



# Starting a Shelter; Building a Movement: The Critical Role of Shelter in the Coordinated Community Response to Elder Abuse

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Joy Solomon, Esq.  
Jessica Hernandez, LCSW

# Housekeeping

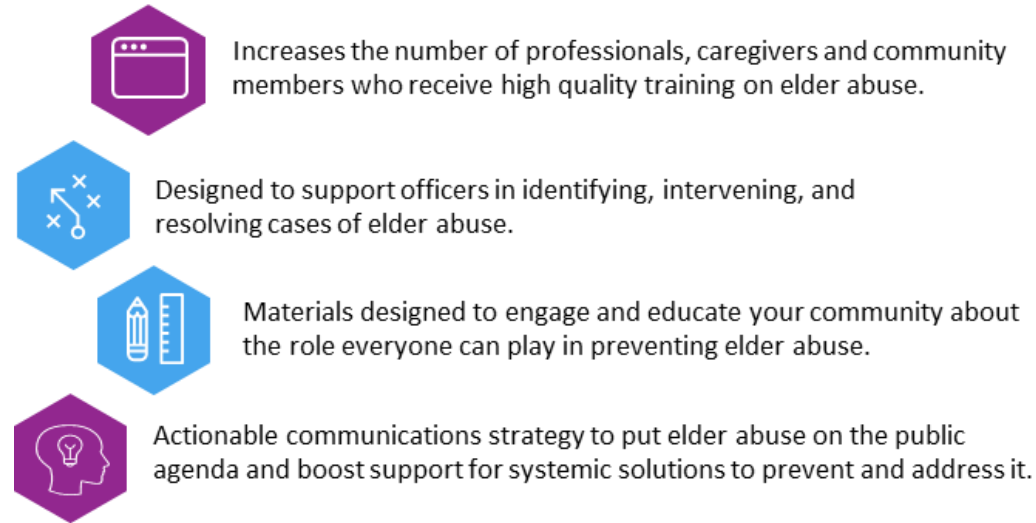
- All attendees will enter the meeting on listen-only mode.
- If you have questions, type them in the box below. We will address as many as possible during the Q&A session at the conclusion of the presentation.
- Workshop recording and presentation materials will be made available via the National Center on Elder Abuse.

To improve the national response to  
elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation

- by -

- a) gathering, housing and disseminating current information,
- b) stimulating and identifying new approaches, and
- c) detecting and addressing gaps in the field.

# National Center on Elder Abuse and related projects



# Web-based Resources

What are the most useful resources at your fingertips?  
Here are **FREE** web based tools from today's host:

- National Center on Elder Abuse (<https://ncea.acl.gov/>)
- USC Center on Elder Mistreatment (<https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu>)
  - Supports and Tools for Elder Abuse Prevention ([nceausc.tk/STEAP](https://nceausc.tk/STEAP))
  - Reframing Elder Abuse (<http://frameworksinstitute.org/elder-abuse.html>)
- Training Resources on Elder Abuse (<https://trea.usc.edu>)
- Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement (<http://eagle.trea.usc.edu/>)

# Today's Presenters



**Joy Solomon, Esq.**  
Director and Managing Attorney  
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Justice  
At the Hebrew Home at Riverdale



**Jessica Hernandez, LCSW**  
Social Service Supervisor  
Sonoma County Adult Protective Services



The Harry and Jeanette  
**Weinberg Center for Elder Justice**

AT THE HEBREW HOME AT RIVERDALE

We are pioneers of safe shelter for people who experience elder abuse. It is our mission to champion justice and dignity for older adults

<https://theweinbergcenter.org/>

Joy Solomon, Esq.

Director and Managing Attorney  
The Weinberg Center for Elder Justice

# The nation's first elder abuse shelter

- The Weinberg Center is integrated into the campus of the Hebrew Home at Riverdale, a 600 bed long-term care facility on 19 acres in Riverdale, NY
- Flexible, low-cost model created without bricks and mortar
- Five pillars of our work:
  1. **Shelter**
  2. **Replication**
  3. Legal Initiatives
  4. Outreach and Training
  5. Partnerships



