

Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Board

Youth Working Group (YWG)

Monday, February 25, 2019

*Attendees (*call-ins):*

Arash Ghafoori, NPHY; Melissa Jacobowitz, NPHY; Allison Steinzor, NPHY; Catherine Huang Hara, CCSS; Meg Pike (CCSD Title I HOPE); Ariel Racine (CC DFS); Lou Hixson (HELP of Southern Nevada); Kim Moore (HELP SWYHC); Denise Charles (St. Jude's Ranch); My Diem Nguyen (El-Shaddai Refuge Homes); *Mike Reed (BitFocus); *Erin Carroll (CC Juvenile Probation); *Brenda Herbstman (CCSS)

Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Funding Opportunities

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced the FY 2019 Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Program funding opportunity. Schools, juvenile justice systems, substance abuse and/or mental health programs, and youth service providers are welcome to apply. Applications are due by Monday, March 18, 2019.

III. 100-Day Challenge (100 DC) Update

The 100 DC ends on March 6th. The goals of the challenge are: preventing 50 systems involved youth from experiencing homelessness and housing 100 homeless youth, exiting 20% of those youth to new and innovative housing solutions. Through the 100 DC, communication between youth/homeless service providers and systems representatives has been strengthened as inter-system care coordination meetings have been established to identify how to improve discharge planning processes as well as secure more viable housing options within the community. While progress has been made toward the 100 DC goals, current project data reflects the strong need that there is within our community for expanding the number of youth beds that are available within our local homelessness system.

a. Future Goals

The YWG expressed that more work is needed to continue the goals of the 100 DC. A 100 DC debrief will need to be presented at the April CoC April meeting as well as at the 100 DC "What's Next Workshop" in May.

i. Written Discharge Planning Policy

One goal to be continued involves creating a CoC-wide written discharge planning policy of standards to be implemented for youth across different systems (e.g. child welfare, juvenile justice, and institutions of mental and physical health) to prevent youth from exiting to homelessness. This is notably important, as the CoC has lost points in the past for grant funding due to this policy gap.

ii. Landlord Engagement

Another goal to be continued relates to improving relationships with landlords to secure more youth-friendly housing options as well as the possibility of establishing a landlord mitigation fund to incentivize landlords.

IV. Youth Action Board Update

The "Young Adults in Charge" (YAC) members identified new strategies from the Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness they would like to lead such as creating outreach materials, participating in youth panels in community workshops, and producing awareness videos about youth homelessness issues. YAC meets every Tuesday at the NPHY Drop-In Center conference room (now from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) and is available to all youth under the age of 25 who have experienced homelessness, system-involvement, or other hardships.

V. Continuum of Care Support

a. Non-Discrimination/Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Policy

The CoC has expressed the need for a community-wide Non-Discrimination/Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Policy. The YWG members will work on providing insight as the policy is discussed by the CoC Board.

VI. Youth Coordinated Entry Update

HELP of Southern Nevada has hired Community Matchers to work under the CoC Coordinated Entry Systems. More discussion is needed on how the Youth Coordinated Entry System (YCES) will operate under the new changes to align with previously established policies. A couple of YCES issues were mentioned during the meeting including the frequency of care coordination meetings and data sharing. Via the YWG members' recommendation, the March YWG meeting will begin 45 minutes earlier to continue a discussion regarding the YCES policies and procedures.

VII. Agency Updates

No new agency updates were mentioned at this time. YWG members were encouraged to bring materials to the next meeting regarding best practice discharge planning procedures and Diversity/Equity/Inclusion policies for discussion. Due to conflicting obligations, the YWG decided to reschedule the March YWG meeting; the next YWG meeting will take place on Thursday, March 21st from 8:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Clark County Social Service (Pinto location).