



Working Group Report to the Board July 2021

Working Group: Youth Working Group (YWG)

Champion: Arash Ghafoori & Melissa Jacobowitz (NPHY)

Meeting date, time, and location: (4th Tuesdays); July 27, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. via Google Hangouts

Attendees: NPHY: Melissa Jacobowitz, Allison Steinzor; YAC: Taisacan Hall; CCSS: Brenda Herbstman, Mary Cannizzaro, Danita Osborne, Catherine Huang Hara; HELP of S.NV: Kim Moore; NV95: Andrea Martinez, Felipe Martinez; BitFocus: Nora Saldivar; DFS-IL: Shuaandry Alvarez, Isabel Iraheta; SJRC: Denise Charles; Legal Aid: Jaymie Junsay

Accomplishments - Action Items Completed:

- Funding Opportunities
 - The YHDP proposal was submitted to HUD after receiving approval from the CoC Board. The YHDP proposal will be shared with the Clark County Government Affairs Manager to obtain letters of support from Nevada representatives to send directly to HUD. If awarded, the first six months of the project will be focused on finalizing a community action plan. CCSS will hire an outside consultant to lead the YHDP project full-time. CCSS will work with YWG and YAC to create a scope of work and will then initiate an RFP process to hire the lead agency, and will commit to providing matching funds. The lead agency will lead YHDP activities, such as coordinating implementation of the community action plan, recruiting new agencies, provide training to community members, and more. It was emphasized that YAC's involvement in the entire YHDP process is highly critical to the success of the project.
 - Next steps: On Wednesday, August 4th, YWG members are invited to participate in a YHDP brainstorming session hosted by CCSS to discuss the Scope of Work for the YHDP lead agency, such as what activities the lead agency will be responsible for, how the lead agency will work with YAC and YWG, and more. A discussion regarding the Scope of Work contract will take place at the next YWG meeting in August.
- Young Adults in Charge Update
 - YAC members created additional handouts, "COVID-19 Vaccination Fact Sheet for Youth Experiencing Homelessness" (Spanish version) and "COVID-19 Vaccination Fact Sheet for Adults Experiencing Homelessness" (English and Spanish). YAC members participated in the NV95 virtual panel "Youth Voice on the 2021 Nevada Legislative Session: A Recap" Facebook Live event. YAC is reviewing and editing their membership handbook.
- Youth Coordinated Entry: Youth Housing Assessment
 - The YWG created a list of questions to include in a youth housing assessment tool feedback survey to administer to housing assessors and youth who have taken the youth housing assessment. Agencies volunteered to provide incentives to youth who participate in the feedback survey to encourage youth participation.
 - Next steps: NPHY will create the Youth Housing Assessment Feedback Survey in QuestionPro and will send the survey to the YWG members for distribution; youth and assessor feedback is due August 15th. The results of the survey will be shared with the YWG on the week of August 16th – 20th, and the results of the feedback survey will be discussed at the next Youth Working Group Meeting in August.
- COVID-19 Provider Updates
 - YWG members from NPHY, HELP, St. Jude's Ranch, DSF-IL, and CCSS shared information about changes to programs and services that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. Youth service providers are reopening programs slowly, working with community partners to distribute resources directly to homeless youth, and using technology to offer remote engagement activities for youth to participate in. CCSS shared that vouchers are still available (foster youth to independence, emergency housing, and mainstream housing choice) to serve individuals in need of assistance.
 - Next steps: NPHY will be hosting a youth COVID-19 vaccination event at the NPHY Drop-In Center on Friday, July 30th from 9 am to 11 am. DFS and Children's Advocacy Alliance are hosting a virtual foster youth town hall from 3 to 4 pm on July 28th.
- Training Opportunities
 - The YWG members shared information about training opportunities (2021 Region IX Interagency Council on Homelessness (8/4 & 8/11); BitFocus (8/11: Current Living Situation Assessments; 9/8: Federal Reporting-Longitudinal Systems Analysis).

Next Meeting: August 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. via Google Hangouts