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# How our model works



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# How our model works

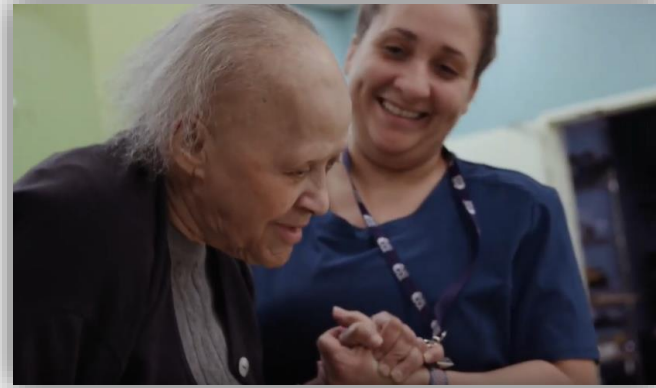
Referral

Admission

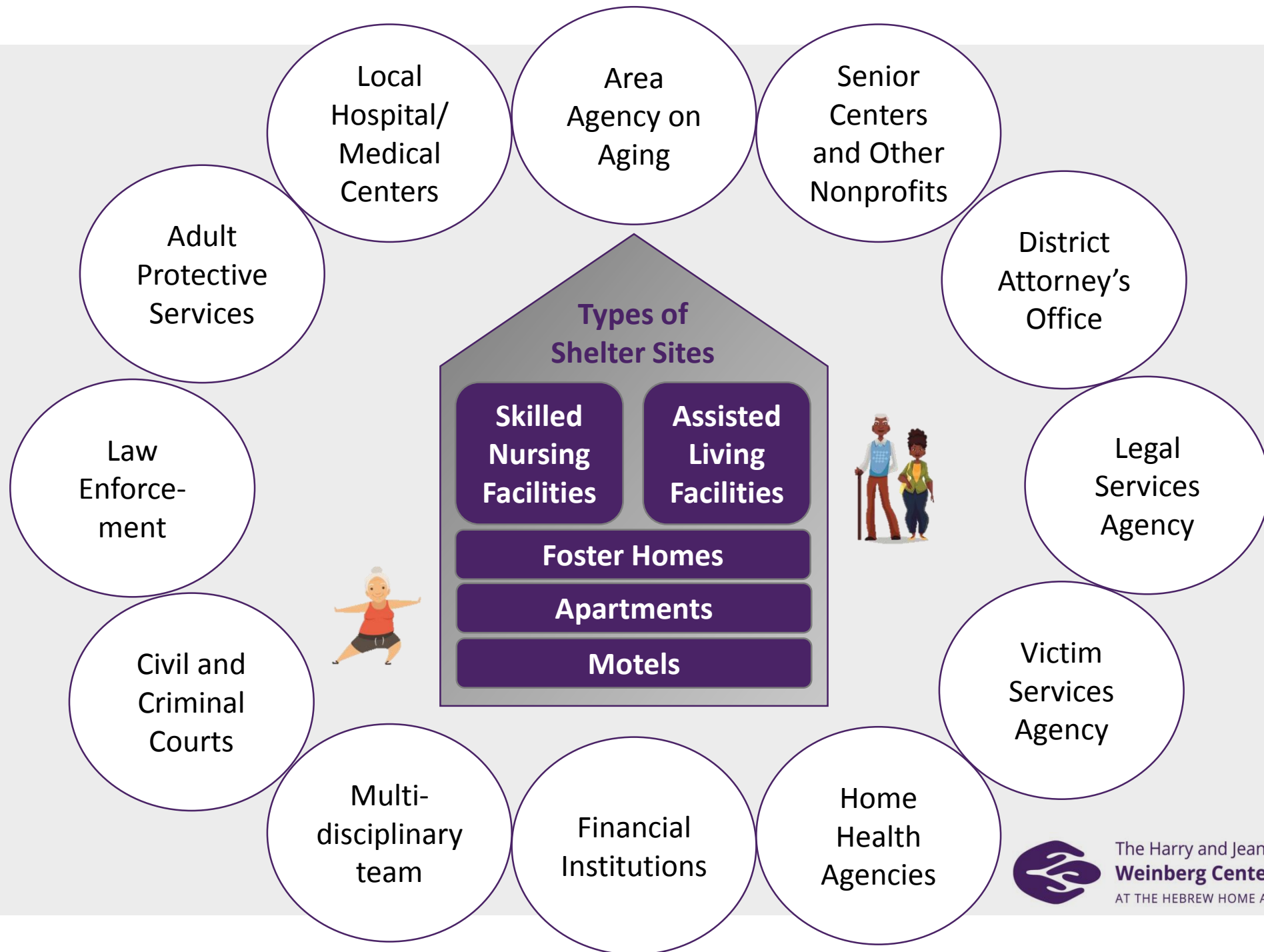
Assessment

Provision of  
Social and  
Legal Services

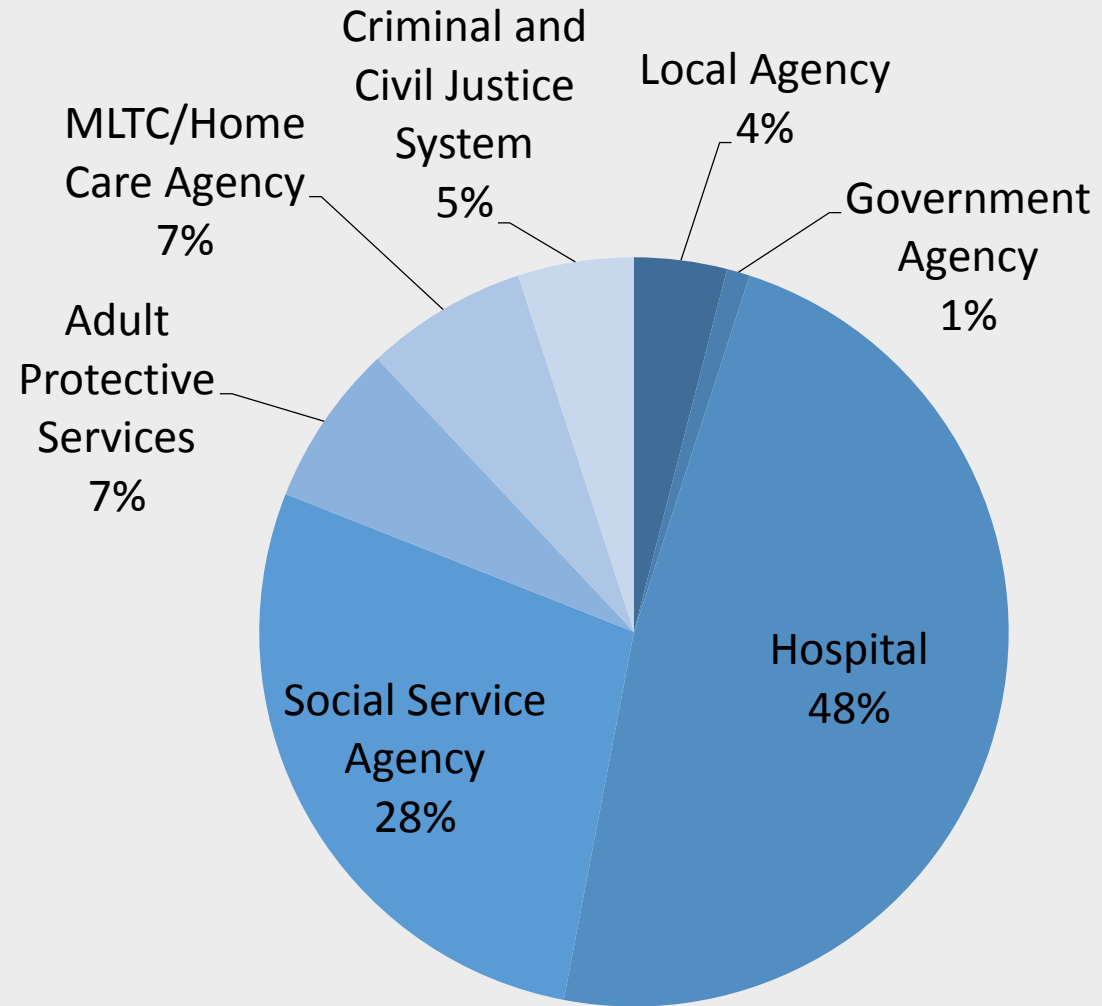
Discharge to  
Safe Living  
Environment



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# Referrals



In 2018, 82 older adults were referred to the shelter program, with more than 3/4 (76%) coming from hospitals and social service agencies.



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# Criteria for Admission

- Older adult must be 60+
