6, 2024 | San Francisco, CA | #NAEH2024



Aging in Place WITHOUT a Place: Help and Hope for Homeless Older Adults

Rebecca Brown, Advocacy Manager
Fatima Tomlin, Homeless Older Adults Program Manager
Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia-Norfolk, Virginia
Chairs, Coalition for Homeless Elders
Chairs, Service Coordination Committee-Singles

Agenda

- The Aging Network
- **Crisis & Challenge**
- Help & Hope
- Tips & Key Takeaways
- Audience Participation, Q & A

What Chronological Age is an Older Adult?

Depends who you ask…

65 Geriatrics & Gerontology
65 United States Census Bureau
65 Medicare

62 Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
60 Area Agencies on Aging

50 Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness
50 American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

39 "The Youth"

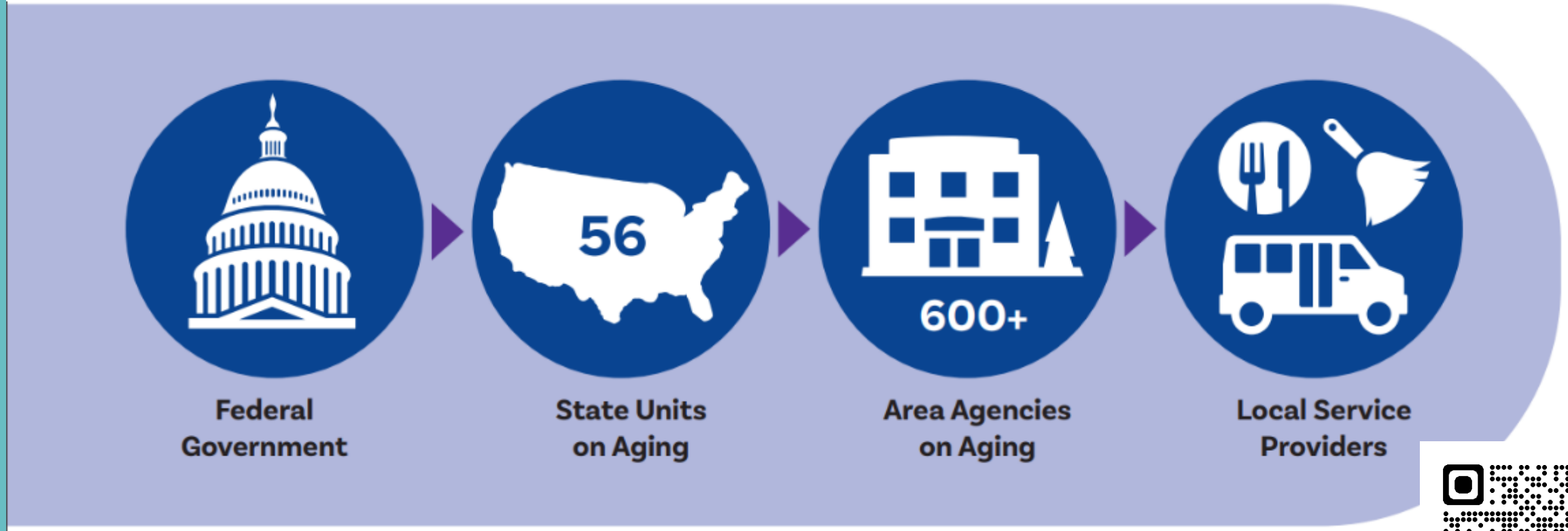
Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia

50 Years of Service

- ✓ 2,000 miles
- ✓ 8 Jurisdictions
- ✓ Rural & Urban population
- ✓ 2 Offices-Norfolk, Franklin
- ✓ 1 Affordable Housing Development

Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)

