

Free Online Forum Available for Shelter Leaders to Discuss COVID-19 Preparedness & Share Resources

Many of us are trying to strike the right balance between protecting the health of our staff and complying with public health prevention strategies, all while continuing to provide the life-saving services survivors may be in most critical need of at this time given the quarantine and social distancing policies being put into effect in many of our service areas. These are unprecedented circumstances for many of us, particularly in a world full of technology that makes it easier than ever to telecommute and isolate. We, at House of Ruth Maryland, would like to offer a technology resource that can help us pool our best ideas and share resources quickly across the nation and, eventually, around the world.

We have created an web-based Community of Practice for intimate partner violence service professionals. We have intended to put a bit more polish on it and roll it out in a few months, but given current circumstances, we are offering it to shelter leaders today. This is a completely free resource to help increase connections between professionals in our field.

If interested, shelter leaders can register for this forum at www.hrmti.org by setting up a profile. Once registered and signed in they can navigate using the Menu option in the upper right hand corner, select Forum and then go to the “Intimate Partner Violence Topics” and look for “COVID-19 Prevention & Response”. There they can post comments, ask questions and share resources.

Please be patient and kind with this resource. It’s a bit of a virtual ghost town right now. We have lots more finishing touches and a true, national roll-out of this tool planned in the coming months, but if it can be a helpful resource to service providers as we navigate this COVID-19 crisis, it is yours to use.

I hope this can be helpful in keeping ourselves, our staff and those we serve safe.

Take good care,

Lisa

Lisa J. Nitsch (*she/her/hers*)

Director of Training & Education