- Experiences one or more types of abuse or is at serious risk of abuse
- Professional referral
- In need of temporary shelter and agrees to be placed in facility
- No contact with the person(s) who caused harm



# Payment Sources

- Medicaid/Medicare
- Insurance
- Foundation grants
- City, County, and/or Federal Funding
- Private funders
- Annual fundraiser



Length of  
Stay

30-120 days on average



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# Our Team

Inter-disciplinary team consisting of:

- Attorneys
- Licensed social workers
- Public health specialist
- Case coordinator
- Legal and social service interns



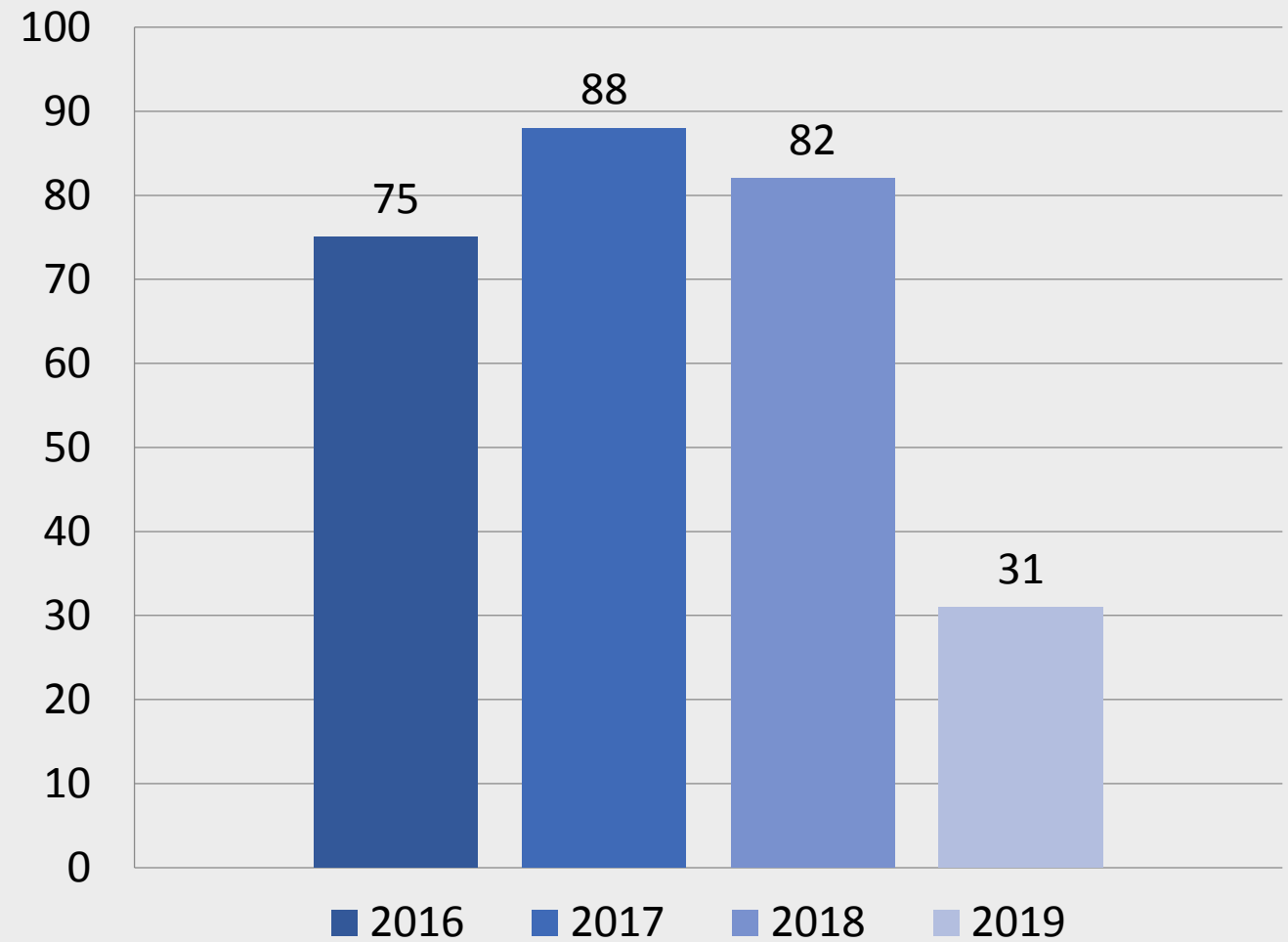
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# Full Integration

