

Serving Homeless Survivors

Maddie Graves-Wilson
Executive Director of Beyond Survival
Aberdeen, WA

Introduce yourselves



About ME

Name: Maddie Graves-Wilson

State: Washington

Likes: Reading, outdoors,
Riding quads, Harry Potter,
Hanging out with family.



Why I chose this topic...

Experienced Homelessness
And have been serving
This need ever since



What do we know about folks that may be experiencing homelessness?

Grab Your Handouts



Strengths
And
Challenges

What did you come up with?

Strengths

- Innovative
- Resilient
- Raw
- Smart
- Cautious

Challenges

- Mental Health
- Addiction
- Lack of resources
- Self esteem/worth
- Lack of trust



Strengths Based Perspective

While maintaining realism is
important

Here are the Stats

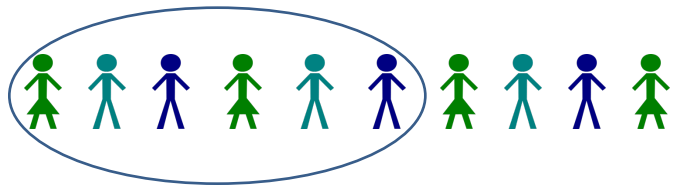
National Sexual Violence Resource Center



Lack of housing or inadequate shelter can increase the risk of sexual violence. 10% of women and 8% of men who experienced housing insecurity in the past year had a higher prevalence of intimate partner violence.

Victims of Physical or
Sexual Violence...

58% of **LGBTQ Youth**
experiencing homelessness



32% of **Women** experiencing
homelessness



27% of **Men** experiencing homelessness



24% of youth experiencing homelessness
witness sexual assaults

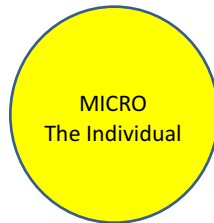


That's Heavy Stuff

And it's made even more heavy knowing the majority of our clients experiencing homelessness possibly won't be taken seriously when reporting or be able to access services they need.

First Things First

If you're going to serve you need to know who you're dealing with



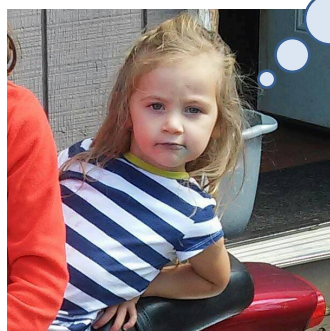
Our Goal for our work with clients:

**SUPPORT,
EDUCATE,
EMPOWER**

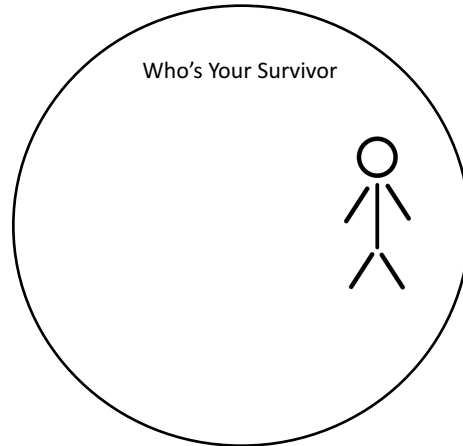
In Your Community What Do Folks Look Like?

Who's Your Survivor

Grab Your Handouts

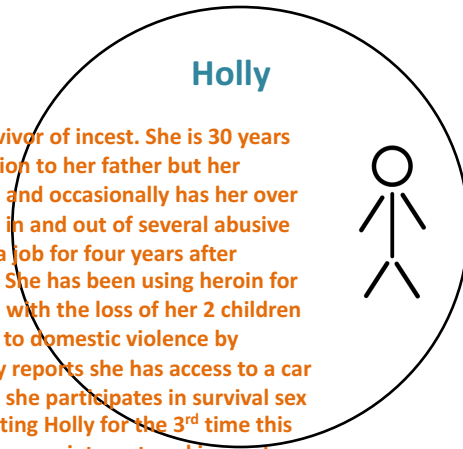


Who's
Your
Survivor?



What's Their Story?

Holly is a childhood survivor of incest. She is 30 years old. She has no connection to her father but her mother lives in the area and occasionally has her over for meals. She has been in and out of several abusive relationships. She held a job for four years after completing high school. She has been using heroin for the past 3 years to cope with the loss of her 2 children that were removed due to domestic violence by children's services. Holly reports she has access to a car and a tent, but typically she participates in survival sex for shelter. You are meeting Holly for the 3rd time this time she's arriving to her appointment soaking wet with no coat. She says she had a bad night and needs plan B contraception but doesn't have insurance.



Think Needs, Barriers & Challenges, and Assets

What about your homeless survivor?

Needs

- Access to Birth control
- Support Person
- Clean/Warm Clothing

Barriers and Challenges

- Addiction
- No License
- No Medical Coverage
- Children in foster care

Assets

- Car
- Family
- Tent
- Work Experience

Don't Assume We Know What's Best

Finding tools for survivors to assess and evaluate their own situation and what needs to happen is empowering

The Difference Game

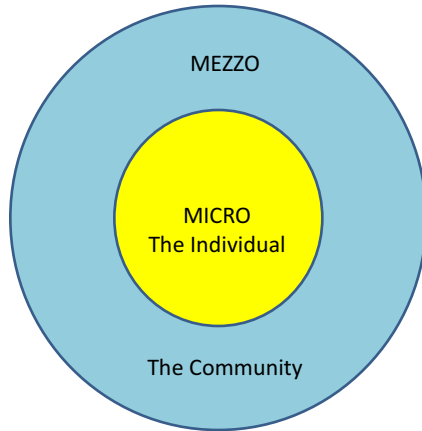


[Journal of Contemporary Human Services, 78\(4\): 429-432](#)

The Tool We Use

It's tangible and gets folks thinking

Moving On...



