

**Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care
Youth Working Group**

April 27, 2021| 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Google Meets

Champions: Arash Ghafoori and Melissa Jacobowitz, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth

I. Welcome & Introductions

Arash Ghafoori (NPHY); Allison Steinzor (NPHY); Meg Pike (CCSD); Taisacan Hall (YAC) Tanya Sutton (BitFocus); Kim Moore (HELP); Ketra Johnson (St. Jude's Ranch); Andrea Martinez (NV 95); Felipe Silva (NV 95); Julee Junsay (Legal Aid) Nora Saldivar (BitFocus); Jaymie Junsay (Legal Aid); Brenda Herbstman (CCSS); Joseph Taylor (StepUP); Catherine Huang Hara (CCSS); Denise Charles (St. Jude's Ranch); Hassan Chaundry (FORESIGHT Housing); Krystal Griffin (Comm. Counseling Center); Celeste Williams (HELP).

II. Funding Opportunities

- Maternity Group Home Program (Dept. HHS FYSB); posted on April 19, 2021, due 6/18/2021. More information can be found on grants.gov
- Street Outreach Program (Dept. HHS FYSB); posted on April 21, 2021, due 6/21/2021. More information can be found on grants.gov
- Basic Center Program (Dept. HHS FYSB); posted on April 22, 2021, due 6/21/2021. More information can be found on grants.gov

Meg shared that the American Recovery Plan Funding is available for schools to assist youth in homeless situations; the State of Nevada will provide guidance and distribute funds to school districts (approximately \$7M will be granted to Nevada).

III. Young Adults in Charge Update

Taisacan shared that YAC is participating in youth collaboration opportunities, expanding membership via developing a recruitment plan, and working on creating COVID-19 Vaccination educational materials. Members of YAC also participated in the virtual Housing and Homeless Awareness Day and discussed the needs of homeless youth to Nevada Legislators. Members of YAC have received retroactive funding for their efforts over the past year.

IV. Youth Coordinated Entry Update

a. Scheduling a Meeting to Discuss the Youth CE Housing Assessment

Arash shared information about meeting with the CEWG, including topics regarding shortening the wait time for client prioritization into housing and a discussion around coordinated entry care coordination calls. The CEWG discussed the use of the Youth Assessment Tool, the TAY VI-SPDAT, and is considering whether to continue the use of this tool or an expansion of this screening tool. Catherine stated another option could be to expand upon the CHAT and the F-CHAT to create a youth version of the tool. The CEWG and HomeBase helped to create the CHAT, and Catherine mentioned that the CEWG may be able to work with HomeBase for technical assistance to develop a youth version of the CHAT. The YWG members expressed the need for a future meeting to be scheduled to discuss this topic further. The next YWG will include an agenda item to present and review the assessment tools so that a subcommittee can be established to work on this topic further. Kim shared that HELP has re-administered the youth housing assessment tool for youth who received a different housing assessment previously. active in the last 30 Celeste stated that the community matchers are referring youth after reviewing the client's history in HMIS, client notes, service history; they are also snoozing youth and not referring back to the queue if youth have not been in contact and have only received a housing assessment so beds are not left vacant in the coordinated entry system. If community matchers receive a referral for a youth who has not been reachable for days they are being removed from the community queue.

V. COVID-19 Provider Updates

Arash stated that NPHY is in the process of reopening programs after making COVID modifications. While NPHY's emergency shelters have reduced capacity, restrictions are being relaxed to allow more youth to enroll. The NPHY Drop-In Center is also allowing more youth to receive services. NPHY is allowing volunteers to participate in events and activities in the broader community. Clients are receiving vaccinations through NHA events and the number of clients and staff being vaccinated is going well.

Kim mentioned that HELP hosted a vaccine event on the 21st and about 20 youth were vaccinated. Youth shared concerns about receiving vaccinations such as being scared of needles, fear of being injected with COVID, not wanting to get sick, and hesitancy about receiving health care treatment outside. HELP incentivized their youth to receive vaccinations by offering a show ticket, bus pass, or a curfew ticket and a \$25 Amazon allowance. HELP has been administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, due to it being one-shot, as youth have expressed being unhappy about receiving two doses. There are approximately 115 youth enrolled at Shannon West. HELP is planning on reopening to full capacity on June 1st, following the Governor's announcement. The youth at Shannon West have expressed that they are excited and hopeful about the Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Program, particularly the opportunity to have their own apartment with roommates.

Denise shared that youth clients at St. Jude's Ranch are being transported to pop-up events to receive vaccinations. Approximately, 46% of their staff have been vaccinated. Many youth have expressed that they are afraid of getting vaccinated. Staff are in the office four days per week and working from home one day per week. She also shared that youth in their programs are in favor of the RRH project as they are offered the ability to have one roommate in their living space as opposed to three roommates. St. Jude's Gala is on Saturday on May 1st, the theme is the Wizard of Oz, and Denise can be contacted for details.