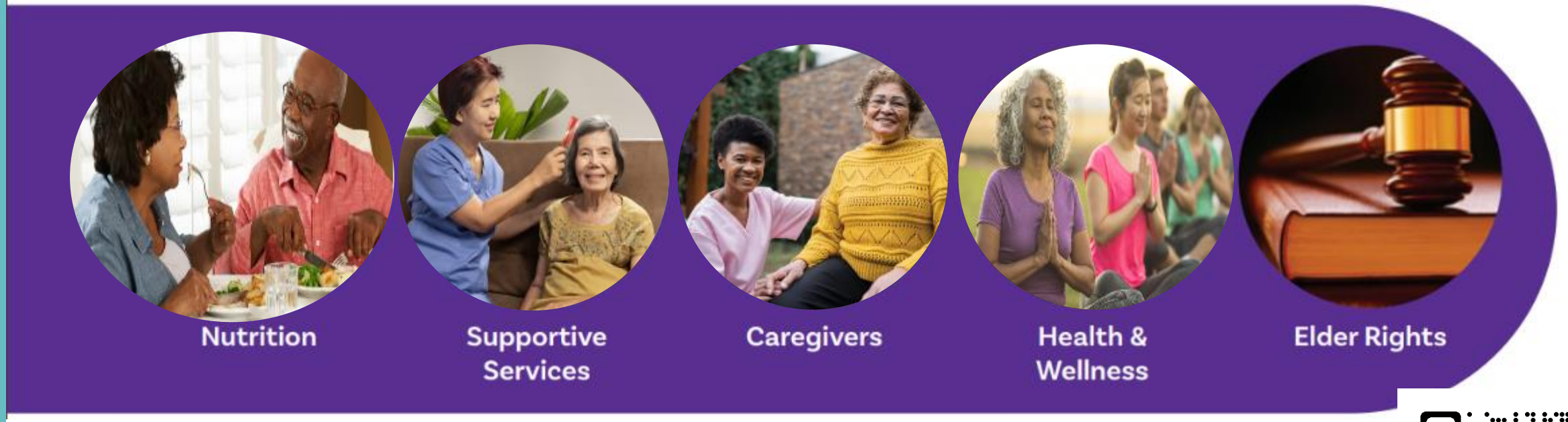
For 50 years, AAAs have served as the local leaders on aging by **planning, developing, funding and implementing** local systems of coordinated aging and other home and community-based services for consumers in their Planning and Service Areas (PSAs)



Area Agencies on Aging: Local Leaders in Aging Well at Home

Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)

A foundational role of AAAs is to create local information and referral/assistance hotlines to help consumers find aging and other home and community-based services. AAAs address the social drivers of health with core service offerings, enabling consumers to age in place with increased health, safety and independence.



Find the intersection of YOUR NEEDS + THEIR PROGRAMS

Find your AAA

Aging Network Response to Homeless Older Adults

In the latest National Survey of Area Agencies on Aging, 85 percent of AAAs reported that lack of affordable housing was a "major challenge" in their planning and service area (PSA) and 42 percent indicated that increasing homelessness of older adults was a major challenge in their PSA.

ACL
Administration for Community Living

USAging
Leaders in Aging Well at Home

Housing and Services Resource Center

AAAs Support Housing Stability And Prevent Homelessness Of Older Adults

Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)

Most Common Partnerships

Adult Protective Services	89%
State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)	84%
Transportation agencies	83%
Disability service organizations	78%
Medicaid	77%
Federal departments/programs (e.g., Social Security Administration, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Bureau of Indian Affairs)	75%
Department of Health/Public Health	74%
Food banks	74%

Crisis & Challenge

National

Importantly, while most homeless older adults were in the 55-64 age range increases in older adult homelessness were driven mostly by the rising share of elderly adults—those 65 and older.

