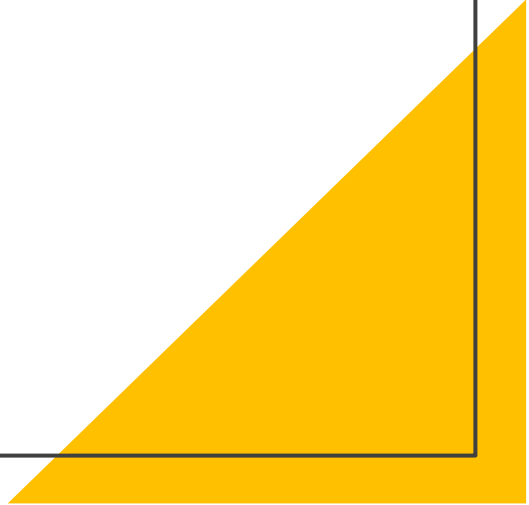


Healing Starts at Home: Reimagining Permanent Supportive Housing for Trauma Survivors

Part II: Intersectionality and Racial Equity for
Survivors in Permanent Supportive Housing



The Intersections Between Domestic & Sexual Violence, Racism and Homelessness



<https://youtu.be/XRTNvWiL1sU>

Black Permanent Supportive Housing Residents' Premature Exits and Returns to Homelessness

Norweeta G. Milburn, Earl Edwards, and Dean Obermark



Work possible thanks to a much larger team



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April Nunn

Black people are more likely to experience homelessness, as well as re-experience homelessness after living in PSH

- In LA County, Black people represent **9%** of the general population yet comprise **40%** of the homeless population (*Ad Hoc Committee, 2018*)
- In the PSH system, we estimate about **25%** of all Black residents re-experience homelessness, and Black residents are **39%** more likely than white residents to become homeless again
- Our work explores the reasons behind the inequity in the PSH system

Enrollments and Returns to Interim Housing or Street Outreach
Single Adult Enrollments from 2010 through June, 2019

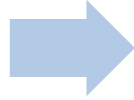
RACE/ETHNICITY	NUMBER	PERCENT OF ALL ENROLLMENTS	PERCENT RETURNING
American Indian or Alaska Native	131	1%	21%
Asian	277	2%	12%
Black	8,253	51%	25%
Latinx	3,231	20%	19%
Other groups	544	3%	19%
White	3,590	22%	18%
Column Total	16,026	100%	22%

^a Returns consist of returns to shelter, safe haven, or street outreach HMIS Project Types

Why are Black residents pushed out of PSH and re-experiencing homelessness?

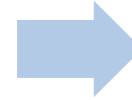
Enrollment in PSH and the search for housing

- Bureaucratic processes respond to and reinforce segregation
- Housing discrimination and resident steering
- PSH programs vary widely and are not seen by residents as permanent



Obstacles within PSH

- Lack of safety and security
- Case management turnover and inconsistency
- Lack of opportunities for growth and independence
- Pathologizing and racist treatment of Black residents



Challenging Transitions and Exits from PSH

- Lack of support to transition out of PSH
- Loss of supports once residents have exited PSH
- Navigating a structurally racist housing market and society