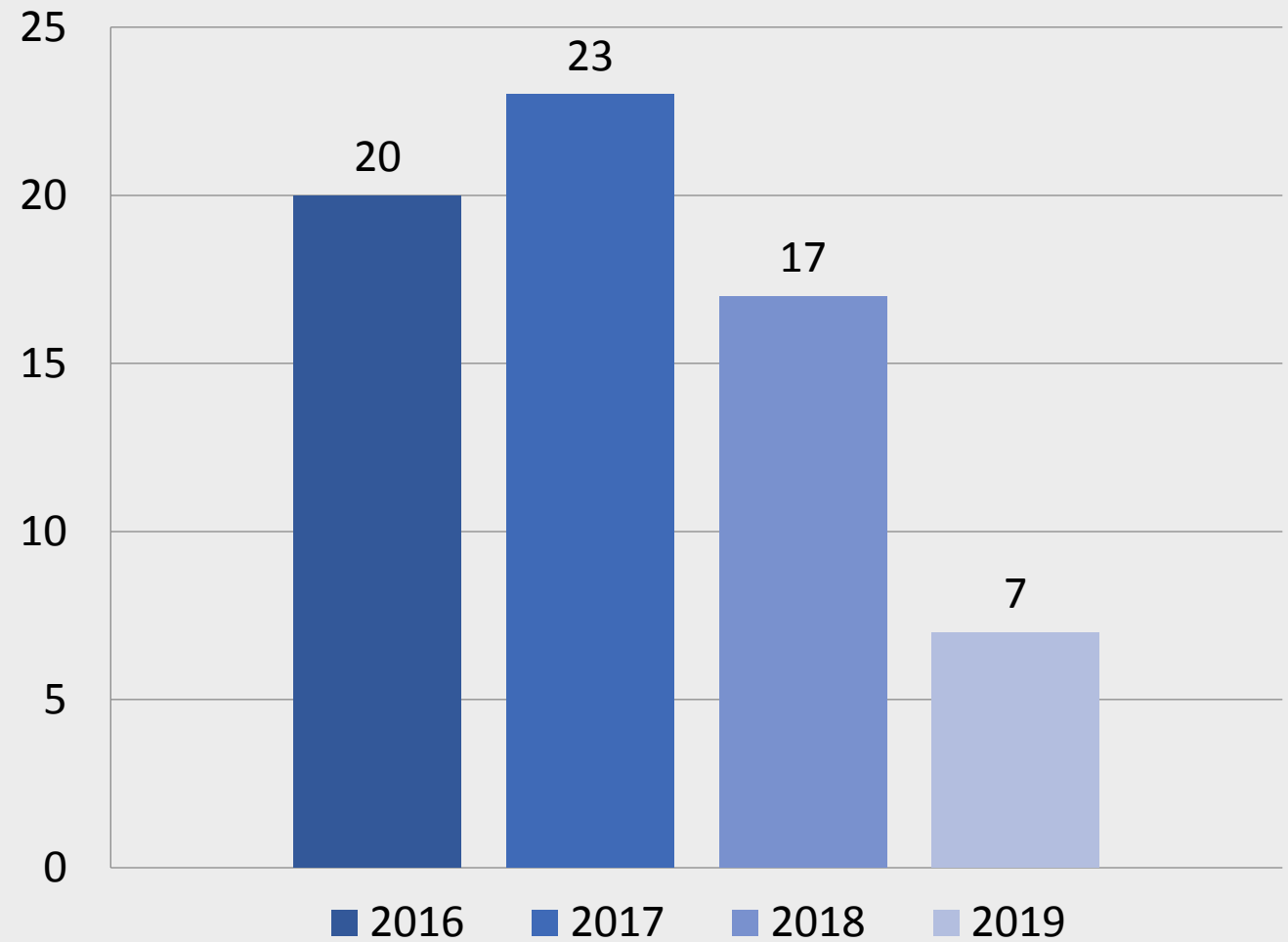
- Clinical Team
- Security Personnel
- Housekeeping
- Food Services
- Finance Department
- Development Team
- Therapeutic Activities Staff