Andrew Hall, Research Analyst
National Alliance to End Homelessness

2034 older adults outnumber children
2038 40% renters 50+

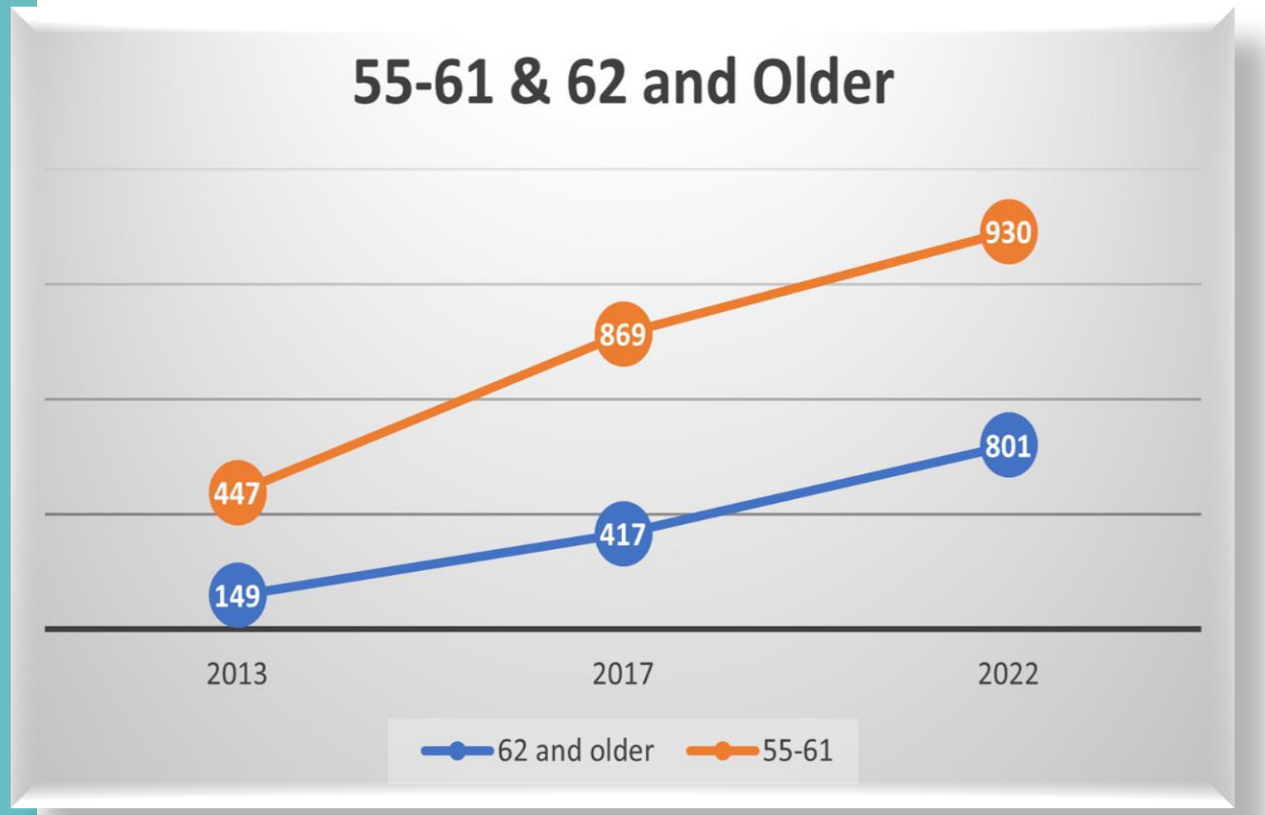
$457 rent affordable to an older adult
$274 rent affordable to SSI recipient

30% of extremely low income households are seniors

50 age premature geriatric conditions begin for street homeless adults

25% 1 or more chronic health conditions

Virginia Data



Across all 3 Continuums of Care in Southeastern Virginia

Southeastern Virginia

108.05% increase 55-61

437.58% increase 62+

CoC-Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition

67.23% 50+ presented to SCC-S in 2023

67.57% 50+ presented to SCC-S Feb. 24'

State

32 affordable units available

5 top 10 evicting cities

$26.84 2br FMR

0.69% state dollars invested in housing & programs

Pathways to Late-Life Homelessness

Drivers often compounding, chronologically close together, and are not necessarily exclusive to a particular pathway (such as military service, chronic health)

Chronic
Mental health & substance abuse
Imprisonment
Military service
Lower attainment of adult milestones
Trauma
Early (unmanaged) onset of geriatric conditions
Vulnerabilities compound & increase over time

1st Time
Age-related changes in health & functional ability
Chronic health conditions
Functional & cognitive impairments
Unemployment (disability, retirement)
Death of spouse or roommate
Rising housing & healthcare costs
Inability to increase income
Abuse (financial in particular, scams)
Social Isolation
No support network (family, friends, others)
Strained landlord relationships

