

State and National Spotlight on Comparable Databases for Victim Service Providers: *HMIS and Comparable Database Leads' Perspectives*

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Increasing Capacity &
Building Connections:
Bridging to the Future

DV & Housing TA Consortium

- **Four Federal Agencies:**

- Family Violence Prevention & Services Program/HHS
- Office on Violence Against Women/DOJ
- Office for Victims of Crime/DOJ
- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs/HUD

- **Four Technical Assistance Providers:**

- National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH)
- Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CS)
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)





Collaborative Solutions, Inc.: What We Do



Collaborative Solutions works in partnership for the empowerment of human service organizations and communities in order to positively impact special needs populations.

- **Value:** All individuals have a right to housing that is adequate, accessible, and affordable
- **Goal:** Impact supportive housing systems to meet the needs of vulnerable populations
- **Impact:** Build capacity of communities and maximize their long-term impact on areas of housing, health, and services

National Network to End DV



- The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) is a social change organization dedicated to creating a social, political and economic environment where violence against women no longer exists.
- NNEDV's Collaborative Approach to Safe Housing for Survivors Project provides training and technical assistance to improve coordination between domestic violence and homeless services from racial equity lens.
- NNEDV's Safety Net Project addresses the intersection of technology and abuse, and provides training and technical assistance to advocates, law enforcement, legal services, social services providers, survivors, and other stakeholders.

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www.nnedv.org



Cabell-Huntington Wayne Continuum of Care, and West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

- Cabell-Huntington-Wayne Continuum of Care (CHWCoC) works to address and end homelessness in the community.
- WVCADV is a statewide non-profit organization comprised of a Coalition Statewide Office and 14 licensed domestic violence programs. WVCADV represents the only statewide network of domestic violence service providers and experts that provide specialized direct services for families, training, education, and policy development.



Community Alliance for the Homeless

- Community Alliance for the Homeless, Inc., leads effective community practices to end homelessness in Memphis/Shelby County.
- Provides planning, technical assistance, and service coordination to public and private agencies working to end homelessness.



Overview

- National policy & funding landscapes for DV/SA survivors
- Community examples and eligible uses and administration of comparable databases
- Protecting data privacy
- Building relationships
- Data sharing and aggregate level data to HMIS leads
- Comparable databases technical assistance and training for VSPs
- Survivor-centered coordinated entry



National Landscape

2018

HEALS Act: Helping End
Abusive Relationships Act
& VAWA Reauthorization

2018

HUD CoC Set Aside for DV
Survivors in current NOFA:
\$50 Million

2020

End Family & Youth
Homelessness

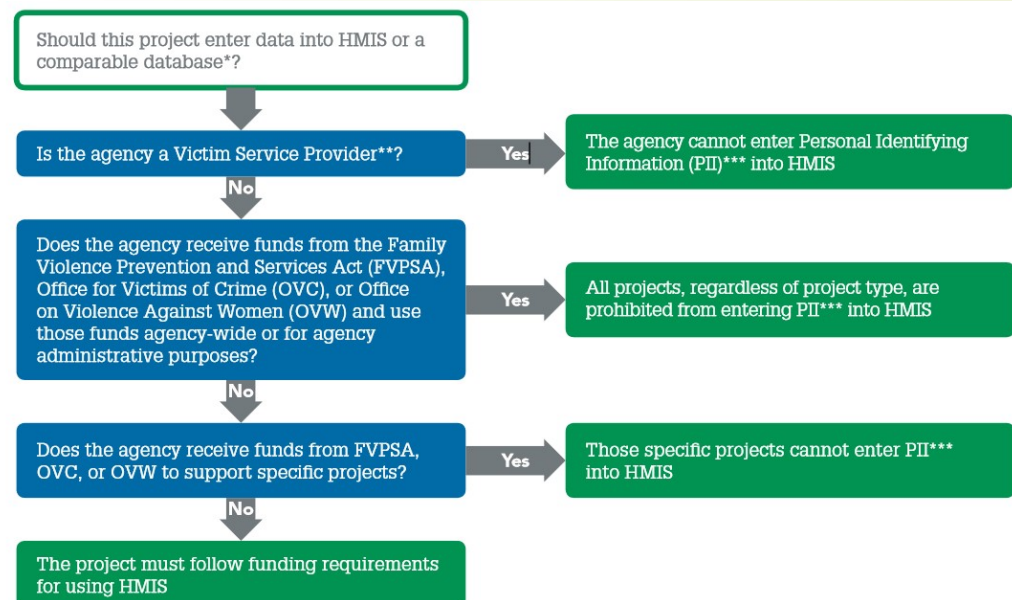
What is a Comparable Database?

- Comparable Database (not HMIS) used for Victim Service Providers to enter client information
 - Or programs that serve survivors
- HUD-compliant Comparable Database:
 - ESG-CAPER and APR reports for SAGE
 - Programmable HMIS Data Standards
- More flexibility with questions
- **Mutually agreed upon by VSP and HMIS Lead**





Comparable Database Decision Tree





How do we know if we need a CB?

