## Rapid Rehousing & Emergency Shelter
### Learning Circle Summary

**February 19, 2016**

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| Hopes | • More resources to connect with permanent housing and housing stability  
• House families quickly and appropriately  
• Treat families with respect and include family choice in decision making  
• Need for more affordable housing.  
• Need for wrap around teams of support |

| What you bring and what other bring | • Both shelters and RRH have case management and form relationships with families  
• There is a high expectation of RRH and what it can bring – Need to right size expectations  
• Shelter is able to complete credit reports and ORCA cards – They could use a more in depth screening report, help with housing applications, birth certificates and work on other early barriers  
• RRH can bring financial assistance, communication with landlords and goal setting  
• Some RRH providers work closely with employment navigators  
• Time that shelter case management can support housing search varies |

### Action steps
- Increase contact between shelter and RRH staff  
- Share resources across shelter and RRH staff  
- Shelter can help with expectations of RRH before it begins  
- Shelter can look at possible barriers to housing immediately  
- Not all RRH and Shelter programs are the same – Is there a way to standardize or at least know what expectations are in all programming? |

### Strengths and challenges
- When shelter and RRH relationships exist, things are great  
- When shelter and RRH relationships don’t exist, things are tough  
- There is a challenge in communication  
- Often RRH starts after a family has been in shelter for a while, so there is limited time to work with the family while they can remain in shelter; there are different rules at different shelters  
- Shelter staff aren’t notified when a RRH referral is made, let alone which provider the family ended up with  
- When a family refuses to work with RRH, the shelter is not notified  
- DV shelters feel a little disconnected since they don’t receive referrals from FHC |

### Action steps
- Send updated shelter and RRH staff contact information |

### Ideas
- Have RRH providers contact shelter ASAP to establish contact and support for family  
- Work with family to see if monthly RRH and shelter staff check-ins are possible  
- Pair shelters with specific RRH programs (geographically preferred)  
- Needs assessment early on |
• Form a committee to do case review when families aren’t moving forward in RRH
• Meet more frequently as shelter and RRH staff to build trust
• Facilitate a meeting where each program explains their program and expectations
• Figure out a solution for the families who need more than 6 months of support, but don’t need permanent supportive housing – What’s a happy medium response?
• When changes happen to the RRH program, update shelter (and vice versa)
• Have back to back RRH and shelter learning circles with one hour overlap for continued collaboration