Unique, Age-Related Factors Compound Risk of Housing Insecurity and Homelessness

JCHS JOINT CENTER FOR HOUSING STUDIES OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Micro/Individual	Macro/Policy	Older Adult Specific
Cognitive disability	Inadequate long-term care services and supports (LTSS)	Age-related cognitive decline; reliance on long-term services and supports
Physical disability and chronic health issues	Poor healthcare access; limited income supplements; inadequate LTSS; inaccessible housing; incomplete public transportation	Age-related changes in health and functional ability; unmanaged chronic conditions can worsen with age; need for physically accessible housing
Mental health/substance use disorders	Inadequate access to healthcare and mental health supports	Unmanaged chronic conditions can worsen with age
Social isolation	Poor community connectivity infrastructure	Widowhood; less access to technology; mobility challenges
Housing cost burdens	Unaffordable housing options; income disparities	Higher rate of housing cost burden; difficulty absorbing increased housing costs
Poverty	Inadequate public benefits	Fixed income; reliance on public programs
Discrimination	Structural inequities, particularly as related to race/ethnicity	Compounded disparities; learned mistrust; trauma
Violence/trauma	Incomplete legal protections	Increased physical and social vulnerabilities; age-related cognitive changes
Immigration	Exclusion from public programs	Generational cultural preferences; greater reliance on social network and public benefits

Older Adult Specific
Age-related cognitive decline; reliance on long-term services and supports
Age-related changes in health and functional ability; unmanaged chronic conditions can worsen with age; need for physically accessible housing
Unmanaged chronic conditions can worsen with age
Widowhood; less access to technology; mobility challenges
Higher rate of housing cost burden; difficulty absorbing increased housing costs
Fixed income; reliance on public programs
Compounded disparities; learned mistrust; trauma
Increased physical and social vulnerabilities; age-related cognitive changes
Generational cultural preferences; greater reliance on social network and public benefits

=

- **Performing Daily Activities**
  - ADL: walking, bathroom
  - IDL: bill pay, laundry, meals
- **Need housing conducive to aging in place**
  - Walkable, safe neighborhoods, close to services
  - Stairs, high cabinets & counters, fall risks
- **Need supportive services**
  - transportation, shopping, cleaning
- **Inability to increase income**
- **Difficulty navigating systems**
- **Barriers to benefits utilization**
- **Managing health conditions**

Help & Hope

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia

Virginia Department of Housing
And Community Development

- ✓ **Coalition for Homeless Elders**
- ✓ **Homeless Older Adults Program**
- ✓ **Involvement in the administrative activities of our regional CoC**
  - Chair SCC-S
  - Chair CHE
  - PMC membership
  - Seat on Governing Board

Coalition for Homeless Elders
2021-Present

1 critical partnership with common history
3 continuums of care
3 siloed service sectors: aging, healthcare, homeless

150+ members
50+ organizations
2+ workgroups

Coalition for Homeless Elders: **Four Pillars**

Engaging Partners & Communities

Education

- Increase age-informed capacity of the CoCs
- Increase members' knowledge of resources, services, data, trends, service models for replication
- Increase knowledge between sectors
- Educate partners & communities

Advocacy

- Using our data strategically
- Coalition members "experts" on late-life homelessness
- Increasing the supply of housing and services
- Link missions with housing advocates & coalitions

Systems

- Advancing best practices and quality
- CoC systems changes + Aging network systems changes

✓ **Integrate needs of homeless elders into programming and strategic planning**

✓ **Fulfill the mission**

Services

- Formal partnerships
  - ✓ Leverage existing resources
  - ✓ New resources
  - ✓ increase communication between siloes
- Informal partnerships
  - ✓ Fast-track processes
  - ✓ Prevent complications

Four Pillars In Action

Engaging Partners & Communities

Education

- Virginia Commonwealth University Geriatric Training Education grant
- Presentations at regional and national aging conferences
- Local education for CHWs, medical students, aging taskforces

