

CCEH Workshop Summary

From the 2018 National Conference on Ending Homelessness



Working Together: Domestic Violence and Homelessness Services Coordination

A summary by CCEH's Brian Roccapiore.

Ending homelessness among survivors of domestic violence (DV) requires effective collaboration between the DV system and the mainstream homelessness system. This session highlighted the national best practices for how regions are working together to overcome the challenges of coordinating the two systems, and specifically highlighted the system in place in Connecticut.

For more than five years, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) have worked in collaboration, together with state and federal funders, to safely and confidentially provide survivors of domestic violence access to housing resources in Connecticut, and to collectively advance the work of housing and domestic violence policy and practice in our state. This partnership stems from years of work between the two systems to improve communication, cooperation, policy, and practice with an aim to increase housing opportunities and access to supportive services for both of our constituencies.

In 2014, CCADV and CCEH developed a set of shared principles which outlines the core elements of their relationship. The document speaks to important factors such as standards, access, choice, and accountability and serves as a critical blueprint for our ongoing work. A key shared goal: ensuring equitable cross-system access for individuals to get the services and supports they need. This includes providing equitable access to domestic violence services for homeless clients who need them, and equitable access to homelessness response system housing resources for domestic violence survivors in need of support. CCADV and CCEH continue to build coordination and communication through:

- Ongoing training and cross-training for housing and domestic violence providers
- Ongoing technical assistance for housing and domestic violence providers
- Quarterly status meetings between leadership of CCADV and CCEH
- A requirement in CCADV member organization standards that Connecticut's 18 domestic violence providers actively participate in the statewide coordinated homelessness response system

The Connecticut portion of the presentation highlighted the nuts and bolts of the system showcasing how referrals are managed between the systems, how data sharing is managed in a highly confidential environment, and how the domestic violence providers participate as part of our coordinated entry system.

It's clear that this improving this type of access across the country is necessary, and Connecticut continues to be a leader in the systems development that allows for all of those in need to equitably access resources.