



## Working Group Report to the Board

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

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

**Meeting date, time, and location:** (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays); October 25, 2022, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am via Google Hangouts

**Attendees:** NPHY: Arash Ghafoori, Melissa Jacobowitz, Allison Steinzor; CCSS: Mary Duff, Chaqula Kallo; BitFocus: Nora Saldivar, Jaree Saucedo; StepUp: Joe Taylor; The Center: AJ Huth; Living Grace Homes: Cheyenne Hashida; El-Shaddai Refugee Homes: Cattrinna Winston; Technical Assistance Collaborative: Ellen Fitzpatrick, Téo Ortega

### Accomplishments - Action Items Completed:

- Funding Opportunities
  - 2022 – 2025 RHY Grantees Announcement: This year multiple nonprofit organizations were selected as recipients of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) grants, including Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY) for the Basic Center Program and Transitional Living Program, HELP of Southern Nevada for the Maternity Group Homes (MGH) and Street Outreach Program (SOP), and Living Grace Homes for the MGH grant. Through these awards, millions of new dollars will be allocated to support Southern Nevada's homeless youth population while expanding the number of available beds in the Youth Coordinated Entry System. In particular, NPHY will be adding four new beds to its transitional housing Independent Living Program.
  - Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP): HUD recently announced the communities that were chosen for YHDP; unfortunately, Southern Nevada was not chosen as a YHDP grant recipient. Mary Duff will request the application scoring for the CoC's YHDP proposal and will present the results to the YWG for further discussion.
- Community Needs Assessment
  - In 2018, the Movement to End Youth Homelessness in Southern Nevada and the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care (SNH CoC) worked to create the Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness by contracting with the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) to facilitate the process. To understand evolving needs and the current landscape of youth homelessness, the CoC and the Movement have hired TAC to lead the development of the Southern Nevada Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment (YHNA). Community stakeholders have participated in Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) meetings on a biweekly basis to review community data and provide feedback on the YHNA. TAC presented its findings to the YWG members to garner additional feedback. In particular, the data findings showed a significant decrease in PIT count numbers of homeless youth since 2019; a significant increase in youth head of households accessing homeless services via HMIS data; a drop in the number of minors served and pregnant and parenting minors in particular; an overrepresentation of black youth within the homeless services system (reflecting over 50% of homeless youth); an increase in chronic homelessness among youth; and more. TAC also shared changes and limitations with the data sources to provide essential context for understanding trends.
  - The YWG members provided recommendations, including promoting data sharing between government systems, school districts, and homeless youth service providers, training assessors how to ask clients about their sexual orientation and gender identity for HMIS data collection, and the juvenile justice system creating assessment questions to ask youth if they are experiencing homelessness. The YHNA will be presented to the CoC Board on November 10<sup>th</sup> and presented to the community at the sixth annual Southern Nevada Youth Homelessness Summit on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- 2023 Unsheltered Homelessness Census
  - NPHY will be a youth deployment site for the 2023 Homeless Census/Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. The Youth Count will begin at 7:30 am. The CoC is reviewing data to create census track maps, and providers should send their recommendations to the CoC by early November. It was recommended that activation events be created to promote youth participation in this year's census. The CoC will be holding future meetings with youth service providers.
- Youth Action Board: Young Adults in Charge
  - Pending further discussion.
- Training Opportunities
  - The 2022 Southern Nevada Youth Homelessness Summit: Powering the Movement will be on Thursday, November 17, from 9 am to 4 pm at Myron's at the Smith Center for Performing Arts. More details are available at [www.nphy.org/summit22](http://www.nphy.org/summit22).
- The next YWG Meeting will be from 9 am to 11 am on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, to accommodate holidays and scheduling conflicts.