# Referrals

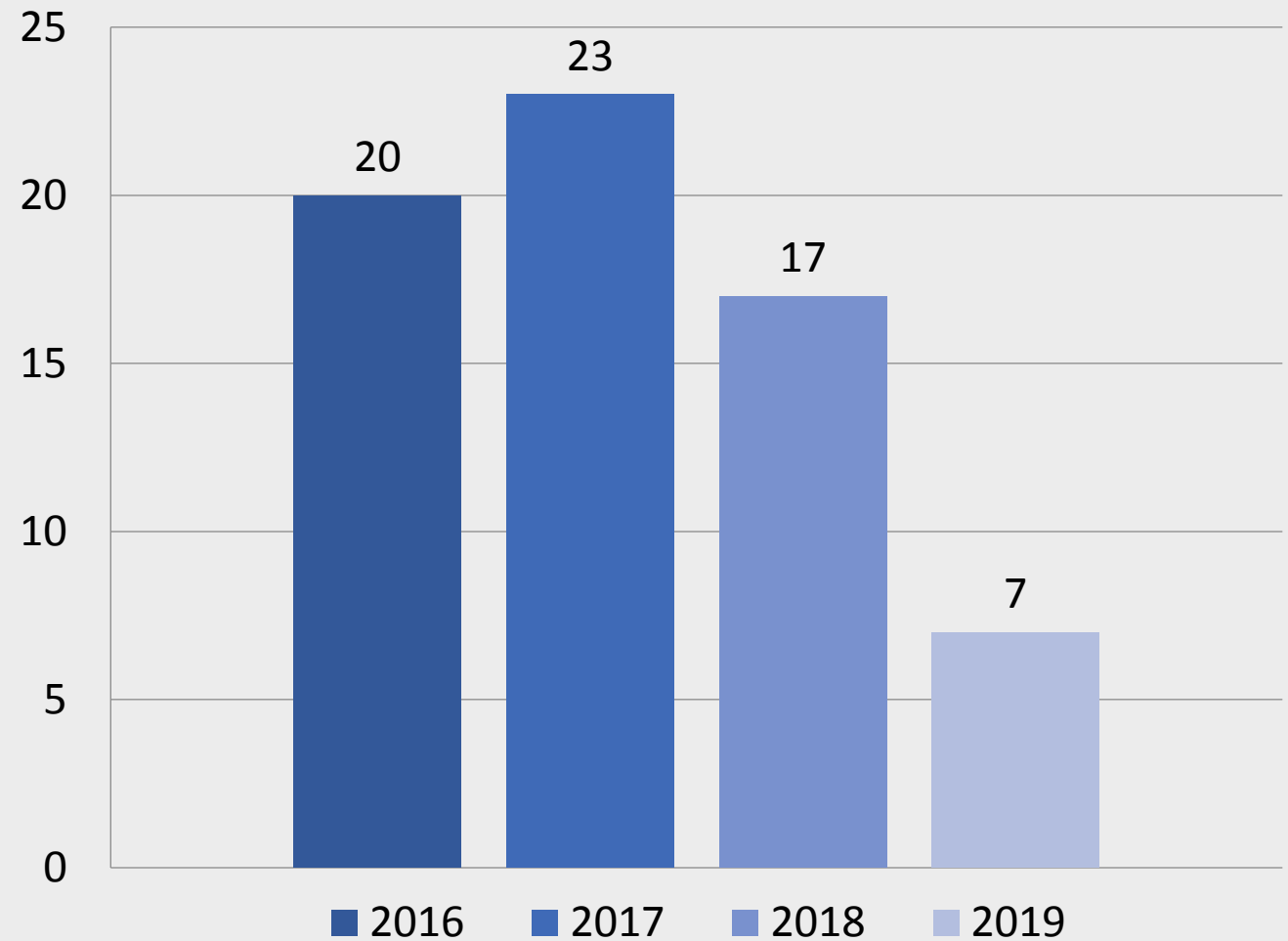


# Admissions



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# Admissions



**142,560 days of shelter**



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# 5 Elements Necessary for Shelter

1. A Champion
2. Appropriate Housing
3. A Network of Support Services
4. Widespread Awareness
5. Reliable Funding



# Lessons Learned

- Shelter is critical component of a coordinated community response
- Trauma matters
- The shelter program needs a team, a champion, and supportive leadership
- Older people have unique and diverse needs
- Data is your best friend



# Continual Innovation and Evolution

- Transitional services identified as a major client need
- Recently awarded Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim and Witness Assistance funds to support transitional services



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“To create a network of regional elder abuse shelters and other similar service models with close working relationships, shared resources and technical assistance, common standards of excellence and a vibrant community of support.”



We are leaders in a global network of elder abuse shelters

[SPRiNGAlliance.org](https://SPRiNGAlliance.org)

[Home](#)[Movement](#)[Materials](#)[Getting Started](#)[Media](#)[Contact Us](#)

## Our Mission

**The mission of the SPRiNG Alliance is to create a network of regional elder abuse shelters and other similar service models with close working relationships, shared resources and technical assistance, common standards of excellence and a vibrant community of support.**

## Members

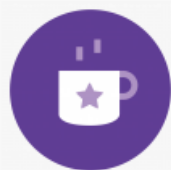


# Getting Started

The SPRiNG Alliance serves as a resource to communities seeking to explore creating elder abuse shelter in their community. Experts will work with key community stakeholders to adapt the flexible elder abuse shelter model to suit particularized local needs and resources. We recognize the road to launching a shelter is complex, and welcome inquiries from communities at every stage of the process. Below are several documents that may also be helpful.