Advocacy

- Inform & connect with legislative representatives
- Provide input for housing legislation
- Mobilize coalition members to provide public testimony (2024 GA session, city council)

Systems

- Elder Status Priority Recommendation
- Performance Improvement Workgroup for the SVHC CoC
- Senior Services' systems changes work in progress
  - Priority
  - Prevention
  - Capacity

Four Pillars In Action

Engaging Partners & Communities

Services

- *Sentara Cares Foundation* Healthy Hotel Meals Program
- PrimePlus & Tidewater Arts Outreach Life Enrichment program
- HR-PROS donation drives
- Crisis intervention resulting in housing stability
    - Senior Coordination Advisory Network

Fatima Tomlin

Homeless Older Adults Program Manager

Homeless Older Adults Program: **Program Manager**

- **Advocate** for priority & change of services for individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.
- **Arrange** support services to obtain and maintain permanent housing.
- **Assist** with housing barriers and prevention resources.

HOA Program
Positions & Roles

Outreach Specialist (Housing Stabilization Specialist)

- ✓ ***SOAR Certified**

Future Growth:

- **Housing Location Specialist** (full time)
- **Housing Stabilization Specialist** (full time)

Build the positions based on needs, existing coordination, and internal support.

Homeless Older Adults Program: **Four Pillars**

Education

- Advocate, support, & increase staff training
- Provide inclusive resources
- Increase education & engagement

Community Partnership

- Establish engagement activities
- Link missions with community partners and aging advocates to leverage resources

