

Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care

Youth Working Group

May 25, 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); Melissa Jacobowitz (NPHY); Allison Steinzor (NPHY); Celeste Williams (HELP); Bridget Claridy (HELP); Yolanda Bennett (Dept JJ); Mary Caninizzaro (CCSS); Marcus Sherfield (Tech Impact); Jodi Lupo Masden (Dept. JJ); Andrea Martinez (NV 95) ; Brenda Herbstman (CCSS); Meg Pike (CCSD); Joseph Taylor (StepUp); Denise Bonds (St. Jude's Ranch); Yolanda Bennett (Dept. JJ); Taisacan Hall (YAC); Catherine Huang Hara (CCSS); Nora Saldivar (BitFocus); Hassan Chaundry (Foresight Housing); Brenda Barnes (DFS); Felipe Silva (NV95); Jed Blake (St. Jude's Ranch); Danita Osborne (CCSS); Kadia Diakite (St. Jude's Ranch);

II. Funding Opportunities

Brenda shared that the U.S. Dept of HHS is accepting proposals for RHY Programs (BCP, TLP, MGH). She stated that community partners are applying for these opportunities and asked that agencies interested in applying please reach out to her so that efforts are not duplicated. She also noted that multiple human trafficking applications are also available through grants.gov at this time.

Nevada Grant Lab is a free resource for grantwriting services in our community. They offer workshops such as how to write grants, offer post-award training, and also review grant applications.

Emergency Housing Vouchers were announced by HUD and 586 vouchers were awarded to Southern Nevada. The vouchers are going through the SNRHA; the CoC is monitoring eligible parties for the vouchers. These vouchers are good for nine years until 2030. Brenda noted that housing vouchers should only go to those on the community queue; accordingly, individuals must be assessed prior to being eligible for the housing vouchers. Brenda can be contacted for more information.

YHDP was announced on May 24, 2021. HUD made changes to the application. This is the fourth round of funding for this opportunity with 50 awards available between \$1M - \$15M. Applications are due on July 27th. Regarding the application, the collaborative applicant will be launching a grant writing group. The award is anticipated to be announced on 9/30 with a start date 10/1 and the Coordinated Community Plan, if awarded, is due 3/31/2022. For YHDP, there is a period of planning and a period when projects are allocated funding for implementation. The Plan would identify gaps in the community and then a request for proposals would be released for projects to fulfill the YHDP plan.

Brenda will send out an email regarding times for the grant writing group, YAB members are encouraged to attend. Brenda will also send the application questions to YAB in advance to review and work on.

III. Young Adults in Charge Update

Taisacan shared that YAC is working on finalizing educational materials for COVID-19 vaccinations, collaborating with other youth groups, and is working on a recruitment plan to expand membership.

IV. Youth Coordinated Entry Update

a. Youth Housing Assessment Tool

Melissa shared that coordinated entry has been a topic of discussion for years, and there has been recent feedback concerning the youth housing assessment. Melissa shared that the TAY VI-SPDAT is the tool our community currently uses, it is a nationally accredited tool created by Org. Code. She noted that while

scoring questions cannot be changed, additional questions were included to identify youth needs. Coordinated Entry regarding Adults Without Children (AWOC) and Families are using the CHAT assessment tool. Catherine shared Org Code (as of January 2021) is no longer using their library of assessments for coordinated entry purposes. Catherine expressed that the other CoCs in Nevada are still using the VI-SPDAT library (the pre-screen specifically); however, other CoCs may be interested in collaborating on this effort.

The YWG members expressed that getting feedback from individuals who were assessed could be helpful, particularly feedback from those who were matched and those pending placement into housing. Melissa suggested that a subgroup be created to evaluate the housing assessment, including assessors and youth if they wish to participate. Nora seconded this suggestion. Catherine recommended the CE Task Force may be interested in participating as well, and they will be meeting next week. Catherine also is in contact with the other CoC-leads and can bring them into the conversation.

V. COVID-19 Provider Updates

Celeste shared that HELP hosted a pop-up clinic last week to encourage youth to get their second or first dose of the COVID-19 vaccines. Many vendors were on-site to provide services to young people. All of HELP's staff are back in the office. The SWYHC is still operating under COVID-19 modifications (i.e. minimizing volunteers, conducting temperature checks, and limiting on-site volunteers).

Melissa shared that NPHY reinstated the Feel Good Friday street outreach event. The NPHY Drop-In Center is re-introducing services at the Drop-In Center and re-opening emergency shelter beds. NPHY continues to work with Nevada Health Centers as an on-site provider.

Meg shared that CCSD Title I HOPE is going back full-time into the office as of June 1, 2021. The school district is offering summer enrichment programs at every school this year. The school that a youth regularly attends is the school they should receive summer enrichment programming from. The deadline for opting in for virtual only learning was last Friday; however, there is a wait list depending on availability. Sharon Cameron and Meg Pike are available to answer questions and address concerns.

Joe shared that starting June 1st Step UP is reopening their Drop-In Center for foster youth. Staff are working Monday – Friday, partly remote and in-office. He noted that youth clients have experienced hesitancy about obtaining COVID vaccinations.

Andrea from NV 95 shared that their youth steering committee is working on education materials about the COVID-19 vaccine and collecting information about topics of concern from the youth focus groups. Their network call will be taking place at 5:00 pm on May 25th.

VI. Policy Update

Melissa shared that AB197 (homeless youth medical access bill) has passed the second house in the Senate and is on its way to the Governor for consideration. SB354 (school discipline bill) also passed the Senate. AB67 (to make expulsion from school permanent) had a waiver to be voted on past the deadline. A few fair housing bills have gotten waivers; SB12 passed the Senate and is on its way to the Governor.

VII. Training Opportunities

- **SchoolHouse Connection, “Bust Out of the Box! Bold Ideas for Using Unprecedented ARP Homeless Children and Youth Funding: Part III,”** featuring Chris James, Nevada State Coordinator – Education Services for Homeless Children & Youth on Friday, May 21 at 11 am PDT.

- **Point Source Youth: 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!
- HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) is hosting a webinar on **May 27, 2021 from 2:30 – 4:00 PM EDT (11:30 am – 1 pm PDT)** to review the content of the FY 2019 and FY 2020 YHDP NOFO.

Meg shared that The Annual Conference for the National Education of Homeless Children and Youth is coming up in November, they are using a hybrid model this year (virtual/in-person). It is HUD approved: <https://naehcy.org/2021-conference/>

Nora shared that Clarity is hosting several upcoming webinars: Weds, June 9th Disabling Conditions webinar; Weds July 14th Managing Households webinar; Aug 11th training Current Living Situation Assessment webinar. Moreover, the Clarity Connect conference is happening in Septemeber.

VIII. Open Discussion

NHA is hosting a mixer at the Atomic Kitchen on May 26th and they are hosting a raffle for a VGK autographed hockey stick. More details are included in their monthly newsletter or Emily or Genevieve can be contacted for more information.

IV. Adjournment

- The next YWG Meeting will take place on June 22, 2021, from 9 am to 11 am.