



leveraging social networks to support survivors of domestic violence

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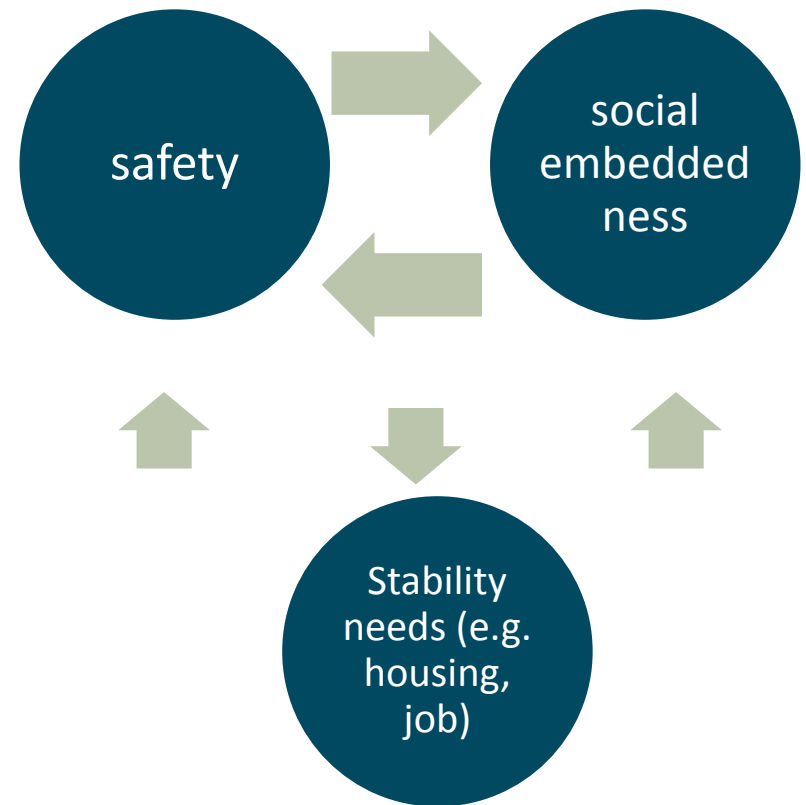
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how we understand safety

traditional



network-informed



network-informed practice

is the

enabling of survivors to identify and engage potentially helpful friends, family, neighbors, and other community members (their networks);

supporting of network members' efforts to help survivors;

integral incorporation of domestic violence organizations into their communities.

example



network-informed practice

requires that we re-examine:

- i. **the scope and nature of domestic violence services, and the role of the “provider” in these services**
- ii. **the nature of the service provider’s role in the community, including the types of partnerships that would have to develop among practitioners, survivors, and community members**

i. scope and nature of services: leveraging networks to directly reduce violence and its impact

survivor -> network

- Supporting survivors in understanding, building on the strengths of, and mitigating the risks of their existing social networks to help address domestic violence and issues caused by/related to the domestic violence;
- Supporting survivors in growing their social networks;
- Supporting survivors in maintaining meaningful roles within their networks whenever possible.

i. scope and nature of services: leveraging networks to directly reduce violence and its impact

network -> survivor

- Supporting survivors' networks as part of supporting the survivor;
- Supporting survivors' networks when survivor is not engaged with domestic violence services;

This support includes advice on how to engage with survivor (not only around DV!), and how not to pull away if survivor doesn't quickly respond.

i. scope and nature of services: leveraging networks to increase control, choice and connections

- Support survivors in identifying and exploring opportunities to build more connections based on parts of their lives not directly related to the domestic violence;
- Support survivors in gaining mastery in areas beyond the domestic violence.

ii. beyond networks: the service providers' role in community

we've been talking about working with people in their **relational context**.

people have multiple contexts. We need to consider and understand other contexts, such as *identity* and *cultural* and *material*.

This requires providers to have a deeper role in community than many currently have – leadership development and network building.

- community outreach is not about directing more people to services;
- align with current practices in prevention – prevention and intervention messages can be delivered more coherently to communities than they currently are.

Practice concerns

- Boundaries
- Confidentiality
- Security
- Funding
- Evaluation

Research concerns

- Evaluation
- Boundaries around study population
- Blending of proximal and distal outcomes
- Ambiguity about what outcomes are
- Shift from outcomes to capacity (e.g., if survivor isn't engaged in services— just the network, cannot directly study impact on survivor)