



Working Group Report to the Board

Working Group: Youth Working Group (YWG)

Champion: Arash Ghafoori & Melissa Jacobowitz (NPHY)

Meeting date, time, and location: (4th Tuesdays); May 24, 2022, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am via Google Hangouts

Attendees: NPHY: Melissa Jacobowitz, Allison Steinzor; CCSS: Catherine Huang Hara, Mary Duff, Brenda Herbstman, Dr. Chaqula Kallo; BitFocus: Nora Saldivar; CCSD: Meg Pike; YAC: Taisacan Hall; UNLV: Andrea Martinez; HELP: Kelly Robson; SJR: Ketra Johnson; Legal Aid: Jaymie Junsay; TAC: Lauren Knott

Accomplishments - Action Items Completed:

- Funding Opportunities
 - YHDP: Mary Duff shared that the CoC's grant application for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project is close to being finalized. To inform the grant application, members of the CoC/YWG formed a consortium and met weekly to provide recommendations, representatives from Clark County Social Service and the CoC youth action board (Young Adults in Charge) hosted listening sessions to collect feedback from youth with lived experiences of homelessness, and the CoC contracted with Nevada Grants Lab to review the draft grant application and offer suggestions to help strengthen the proposal. The YHDP application will be reviewed for approval by the CoC Board on June 9th and by the County Commissioners on June 21st and is due to HUD for submission by June 28, 2022.
- Community Needs Assessment/YHDP
 - Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), a nonprofit consulting firm based in Boston, Massachusetts, was hired by the CoC's collaborative applicant (Clark County Social Service) to perform an update to Southern Nevada's youth homelessness community needs assessment. Lauren Knott, a Senior Associate with TAC, explained TAC's experience working with HelpHopeHome and Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth as the writing contributor/facilitator of the Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness (The Plan) and guest presenter at the annual Southern Nevada Youth Homelessness Summit. TAC will be evaluating trends around youth homelessness in Southern Nevada by assessing our community's quantitative data (ex: child welfare, HMIS, CCSD, and JJS) and collecting qualitative data (via focus groups and stakeholder interviews) to create the community needs assessment. Furthermore, TAC will be hiring a young person with lived experiences of homelessness as a Research Associate (RA) to contribute to this project; submissions of interest for the RA position are due by Tuesday, May 31st. A Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) group, in accordance with The Plan, will begin meeting in June to review the community needs assessment data and offer recommendations.
- 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 and a strong desire to end youth homelessness in Southern Nevada. YAC recently finalized their membership handbook and changed their meeting frequency (**YAC now meets virtually once per month on the last Wednesday of the month from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**). Clark County Social Service representatives recommended that YAC share their handbook on the HelpHopeHome website and present to the CoC Board for approval. YAC is looking for a "counterpart" to provide support to this group; in the past, Meg Pike (CCSD) and Allison Steinzor (NPHY) have served in this role. This role is a volunteer position for a CoC member who is over the age of 25 (former YAC members qualify). Interested parties should fill out an Interest form (<https://forms.gle/6UacMqknAh6QpMRKA>) or email youngadultsincharge@gmail.com for more information.
- Training Opportunities
 - SchoolHouse Connection: Increasing Access to Transportation for Students Experiencing Homelessness [webinar](#) on May 25 at 12 pm PST.
 - RHYTTAC TA Café: Staff Recruitment, Training, and Retention Approaches and Strategies from the Field [webinar](#) on June 16 from 11-12 pm PST (space is limited).
 - Point Source Youth National Symposium of Solutions to End Youth Homelessness, a two-day [virtual conference](#) on June 28 and June 29, costs \$0 - \$225 based on need/affiliation.
- Open Discussion
 - May 25th is the last day of school for CCSD students. Title I HOPE office should be contacted to assist homeless youth with school enrollment before the first day of the 2022-2023 school year on August 8th. As a reminder, transportation for youth to continue attending the same school throughout the school year will only be provided to students with "school of origin" coding. Contact Meg Pike (meg.pike@nv.ccsd.net) for more information.
 - Clark County Social Service is exploring reinitiating its Mainstream Programs Basic Training series, and is working with Nevada Homeless Alliance to create a training video library on the HelpHopeHome website. NPHY and The Center have expressed interest in providing a service provider training about how to capture sexual orientation data when working with homeless clients.
- The next YWG Meeting will be from 9 am to 11 am on Tuesday, June 28, 2022.