The Resource Guide

Is it really helpful?



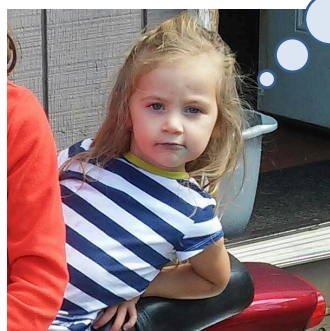
Who Does What?

1. What are the agencies in your area?
2. Who do they serve?
3. What services do they provide?
4. What criteria do you need to meet to be served?

Other Connections to Consider

- Who are the community officers?
 - Need a go to with each department and not just detectives
- Who runs the shelter?
 - When someone is released from the hospital at 2am where are they going?
- Who are the healthcare navigators?
 - Most of our clients have multiple healthcare needs so this is essential.
- Who are the Hospital Social Workers?
 - While their role is sometimes limited they can really help if you feel your client should not be released.
- Who are the Drug and Alcohol treatment intake staff
 - When you need a bed date these people are great to have relationships with these folks.

Grab Your Handouts



Who
Does
What?

How is your agency's system currently set up?

Proactive or Reactive

Reactive System



- Crisis Calls
- Hospital Calls
- Walk Ins
- Approached at events when tabling at resource fairs

Proactive System

- Be where they are
 - MOUs with shelters
 - McKinney Vento liaison at schools
- Know who they know
 - Groups that work and serve this population regularly
- Get creative
 - Go set up at the park for the day



Beyond Survival

Addiction Services

-We provide advocacy at the treatment center and prevention classes

MOUs

-All law enforcement, mental health, shelters, and housing agencies.

Transportation

-We can provide transportation to SA related appointments.

Awareness/Services

-We get out of our office regularly. We partner with local libraries and other agencies to use private meeting rooms because we are so rural in our county and it is often difficult for folks to get to us.

School Partners

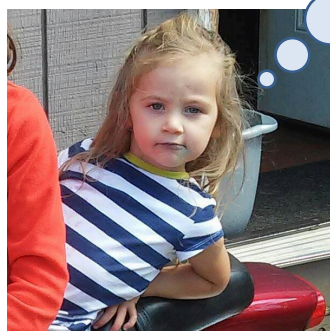
-We attend the counselors meeting at the beginning of each school year

Components of a Proactive System

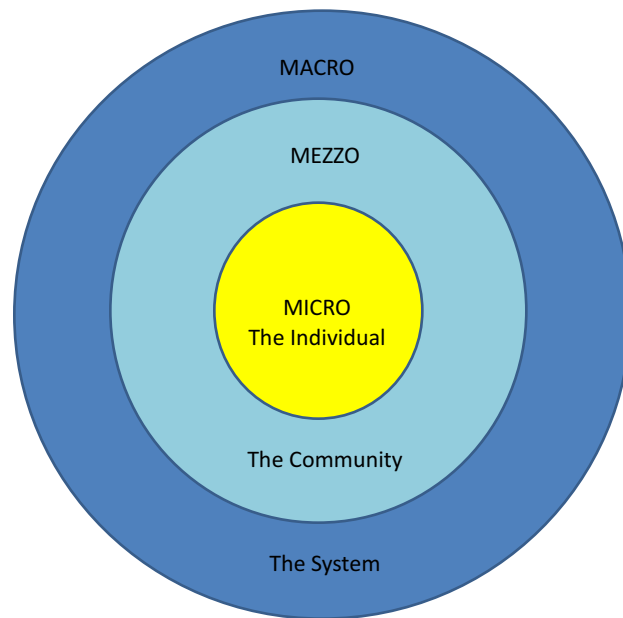
What can you think of....

What might work in your
community?

Grab Your Handouts



What are we doing?
And
How could we improve?



What are the Laws or Policies?

In your city...
In your county...
In your state...
Federal...

Common City Ordinances

- No sitting on Sidewalks
- No panhandling
- Camping permitted on public grounds (Yes or No)
- How long can you leave your car parked in one spot



Common County



- Coordinated Entry Systems
- Subsidized housing policy
- Camping
- Housing Voucher Programs and emergency shelter programs

State

- Look for laws that aren't necessarily specific to homelessness but that have impacts on those experiencing homelessness.
- Examples
 - Laws about open containers
 - Laws about prostitution
 - Runaway youth
 - Eligibility for state services
 - Rental laws
 - Education requirements

Federal

- Violence Against Women Act
 - Knowing what protections your client may be eligible for under this policy
 - McKinney Vento
 - Understanding a little bit about what is required for schools
 - Affordable Healthcare
 - Understanding your state system for healthcare
- Can you think of any?

Grab Your Handouts



Policy

Don't Be Afraid to Question

- Who is this helping?
- Who is this hurting?
- Why is this necessary?
- What are the alternatives?

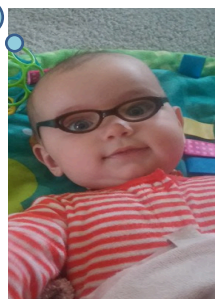


In Closing...

- This is a basic overview of topics your agency seriously needs to take into account when developing proactive services for survivors experiencing homelessness. This is just to get you started and get you thinking.

NOW GET CREATIVE

**Any
Questions?**



More information available up front

Thank YOU!



Maddie Graves-Wilson
(360) 533-9751
Director@ghbeyondsurvival.com