

Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Board

Youth Working Group

Monday, July 22nd, 2019

Champions: Arash Ghafoori and Melissa Jacobowitz

I. Welcome & Introductions

Attendees (*call-ins): Melissa Jacobowitz (NPHY); Allison Steinzor (NPHY); Catherine Huang Hara (CCSS); Brenda Herbstman (CCSS); Joe Taylor (CCSS); Heather Shoop (CCSS); Amy Licht (Olive Crest); Denise Charles (SJRC); Dawn Sanchez (DFS); Kim Moore (HELP); Krystal Griffin (CCC); Taisacan Hall (YAC); Theresa Butler (YAC); *Josephine Bonomo (DJJS); *Mike Reed (BitFocus)

II. Funding Opportunities

a. **“Specialized Housing and Services for Victims of Human Trafficking”** by U.S. Dept. HUD

i. TA application due date: 8/30/2019; program application due date 10/30/2019

A member of YWG mentioned that their agency is taking the lead on applying for this grant opportunity and will be collaborating with law enforcement and a local victims’ services nonprofit agency if awarded; a meeting will be held between organizations who are interested in collaborating.

b. **“Maternity Group Home”** (RHY Act program) by U.S. Dept. HHS

i. Applications due: 7/25/2019

Ms. Herbstman shared that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Admin. for Children and Families is offering a funding opportunity, “Human Services Interoperability Innovations.” This grant will support data sharing projects between human services organizations. She mentioned that a local health care provider is interested in applying and is seeking to integrate and streamline HMIS, SOAR, and medical health information for the project.

III. 100 Day Challenge Overview

Ms. Huang Hara presented on the 100 Day Challenge (DC) Team’s progress. She mentioned that the Team’s goal was to prevent 50 system-involved youth from entering homelessness and house 100 youth under the age of 25, housing 20% via innovative housing solutions. The Team completed the Challenge housing 91 youth experiencing homelessness, 10% of whom were housed through innovative housing solutions, including “Moving On” mainstream vouchers and new partnerships with landlords. Suggestions for further work include strengthening youth collaboration and a resource sharing system, as well as securing diversified and flexible funding, and creating standardized case management training. The 100 DC Team committed to meeting again to review June sustainability goals and will work with the YWG to sustain the progress of the Challenge.

IV. Youth Action Board Update

Ms. Butler presented on behalf of Young Adults in Charge (YAC), sharing that the group has been working on putting together their own policies and procedures in a Members’ Handbook. Ms. Hall commented that the YAC Members Handbook will also serve as a tool for promoting membership, clarifying rules and expectations for all members. YAC also put together a *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement* that was shared with the YWG members during the meeting.

V. YWG Policies & Procedures

- a. **Non-Discrimination/Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Policy**
- b. **Membership Structure** (*pending until next meeting*)
- c. **Attendance Policy** (*pending until next meeting*)
- d. **Decision-Making Structure** (*pending until next meeting*)

The YWG members reviewed YAC’s *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement* and suggested revisions, statistics, and ideas for making the language more positive-focused. Members of the YWG suggested adopting YAC’s statement as the official statement for the YWG as well. At the next meeting, YAC will bring the revised statement and the YWG will discuss establishing their decision-making structure and decide on how to move forward with establishing YAC’s revised statement as the YWG’s statement too.

VI. Local Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition

The application for new projects (PSH or DV) is due August 12th; scoring and ranking will occur on August 29th at CCSS.

VII. Training

- a. **“Improving Cultural Competency for Behavioral Health Professionals”** by U.S. Dept. of HHS Office of Minority Health (free, accredited e-learning) <https://www.thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/education/behavioral-health>

It was also mentioned that the S. NV CoC won the True Colors 2019 Pride Challenge for having the most providers trained.

VIII. Agency Updates

A representative from Senator Cortez Masto’s office will be meeting with CCSS on Wednesday, July 23rd to discuss opportunities for funding homelessness projects and affordable housing.