racial trauma

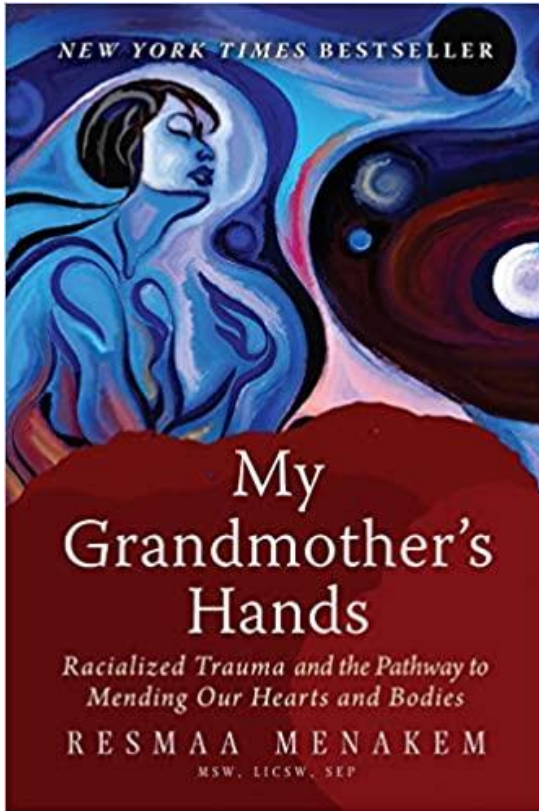
Racial Trauma: complex trauma from the ongoing experience of oppression and subordination. Mental and emotional injury caused by encounters with racial bias and ethnic discrimination, racism, and hate crimes.

–Dr. Wendy Ashley, Psy.D, LCSW



“Trauma is not primarily an emotional response. Trauma always happens *in the body*. This trauma gets stuck in the body and stays there until it’s addressed.”

–Resmaa Menakem



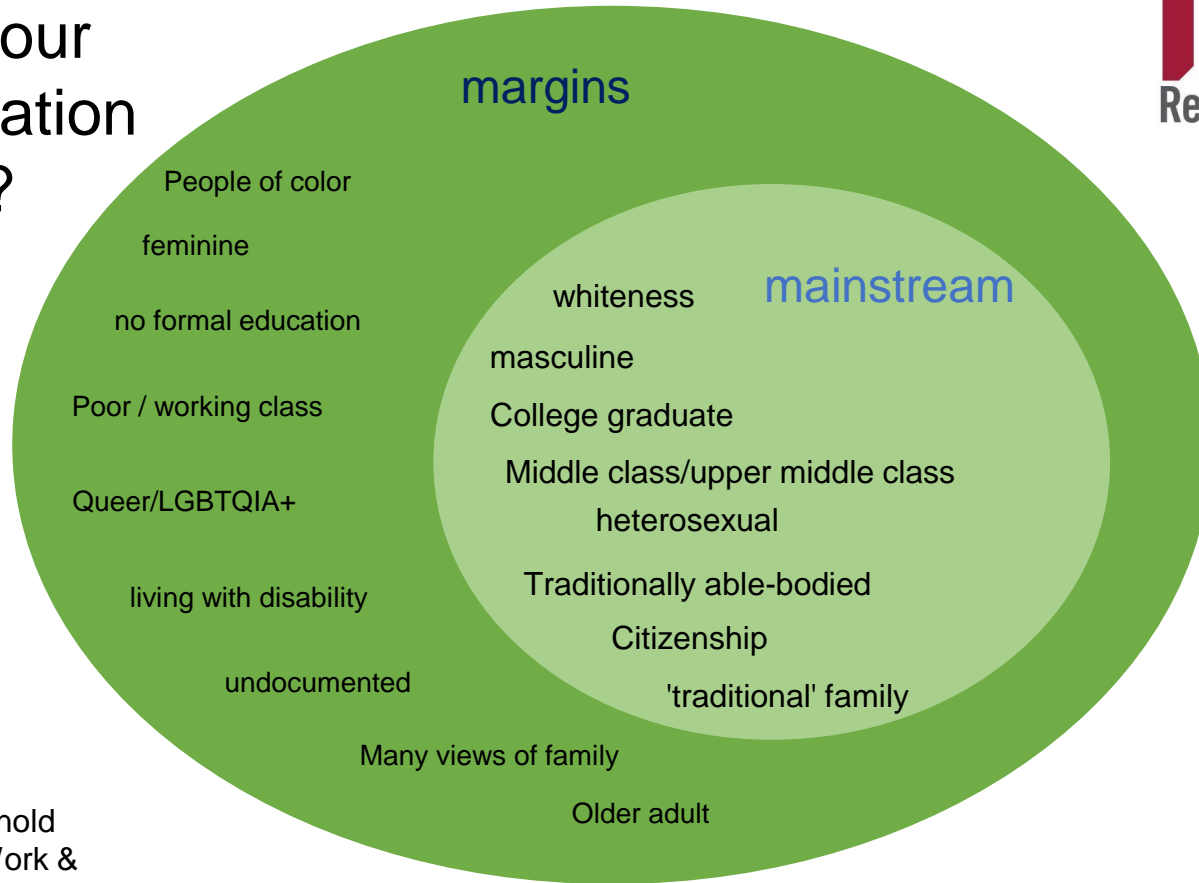
Individual and community somatic exercises & practices that help us to:

- Recognize racial trauma in our own bodies
- Heal and grow out of it
- Create more room for growth in our nervous systems

Some examples...

- Belly breathing, humming, dancing, singing, journal prompts and meditations

What is your social location to power?



Adapted from Arnold
Mindell, World Work &
George Lakey, Training for
Change

Providers Guide to Racially Conscious Trauma Informed Care

Safety	Choice	Collaboration	Trustworthiness	Empowerment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Racialized and intersectional safety is considered and explored• Individual, therapeutic, familial, community and organizational safety addressed• Trauma is anticipated to have an impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decision making, with both micro and macro consequences historically and in the present are considered• Clients provided culturally relevant tools and information to analyze options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providers and client broach dialogue regarding differences in intersectional identities and lived experiences to develop a genuine rapport• Clients invited to share honest racial feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All interactions respectful, with the understanding that racism plays a role• Systemic interaction with other organizations clarified• Boundary violations are explored with curiosity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Client lived experiences are believed, validated and affirmed• Clients are encouraged to share narratives• Therapeutic intervention and advocacy is not provided without real consent (not pseudo equity)

Dr.
Wendy
Ashley,
Psy. D.,
LCSW

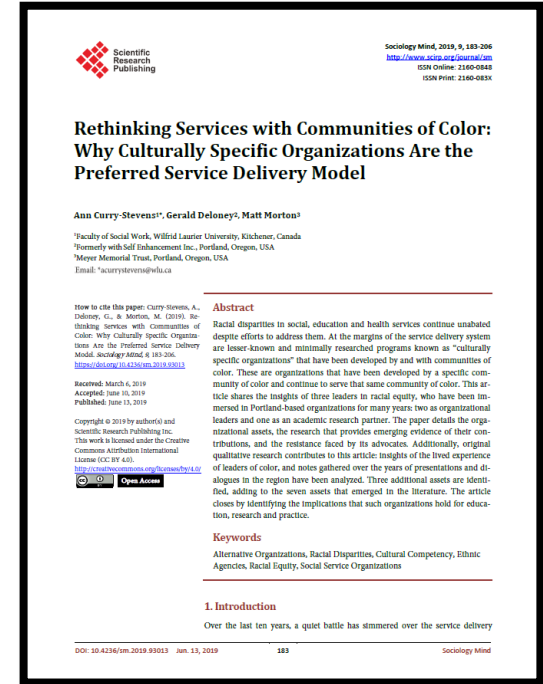
Culturally Specific Model for Services

Attributes of the model...

- Staff, board and leadership (racially/culturally) reflect the community being served (belonging)
- Org environment is culturally focused as identified by clients
- Established and successful community engagement & involvement with the community served

Benefits of the model...

- Affirms racial identity and pride
- Holistic interventions/less reliance on medical model of services
- Improved client retention, longer periods of service engagement, fuller use of services, shared (racial/cultural) identity has a positive impact on client outcomes



Sasha's Story

Sasha: I can go to a property manager or realtor with the background I have, the money in hand, and I have to have a white lady to say, 'Oh, she's okay.' I don't like that it. I don't agree with it. Because **if I'd have went by my black self, I'd still be homeless.** Still wouldn't have been given a chance. I think that is the ugliest thing in the world. It's a very dependent feeling. I don't like that feeling. I don't like it. But have I had to subject myself to that? Yes, I have.

