



## 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); November 28, 2023, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am via Google Hangouts

**Attendees:** Melissa Jacobowitz, NPHY; Meg Pike CCSD Title I HOPE; Joe Taylor Step UP; Kelly Robson, BitFocus; Brenda Herbstman CCSS; Lizette Guillen, Nevada Partners; Catherine Huang Hara, CCSS; Maria Moore, Nevada Partners; Vanessa Monroe, StepUp; Ketra Johnson SJR; Isabelle Iraheta DFS; Sean Jerrion, Nevada Partners; Amy Jones, Lived X Consultant; Marvin Castro Lived X Consultant; Jhave Mata, Help of S NV; Kim Moore, Shannon West; Mary Cannizaro, CCSS; Kristen Carl, Just One Project; Denise Charles, SJR; Allison Steinzor, NPHY

### Accomplishments - Action Items Completed:

- **Funding Opportunities**

The U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development's Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) grant, available until February 15, 2023, encompasses focus areas such as planning and partnership, data, coordinated entry, and racial and gender equity. The grant offers a minimum award of \$200k and a maximum award of \$2M. The project is slated for 6/1/24 through 12/1/26. Upcoming meetings, including an in-person session during the week of December 11<sup>th</sup>, will delve into planning efforts. YWG members are urged to examine the Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness and extend invitations to youth with lived experiences of homelessness for their valuable input. Additionally, the Family and Youth Services Bureau has unveiled its RHY project projections for 2024.

- **2024 Homeless Census/Point-in-Time Count**

The selection of deployment sites is currently in the finalization stage, with NPHY identified as the designated youth deployment site. The count is scheduled for the morning of January 25<sup>th</sup>. For further information, please contact Catherine at [C3H@clarkcountynv.gov](mailto:C3H@clarkcountynv.gov). The next Homeless Census Working Group meeting is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>. HELP's Youth Outreach Worker will be collaborating with NPHY at the Youth Deployment Site. Twain and Flamingo, along with the UNLV campus, are frequently visited locations by homeless youth. An abandoned apartment on Pecos near Child Haven is also noted as a location to visit for the PIT to identify young people experiencing homelessness.

- **Youth Action Board Update**

In November, the youth actively participated in a civic engagement initiative by distributing meals for Thanksgiving. Meetings occur on the last Friday of each month, with the upcoming session scheduled for December. To enroll youth in the group or for any inquiries, please contact [mmoore@nevadapartners.org](mailto:mmoore@nevadapartners.org). Youth attendees are eligible for a \$150 stipend for every three meetings.

- **Dear Colleague Letter on SNAP Exemptions**

Brenda shared an update on changes to SNAP eligibility; more information can be found in the Dear Colleague Letter.

- **Nevada Youth Experiencing Homelessness Study**

Lizette offered her insights on the study's breakout session during the 2023 Nevada Youth Homelessness Summit, emphasizing the need for messaging work that includes informing the public about the study's impact. Martin shared that the study design group has been exploring geography mapping for service utilization. He underscored the importance of also concentrating on the flow of youth through the system and identifying points where prevention efforts can be implemented. As an illustration, if a youth is absent from school, the truancy officer should establish a connection to additional services.

- **Youth Coordinated Entry Check-In**

Kirsten asked about wait times in the queue, while Kim described that only matchers can access that information. Furthermore, the YWG is waiting for access to view the top 20 individuals on the youth queue.

- **Open Discussion**

Kim brought up the idea of note sharing across youth agencies in HMIS, sharing that HELP and St. Jude's Ranch often informally share case notes. The group explored whether this would be possible in HMIS, or if sharing can happen via email.

- **Adjournment**

- The December 26<sup>th</sup> meeting has been canceled; the next regularly scheduled meeting is on January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. The HUD application meeting will take place prior to the next YWG meeting.