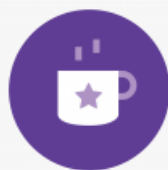
If you have any questions or want to discuss setting up your own community abuse shelter, [please contact us](#).

To learn more about elder abuse, visit [ncea.acl.gov](https://ncea.acl.gov)



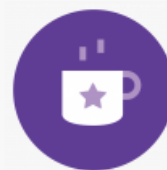
## Joining the Global Elder Abuse Shelter Movement: Frequently Asked Questions

Document about starting a shelter and the activities of the SPRiNG Alliance.



## 2019 Glimpse of the SPRiNG Alliance

A snapshot of who we are and what we do.



## SPRiNG Alliance Shelter Resource Guide 2017

A guide to SPRiNG Alliance members created for the 2017 Symposium.

\* produced by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale

Home

Movement



Materials



Getting Started

Media

Contact Us

Adult & Aging Division  
**Sonoma, CA**

Beth Sholom  
**Virginia Beach, VA**

Center for Elder Abuse Prevention  
**Fairfield, CT**

Center for the Prevention of Elder  
Abuse & Neglect  
**Roslindale, MA**

Commission on Economic Opportunity  
**Scranton, PA**

Council on Elder Abuse Shelter Network  
**Buffalo, NY**

District Attorney's Office  
**San Diego, CA**

ElderSAFE Center  
**Rockville, MD**

Eliza Bryant Village  
**Cleveland, OH**

Emergency Shelter Committee for the Coalition for  
Organization Protecting Elders  
**Toledo, OH**

Hamilton County Elder Justice Center  
**Chattanooga, TN**

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder  
Justice  
**Riverdale, NY**

Lifespan's Elder Abuse Prevention Center  
**Rochester, NY**

Pikes Peak Elder Abuse Coalition Shelter Program  
**Colorado**

SAFE: Stop Abuse of Elders, CHANA  
**Baltimore, MD**

Saint Elizabeth Haven for Elder Abuse Victims  
**Warwick, RI**

Senior Haven for Elder Abuse Prevention  
**Rockleigh, NJ**

Statewide Adult Protective Services  
**Utah**

18

members in the  
SPRiNG Alliance

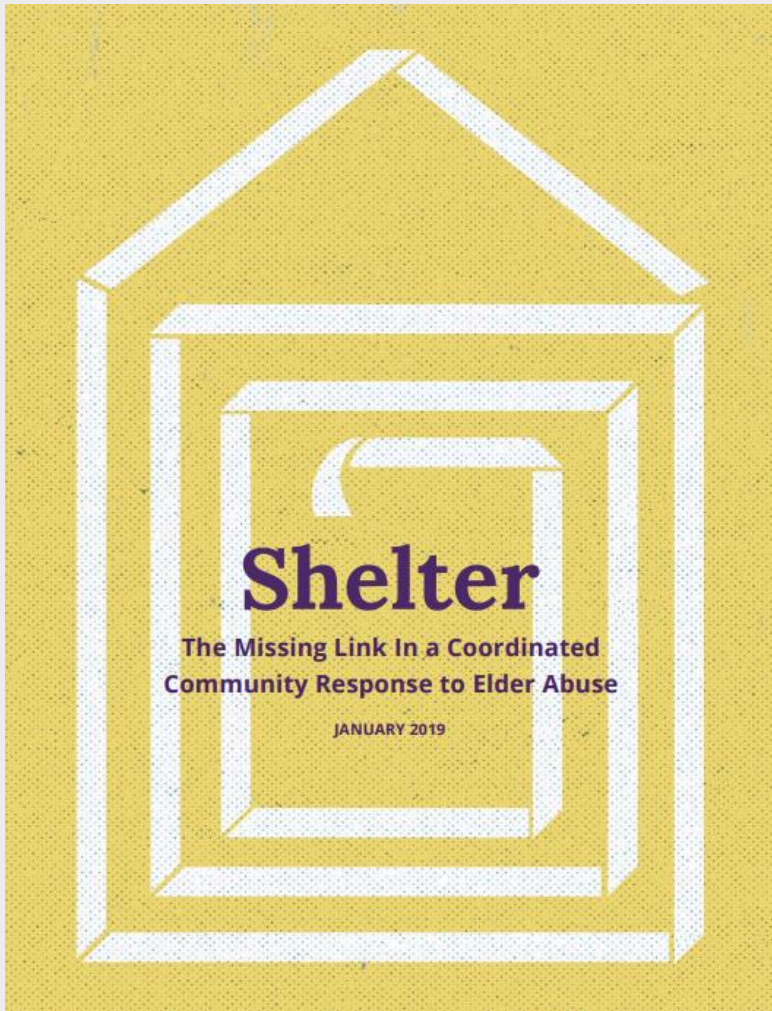
across

13

states



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[SPRiNGAlliance.org](http://SPRiNGAlliance.org)

[\*Going Home \(Video\)\*](#)

[\*Shelter Monograph\*](#)

[theweinbergcenter.org](http://theweinbergcenter.org)