SK: If you think about that well-meaning white person who's vouching for you, does it make a difference if they are also acknowledging the racism in that situation?

Sasha: Sometimes I think they do know.

SK: But they never say anything?

Sasha: No, no.

SK: Would it make a difference if they acknowledged it?

Sasha: **I think I would respect them a little bit more, that they're aware of what I go through,** totally. And not hide the fact-or pretend the fact it's not there all together, I think I would respect that person a little bit more. Not that I don't respect them, because **they are trying to help me, they just don't know how.**

Dismantling White Supremacy within Social Services

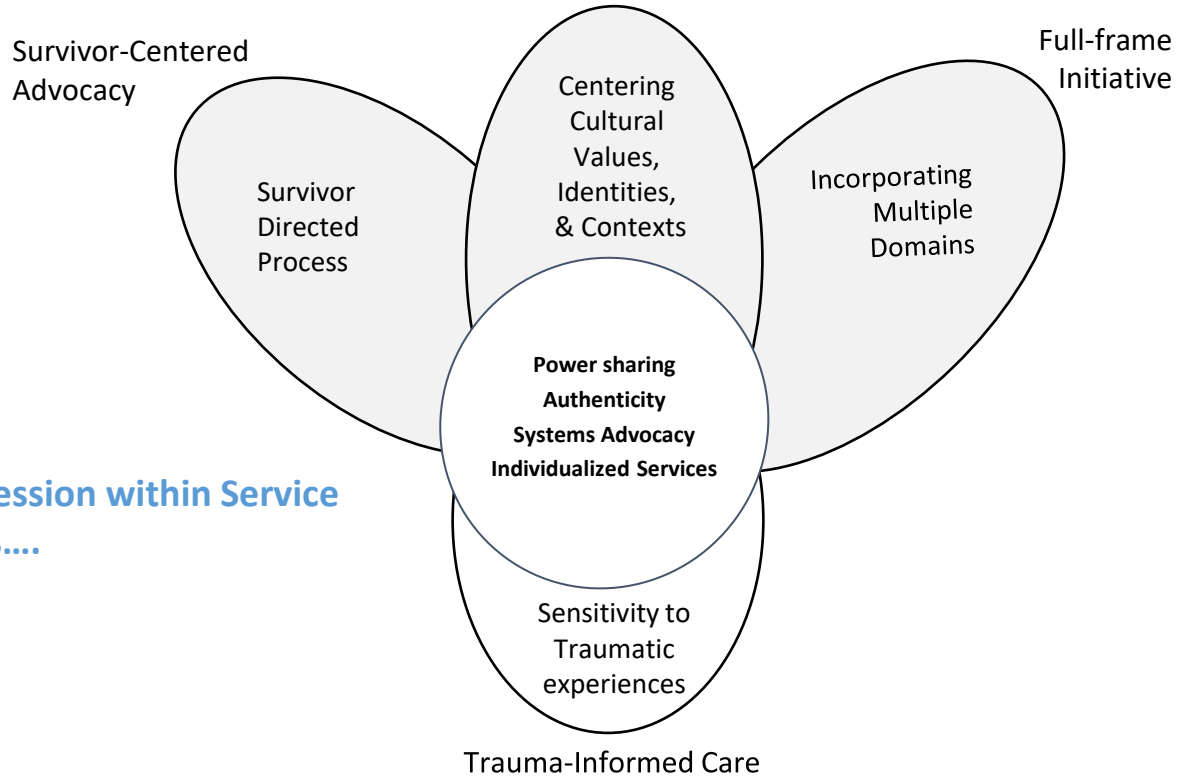
- Identifying Structural Racism
 - Talking about Race is Hard
 - Programs are Steeped in Racism
- Advancing Anti-oppressive Practice
 - Supporting Ongoing Reflection
 - Creating Accountable Communities
 - Empowering Staff to Enact Anti-oppressive practices
 - Standing with Oppressed Communities