Meg stated that school will resume full-time in the fall of 2021 at CCSD; however, youth can continue virtual learning but must "opt-out" first. Online registration is available for virtual learning. Title I HOPE can assist with school of origin forms and coding youth for program participation. Meg or Sharon are happy to help and provide more information as needed. Arash asked how youth will obtain Free/Reduced Lunch if they are in virtual learning. Meg stated that outreach has been important in getting out the word about the availability of meal programs while youth attend remote schooling. Due to the partial credit law passed during the last legislative session, some students are already coded for Title I HOPE services; however, there have been challenges in identifying youth experiencing homelessness.

Jaymie stated that staff have returned to the office at Legal Aid Centers of Southern Nevada for a few days per week while also working from home part-time. National Law Day is on May 3rd from 11 am to 2 pm, offering free 15 – 30 minute legal consultations by phone. Interested participants must schedule an appointment to participate; registration is available online or by phone.

VI. Policy Update

Arash provided updates on legislation relating to youth homelessness and affordable housing.

- AB 167 will be heard by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee in the afternoon (May 17th); this Bill will amend the law so unaccompanied homeless minors can access healthcare services before being homeless for four months as well as expands the types of healthcare services homeless minors can obtain and creates a process for medical providers to verify unaccompanied minors' homeless status.
- SB 254: restricts discrimination based on the source of income and some prior convictions. This Bill was amended and passed by the Senate Government Affairs and Chamber and was referred to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs.
- AB 141: extends no-cause evictions and seals records of eviction that occur during COVID-19; this Bill passed the Assembly Chamber and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

- AB 161: removes summary evictions and requires landlords to file a formal eviction in court: the Bill was passed by the Assembly Judiciary and referred to Assembly Ways and Means.
- SB 354: prohibits school districts from giving homeless youth out-of-school suspensions. The Bill passed the Senate and was referred to the Assembly Committee on Education.
- SB 12: requires landlords to obtain government funds or tax credits to provide notice to renters before ending a restriction relating to housing affordability. This Bill was heard and passed as amended by the Senate Committee on Government Affairs and referred to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs.
- SB 218: prohibits landlords from reporting information on amounts owed by tenants to certain agencies and requires that tenants receive advance notice regarding increases in fees and costs. This Bill was amended and passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Assembly Judiciary Committee amended and passed it.
- AB 308: landlords must allow those with disabilities to make retrofits for reasonable accommodations. This Bill was heard by the Assembly Commerce and Labor, passed, and referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor.
- AB 397: revises foster care provisions to extend youth support services to certain persons between 18 – 21 years old. Heard by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Arash stated that individuals can comment (support/oppose) a Bill by visiting the NELIS website: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Opinions/81st2021/>.

VII. Training Opportunities

- National Network for Youth “Keep Youth out of Harmful Systems” on May 4, 2021. This webinar will discuss diversion efforts, including investing in prevention and services, to assist homeless youth from entering the criminal justice system.
- Point Source Youth will be featuring multiple upcoming conferences including the 5th Annual National Symposium on Solutions to End Youth Homelessness on June 15th and June 16th. Registration is based on a sliding scale and youth advocates can attend for free!
- BitFocus is hosting an ROI Training on May 12th from 10:30 am to 11:30 am.
- HomeBase is offering a webinar for new providers interested in applying for CoC funding that will take place on May 17th from 2:30 pm to 4 pm.
- SchoolHouse Connection is offering a four-part webinar series on supporting high school students experiencing homelessness with a focus on attendance and reengagement. This training is free to attend and archived for those unable to participate in the live webinar.
- The NAECHY Conference will be in November and it is a HUD-approved conference.

VIII. Open Discussion

Andrea shared that Nevada 95 is in the process of creating outreach and education materials relating to the COVID-19 vaccines and has created a draft of questions that were administered to a youth focus group. Nevada 95 will present their findings to the YWG in the future on the status of this project.

Hassan shared that the Healthy Sunrise Foundation launched a “Shark Tank” program, Youth Tank, for youth seeking investments for projects that will create a lasting impact in the local community. More information can be found at <https://healthysunrise.org/youth-tank/> or Hassan can be contacted for details.

Catherine shared Immunize Nevada is hosting a Q&A session about COVID-19 Vaccines featuring Dr. Curry-Winchell, the Urgent Care Medical Director at Saint Mary’s Medical Group on April 29th from 12 pm to 12:30 pm.

IV. Adjournment

- The next YWG Meeting will take place on May 25, 2021, from 9 am to 11 am.