



Minutes
-Final-
Youth Housing Continuum Committee
4:00 – 5:30
September 16th, 2020

Committee Purpose – To recommend proposed solutions to address the housing needs of young people ages 18-25 in Bernalillo County.

Meeting Purposes:

1. To bring all meeting participants up to speed with current information with updates
2. To address system gaps and unmet needs with high impact strategies within the first 60 days of meeting

Attendees:
<i>Co-chairs: Assata Zerai (UNM), Quinn Donnay (FCS), Jennifer Scacco (BernCo Dept. Beh. Health), Nasha Torres (UNM Dean of Students)</i>
<i>Members: Maya McKnight (CYFD Beh. Health), Steve Johnson (New Day), Brooke Tafoya (New Day), Carol Pierce (FCS), Stephen Serrano (Casa Q), Jack Siamu (YDI), Lisa Huval (FCS) Gilbert Ramirez (FCS-Behavioral Health), Hillari Lipton (CYFD), Hillary Stim (CYFD), Yvette Ramirez Ammerman (CABQ consultant), Bill Wagner (Centro Savila), Diana Lopez (YDI), Kashif Muhammed (BernCo), Andrew (for Farra Fong CYFD), Iyssa Bozack & Brittany Kamezick (Hands Across Time), Greg Morris (Hope Works), Andrew Salazar (CYFD Fostering Connections), Alicia Salazar (CYFD)</i>

Agenda Items:	Discussion of Needs/Gaps – HIGH IMPACT STRATEGIES AT THE END -
1) Welcome	All attendees were welcomed by co-chairs, introduced themselves and indicated their organizational affiliation.
2) Quinn	Minutes from 9-2-20 approved
3) Reminder about timeline for high impact strategies and system gaps	<p>Quinn provided a screen share of the HCC Approved, “Outline for Coordinated Community-wide Framework”, underscoring the tight timeline – by October 13 YHC has to submit top 3 Strategies and needs which will be recommended to HCC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Overview-why services and housing are both necessary to address homelessness; # of people homeless (adults and youth) 2) Services (info comes from Homeless Service System, and Coordinated Street Outreach Committees) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Needs/Gaps b. High Impact Strategies to Address Needs/Gaps c. Include locations for services (info comes from Gateway/Facilities Committee) 3) Housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth (info comes from Youth Housing Continuum) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Needs/Gaps b. High Impact Strategies to Address Needs/Gaps

	<p>Adults (info comes from Housing Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Needs/Gaps b. High Impact Strategies to Address Needs/Gaps
<p>4) Shared Language, definitions, and demographics a. What is the definition of homelessness we are operating under? b. Who are our youth? (document to show) Input from others</p>	<p>Co-chair Assata Zerai Shared her screen: Assata Zerai (Food and Housing Survey) with UNM Office of Analytics provided the <i>final report</i> on a survey (2,700 students surveyed).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2% of respondents directly reported homelessness in the past 12 months. • 11% are precariously housed i.e., sleeping in car, not feeling safe at home, sleeping outdoors or in a shelter, couch-surfing, etc. • 40% of students were housing insecure. • Latinx and American Indian had highest incidence of housing insecurity at 52% of respondents. • Non-binary and LGBTQ+ students reported higher incidences of both homelessness and housing insecurity, particularly high rates among gender fluid and Trans individuals. • Over 20% of students face the double-burden of housing insecurity and food insecurity. <p>Next Slide = definitions: “Who are the Youths?”</p> <p>HUD Definition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing insecure entails struggling to pay rent/mortgage/utilities in the past 12 months, having to move frequently, or not being safe at home and having to go elsewhere (e.g., in a domestic abuse situation). • Homelessness entails sleeping in places other than one’s apartment or dorm or with family (so, couch-surfing, sleeping in a car, sleeping outdoors, sleeping in a shelter). • Homeless Youth: Young people who cannot live in a safe environment with a relative and who have no other safe living arrangement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2018/11/defining-and-counting-youth-homelessness#:~:text=It%20defines%20youth%20homelessness%20as,common%20than%20you%20might%20think. <p>McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (per Title IX, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act) defines <i>homeless children and youth</i>:</p> <p>(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); and</p> <p>(B) includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;* (ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C)); (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and (iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

- *Per Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act, "awaiting foster care placement" was removed from the definition of homeless on December 10, 2016; the only exception to his removal is that "covered states" have until December 10, 2017 to remove "awaiting foster care placement" from their definition of homeless.
- Notes: View the [full text of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#). For more information on determining homelessness, visit [Determining Eligibility for Services Under McKinney-Vento](#). Needs added definition of living with extended family members

Slide 3: What are the various categories of young people experiencing homelessness or precariously housed?