--Kulkarni, Howard, & Roberts, in review

**INTERSECTIONAL TRAUMA-
INFORMED SERVICE
DELIVERY**

Intersectional IPV Approaches

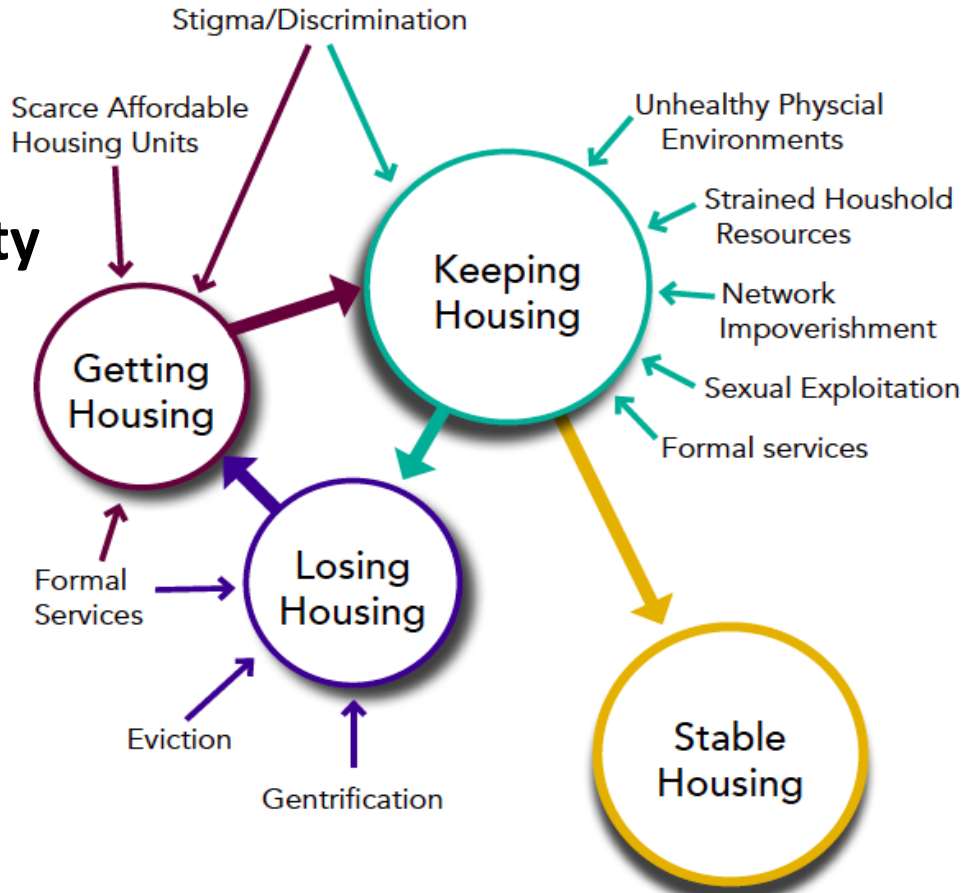
Culturally Specific IPV Programs



Disrupting oppression within Service Delivery Models....

Trauma-Informed Approaches

Widening the Lens: Cycle of Housing Insecurity



Disrupting Cycle of Housing Insecurity: Report Recommendations

1. Provide comprehensive intersectional trauma-informed services
2. Advance cross-sector collaborations
3. Allow survivors to challenge negative stereotypes with their stories
4. Improve survivor protections from housing discrimination and tenant exploitation
5. Increase affordable housing resources and equitable access
6. Support community investments that target the underlying causes

Kulkarni & Hill, 2020