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# Emergency Shelter in Adult Protective Services

Sonoma County Emergency Shelter Program

Human Services Department

Adult & Aging Division



# Overview of Sonoma County Emergency Shelter

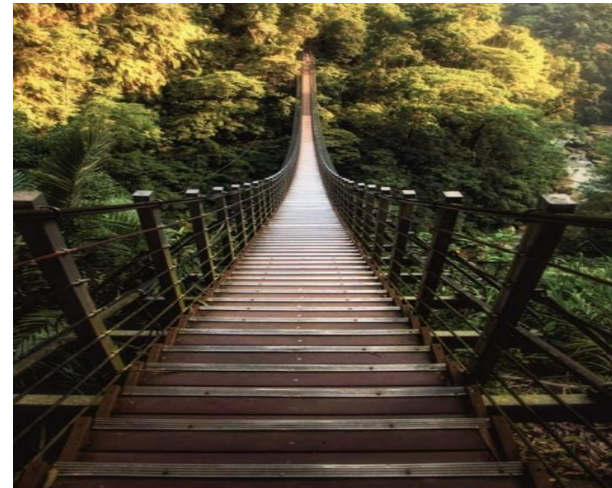
A Unique Perspective: inside  
Adult Protective Services (APS)

Emergency Shelter Design & Housing  
Options

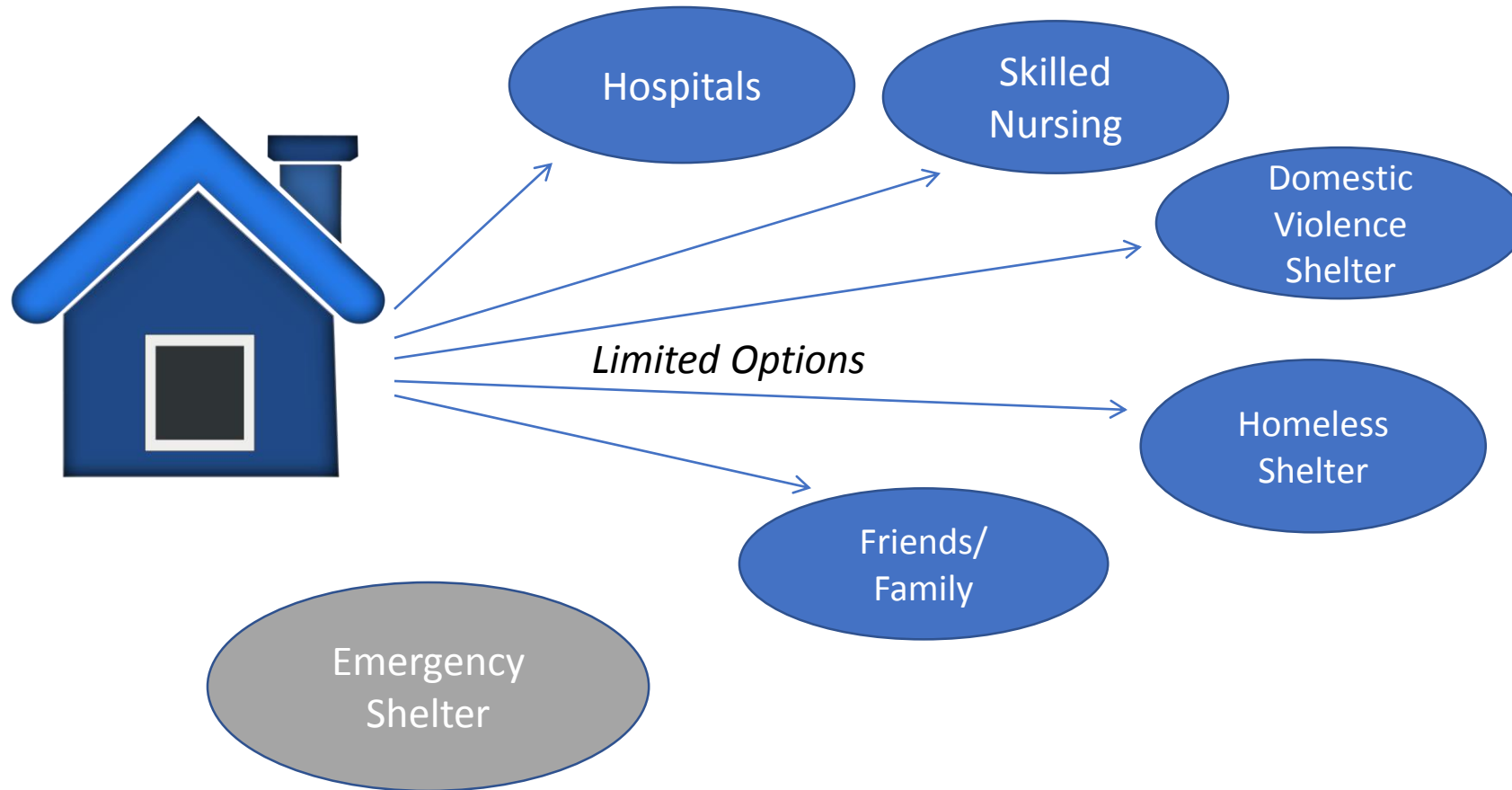
Creating Shelter in *your* community

# Shelter Inside APS

- Demonstrated need within APS
- In 2018, APS completed 3,504 investigations of abuse.
- Direct contact with the victim
  - APS makes home visits
  - Observations of the abusive situation
  - Social worker with victim at point of leaving