- The HEARTH Act defines a “victim service provider” as a private nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Such term includes rape crisis centers, battered women’s shelters, domestic violence transitional housing and programs, and other programs.
 - HMIS use across an agency is prohibited for agencies that do not meet this definition but receive and use funding in an agency wide capacity:
 - Office of Violence Against Women (OVW)
 - Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)
 - Family-Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)
 - HMIS use for a specific project is prohibited for agencies that do not meet this definition but receive and use these funding sources for that specific project
 - Most agencies fall into one of these categories



Cont: What about less typical situations?

- Small set of agencies who fall into different categories that we would like to discuss.
 - Do not have a mission that clearly designates them as VSP
 - Do not receive OVW, OVC, or FVPSA funds – yet have a project that serves a high percentage of victims of violence
- If a provider:
 - Does not meet the typical definition of a VSP
 - And receive CoC and ESG funds
 - Has historically been required to use HMIS
- Under these circumstances, HUD recognizes these providers still have the safety concerns designated VSP have.
- **HUD will permit these providers to use a Comparable Database if it can be determined that clients' information is not secure in an HMIS.**



What about less typical situations?

- If the provider is unable to obtain access to a comparable database that meets all relevant standards, the provider **MUST** participate in the CoC's HMIS, per CoC and ESG program requirements.
- *Note about Relational Databases:*
 - Essentially servers that store data with a mechanism for querying that data
 - Excel and Google Sheets (spreadsheets) are not relational databases and do not meet the standard to be considered comparable in nature

Aaron Dunn

**HMIS System Administrator for the Cabell-Huntington Wayne
Continuum of Care, and Statewide Database Coordinator for the
West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence**



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Statewide Comparable Database

- “Closed system”
 - Same program; providers cannot see or access other providers’ data
- Ensures standardization of data collection
- Can aid in applying for federal funding with APR/CAPER
 - Data is already collected

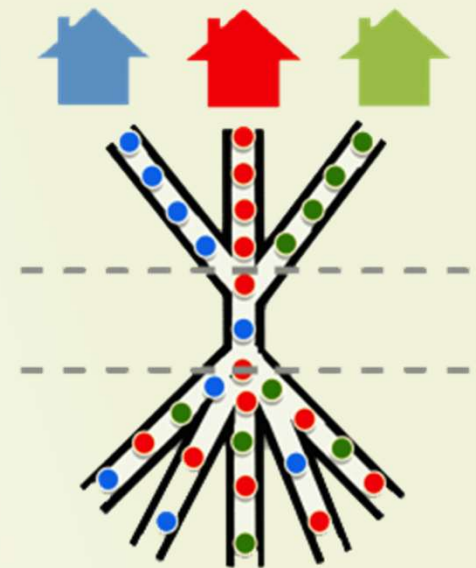


Collaboration with CoCs

- Be up front about ROIs and confidentiality requirements
 - You may even have to show examples of each
- Federal funding for DV
 - \$50 million set aside
 - If awarded, you will be required to report to HUD
 - CoCs do this all the time! They can help!

By-Name Lists and other Prioritization Tools

- Adding names to by-name lists:
 - Use de-identified placeholder
 - Never give PII
- Attendance to by-name meetings is critical
 - Your presence there shows a willingness to work together
 - Ability to understand and refine services for your clients





Looking out for clients' data

- “Pop-up” Vendors
 - Small or new software vendors
 - Be aware of security standards
 - How is the data stored?
- HUD/VAWA Standards



TN-501

Community Alliance for the Homeless

Leading effective community practices to end homelessness in Memphis/Shelby County!

Tanyce A. McCray-Davis, MIS Director/HMIS Administrator



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Funds Awarded, Now what do we do?

- **Get Technical Assistance**
- **Collaborate**
- **Educate**



HMIS Comparable Database

- Not Any System will do
- There's HIPAA, **THEN** there's DV (VAWA)
 - **HIPAA** - standards to protect individuals' medical records and other personal health information. It establishes appropriate safeguards that health care providers and others must achieve to protect the privacy of health information.
 - **VAWA** - confidentiality provisions that limit providers from sharing, disclosing, or revealing personally identifying information (PII) into shared databases like HMIS. HUD CoC and ESG recipients who are victim service providers are prohibited from entering personally identifying information into HMIS.



DV Project Plan: Building and Maintaining Relationships

➤ **Meet & Greet**

➤ **Monthly Meetings**

➤ **One-on-One Communication**

Among VSP, Homeless Service Providers, DV coalitions, and CoC's





Safehousing Partnerships

UNDERSTANDING THE INTERSECTIONS

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

EMPLOYING KEY APPROACHES

PUBLIC POLICIES



- Data, infographics, literature reviews, and reports that describe the intersections between domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, and housing
- Strategies for building effective and sustainable partnerships across systems and case studies of successful collaborations
- In-depth resource collections organized around four key approaches to addressing and preventing housing instability among survivors
- Access to relevant federal laws, regulations, and policies

Have questions? Need TA? Want training?
Contact the Consortium directly through the site!
SafehousingPartnerships.org



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