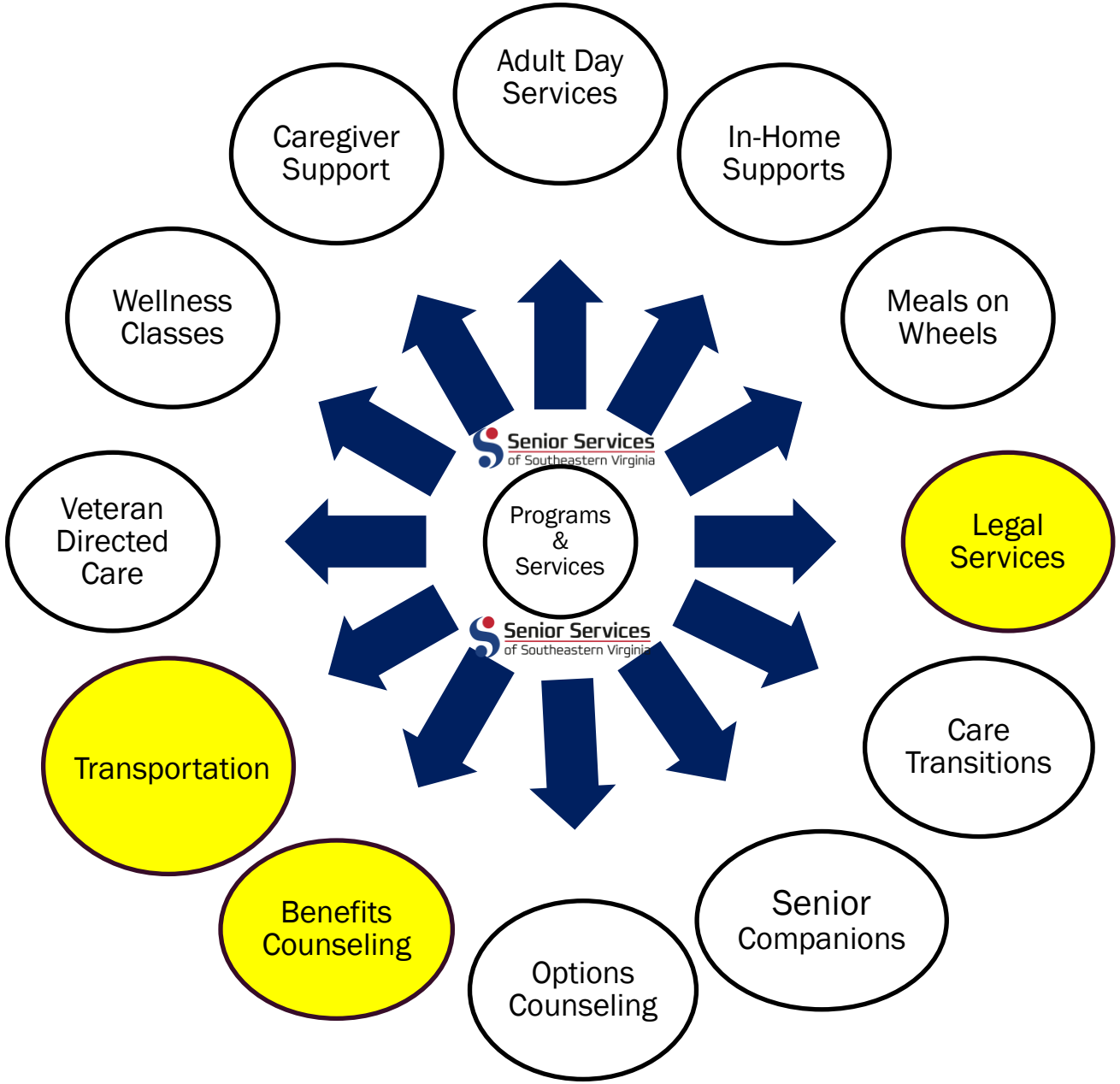
Preventive & Supportive Services

- Intensive case management
- Day centers, shelters, faith-based outreach

Resource Coordination

- Benefits counseling & review
- Household resources
- Engagement Coordination

Department Growth Opportunities



Program Products

- ✓ **HMIS**
  - Access Point
  - Programs: Homeless Services & Supportive Service
- ✓ **Glossary and Acronym Guides**
  - CoC crossover
- ✓ **Resource Guides**
  - Consolidated multiple cities, various layouts
- ✓ **Building Donations Partnerships**
  - Women United, United Way

- ✓ **Transportation**
  - Walmart Runs
- ✓ **Local Business & Community Partnerships**
  - Welcome Home Baskets
- ✓ **SABLE: S**enior **A**dvisory **B**oard **with L**ived **E**xperience

Keep In Mind

- ✓ Seek available partnership opportunities.
- ✓ Adjust client engagement timeline (current and proposed staff).
- ✓ Adjust grant data language to support increased staff needs.
- ✓ Seek out models for replication – can't identify one…Create one!
  - ✓ Start at organizational level, frame the need with current resources…outsource additional needed resources.
  - ✓ Build out current grant submissions.

Eating the Elephant

Who are your closest community partners?

Where is the need?

What are the benefits?

1. **High level buy-in**
2. **Organizational capacity**
3. **Strong network of believers**
4. **Identify a "simple" need**

…if you can't identify it, create it…

Eating the Elephant

- **Reach out to the aging network of services**
  - ✓ AAAs
  - ✓ Taskforces on Aging
  - ✓ Mayor's Commissions on Aging
  - ✓ Geriatric programs
  - ✓ Senior Centers
  - ✓ Networks of aging professionals

- **This is new and likely very uncomfortable space for them.**
  - Gaps in knowledge, funding, "culture", clientele
  - Learning curve

- **Focus on the intersection of:**
  - ✓ You missions
  - ✓ Passion for older adults
  - ✓ Tour needs + their activities

THANK YOU

Fatima Tomlin
Homeless Older Adults Program Manager
Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
2551 Eltham Avenue Suite Q
Norfolk, VA 23513
ftomlin@ssseva.org
757-663-4833

Rebecca Brown
Advocacy Manager
Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
2551 Eltham Avenue Suite Q
Norfolk, VA 23513
rbrown@ssseva.org
757-222-4504

www.ssseva.org

Q & A

Collaboration!

Audience Participation

Fatima Tomlin
Homeless Older Adults Program Manager
Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
2551 Eltham Avenue Suite Q
Norfolk, VA 23513
ftomlin@ssseva.org
757-663-4833

Rebecca Brown
Advocacy Manager
Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
2551 Eltham Avenue Suite Q
Norfolk, VA 23513
rbrown@ssseva.org
757-222-4504

www.ssseva.org