# A Reason to Create Shelter



# Our Shelter Funding

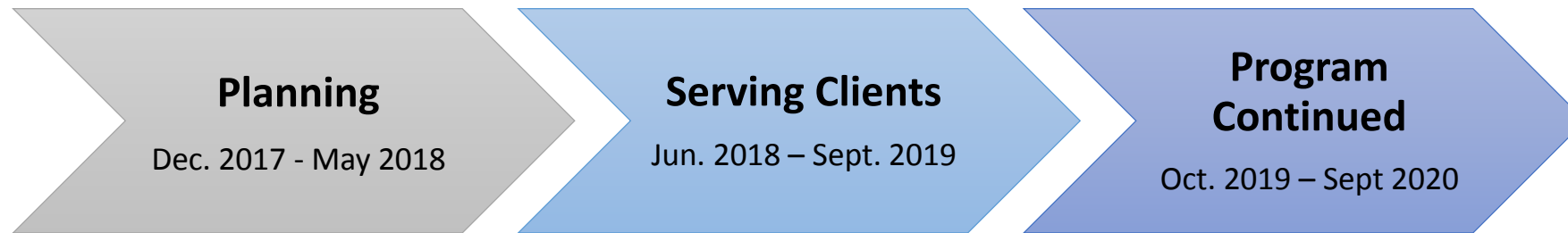
- Grant funded: VOCA KE
  - California Office of Emergency Services (Cal-OES)
  - Request for proposal specific to **housing** for victims of abuse
  - Target Population:
    - Victims of abuse with emergency housing needs

# Emergency Shelter Program (ESP)

- Referral Sources
  - All referrals to shelter are made by APS Social Workers
  - Majority of reports by mandated reporters
    - (i.e., Medical professionals, financial institutions, law enforcement)
- Program Services
  - 45-days of temporary housing + 30-days of case management
  - Safety assessment and planning
  - Psychosocial and nursing assessment
  - Wrap-around case management services
  - Victim Advocacy
  - Permanent housing search assistance



# Our Program Timeline



- 6-months of planning and investment
- SPRiNG Alliance support
- Engage community
- Identifying shelter sites

- 11 APS clients sheltered
- Outreach to 11 agencies (170 mandated reporters)

- Program additions:
- Clients contemplating leaving abusive situation
  - Abuser has been removed

# Our Shelter Design: a virtual model

- Shelter sites are spread across the county—virtually placed
- Shelter is primarily based on the client's **level of care needs** (*functional & medical needs*)
- Safety and keeping distance from abuser is also highly considered in shelter location



# Housing Options

Independent Living

Assisted Living

Skilled Nursing Care



*Clients are sheltered within the community based on the medical and functional needs of the individual.*

# Independent Living

Those who can live independently (or with some supports), shelter options include:

## Hotels/Motels

- Letters of understanding w/local motels and hotels (*see SPRiNG Alliance for sample agreement*)
- Make site visits early on in planning process. Relationship-building with hotel staff is ongoing

## Senior Housing: Furnished 1-bedroom apartment (55+ community)

- Contract with local non-profit
- Partnered with non-profit for support to oversee operations, furnish apartment, case management

## Foster Care Model: Community-based, home setting

- Community partnership between APS and local non-profit
- Adult foster-care program (*still in development*)

# Assisted Living & Skilled Nursing

For clients who have a higher level of care need, shelter options include:

## Assisted Living Facility

- Contract established with facility
- Pre-paid bed remains available at anytime



## Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)

- Agreement with facility
- Access point is through the hospital



# Creating Shelter in *your* Community

**PLANNING** (*Sonoma planned for 6-months*)

## 1) Identify

- The funding source
- The “backbone agency”
- Those who have successfully created shelter in their community
- SPRiNG Alliance
- Your community partners in Elder Justice
- Resources that already exist in your community that can be leveraged

## 2) Engage

- Invite community stakeholders to the table
- Ask for ideas in how to create shelter from your community partners—creativity welcomed
- Build on *existing* partnerships

## 3) Commit & Invest

- Be bold! Ask for a commitment of resources for short-term housing from key decision-makers
- Establish agreements and contracts (e.g., motels, pet shelters, RCFE’s and other non-profits)

# Potential Community Partners

Governmental Organizations (City/County)	Non-Profits Organizations	Private Organizations
Adult Protective Services	Homeless Service agencies	Skilled Nursing/Assisted Living Administrators
Ombudsman	Senior Service groups (e.g. Council on Aging)	Hospitals
District Attorney	Legal Aid	Elder Law Offices
Victim's Services	Regional Centers	Pet Agencies
Behavioral Health Services	Affordable Housing Providers	
Housing Authorities		
Area Agency on Aging		

# Community Outreach for Building Shelter: Sample Letters and Agreements

- [Hotel Agreement](#)
- [Pet Agency Agreement](#)
- [Letter to Community Stakeholders](#)

# Contact

Jessica Hernandez, LCSW

Sonoma County Adult Protective Services  
APS & Housing Stabilization Team Supervisor

Email: [jhernandez@schsd.org](mailto:jhernandez@schsd.org)

# Thank You! Any Questions?

