



## Working Group Report to the Board February 2022

**Working Group:** Youth Working Group (YWG)

**Champion:** Arash Ghafoori & Melissa Jacobowitz (NPHY)

**Meeting date, time, and location:** (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays); February 22, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. via Google Hangouts

**Attendees:** NPHY: Arash Ghafoori, Melissa Jacobowitz, Allison Steinzor; CCSS: Catherine Huang Hara, Mary Duff, Brenda Herbstman, Mary Cannizaro, Chaqula Kallo; BitFocus: Nora Saldivar, Gabriel Di Chiara; HELP: Kim Moore; SJR: Ketra Johnson; CCSD: Meg Pike; Foresight Housing: Hassan Chaudhry; Legal Aid: Jaymie Junsay

### Accomplishments - Action Items Completed:

- Homeless Census/Point in Time (PIT) Count
  - The PIT Count will take place on February 23<sup>rd</sup> (overnight shelter count) and February 24<sup>th</sup> (unsheltered count). The CoC is finalizing deployment sites at this time including community recreation centers in Henderson, Cambridge, and the City of Las Vegas. Clark County recently sent out a survey to collect responses from service providers about prime locations (hotspots) for finding where homeless subpopulations gather but information about where youth frequent is needed (e.g. shopping malls, etc.). Volunteers will receive masks, hand sanitizer, and snacks.
- Youth Action Board: Young Adults in Charge
  - The CoC's youth action board, Young Adults in Charge (YAC), is a leadership group for youth, ages 15 through 24, with lived experiences of homelessness. Representatives from NPHY and CCSD Title I HOPE provided support to the group since 2018 by hosting meeting space, providing administrative assistance, and organizing projects for youth participation (legislative advocacy, the S. NV Youth Homelessness Summit, Title I HOPE mini-conference, etc.); however, YAC needs more community support to help sustain the group. The YWG members suggested ideas around strengthening YAC such as changing the meeting schedule, leveraging existing resources, creating a succession plan led by YAC alumni, and recruiting youth from agencies outside of the CoC or homeless service providers. Representatives from NPHY, HELP of Southern Nevada, and St. Jude's Ranch for Children agreed to designate agency staff to help support YAC as well as recruit clients to participate, and Clark County Social Service agreed to provide administrative support. The YWG members scheduled a planning meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 3, 2022, to discuss the next steps such as launching a YAC kickoff meeting.
    - Next Steps: NPHY will send a calendar invitation and meeting reminder to HELP, SJR, and CCSS.
- Youth Coordinated Entry
  - The YWG discussed concerns with the coordinated entry system including difficulty filling available beds; this issue could be due to multiple factors such as youths' reluctance to transition from emergency shelter to housing, challenges with messaging/marketing, the scoring of the youth assessment, and available housing types. While the assessment measures vulnerability, young people have distinct needs that differ from homeless adults, as the length of time homeless may not determine whether a youth is more vulnerable as youth who become homeless suddenly may be more at risk than those who know how to navigate the streets. Clark County expressed that the community needs more housing types to meet youths' varied needs (PSH, etc.); ARPA funds will support increasing the community's housing projects. YWG will discuss messaging around different housing types at the next meeting.
- Community Needs Assessment/YHDP
  - The CoC is working to update our community's Youth Needs Assessment since it has been five years since the Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness (The Plan) debuted. The County created a Scope of Work to recruit a TA provider to update this needs assessment and facilitate the planning process. The group discussed launching the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) group described in The Plan to participate in this process and utilize it to launch future CQI efforts, including leaders from NPHY, Clark County, UNLV, the City of Las Vegas, and members from the CoC's Youth Action Board.
    - Next Steps: Clark County and NPHY to schedule a meeting to discuss updates to the scope of work and CQI efforts regarding The Plan.
- HMIS Sexual Orientation Data
  - HUD updated its gender data element but does not have a sexual orientation category. Since our community has RHY-funded projects, BitFocus has set up our HMIS for sexual orientation data to be collected following the Dept. of HHS' guidelines. The YWG reviewed data to see whether the sexual orientation "other" category should be updated to include additional categories. After review, the YWG decided that adding this additional category would not provide more useful data than the current sexual orientation data element.
- Provider Updates
  - HELP's Shannon West Homeless Youth Center is accepting up to 15 new clients per week; rapid tests are administered to see whether new clients need to be isolated before entering congregate housing. HELP's life skills classes are taking place again in person and they intend to reintroduce programming as COVID-19 cases decline.
- Training Opportunities



## Working Group Report to the Board March 2022

- Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) [Motivational Interviewing for Youth Work: More than Just a Clinical Tool](#) (3/3, 4/7, 5/17 from 10 am to 2 pm PST)
- The next YWG Meeting will take place from 9 am to 11 am on Tuesday, March 22, 2022.