- Street Youth
- Aging out of Foster Care
- Coming out of incarceration
- Single parents
- UNM/CNM Students
- Struggling with Substances
- Lost Homes/safety due to identity (LGBTQ+)
- Trafficked youth
- Struggling with complex behavioral health needs
- *Youth experiencing more than any one of these at any given time

Member discussion resulted in the addition of the following categories:

- Housing insecure (couch-surfing, living with relatives)
- Youth with disabilities
- Undocumented/DACA – dealing with deportation issues
- Failed adoptions (Youths who do not go back in the system, no stipend, no transitions)
- Runaways
- In foster care
- Youth whose families are homeless or housing insecure
- Youth in public charge

Slides 4 and 5 discussion with Health Sciences Center Researchers:

- Currently, we do not know the total number of homeless youth ages 18-25 in ABQ
- We are interested in commissioning a needs assessment of homeless youth in ABQ, with the central purpose of enumerating youth ages *15-25 who are homeless and housing insecure
- We have been charged by the Homeless Coordinating Council to identify gaps and high impact strategies
- What questions do you need us to answer to provide YHCC with an estimated cost for completing the study? Other suggestions for the YHCC call for proposals?
- I have attached a Youth Crisis Response System framework that delineates social services agencies supporting youth currently; it is currently our only way to document youth homelessness, but it is has a number of limitations
 - Data are incomplete
 - Some youth may be double-counted
 - Also, "Point-in-Time" estimates do not accurately count youth, only offer a snapshot of **homelessness**—of both sheltered and unsheltered **homeless** populations—on a single night. The one-night counts are conducted by Continuums of Care (CoC) in late January of each year. However, many CoCs choose to conduct annual counts of both populations.

- We also have a hard time keeping track of young people who are couch surfing because they wouldn't necessarily identify themselves as homeless.

Assata reported on a meeting with Art Kaufmann, Janet Page-Reeves, and Francisco Ronquillo at the Office for Community Health at the UNM Health Science Center. They are very keen to carry out the enumeration project. Here are their questions.

- Approximately how many homeless youth 15-25 are there in ABQ?
 - rough estimate because they want to calculate an incentive of \$10-20
- Importance of capacity building among providers and trauma-informed care
- Could part of Gateway Center resources be targeted to capacity building?
- In addition to enumerating homeless youth and conducting a needs assessment
 - would we like to know: demographic info and why they have become homeless?
- Can we create a data sharing agreement among providers so they can start with the current agency-focused and APS-focused data sources? BTW: YHCC is collecting a list of data sources developed by providers in the Youth Crisis Response System.

Gilbert Ramirez queried: What have other cities done? Could we use another cities template? More importantly, how do we make this systemic, so that it is done yearly? We can use the data to apply for federal funding.

Brooke suggested looking at St. Louis County, Seattle.

Jennifer Scacco opened the discussion of how do we assist with youth behavioral health needs to get and maintain housing. She provided an overview of existing programs.

- 1) 18+ Crisis Stabilization just started, working with UNM for referrals. Brief stay with 16 bed capacity "step-up or step-down" program.
 - on-site clinical with UNMH
 - trauma informed yoga
 - journaling
- 2) Detox social model, short-term

After both programs conclude, individuals work with intensive case managers. Current demographics are 35-45 year-olds (rarely 18-25). Jennifer Scacco noted she often hears, these folks need a "higher-level" of care, but residential care does not equal housing – so what is the answer? Kashif mentioned Community Connections does not typically serve 18 – 25, and added that in his other work these young people do not have basic life skills or financial skills to be ready to rent housing. Kashif agreed to assist with researching these issues.

Gil noted Substance Use Voucher program, (American Society of Addiction and Intervention tier II) for undocumented, or those who do not have Medicaid. Every year CABQ puts our bid for youth, but no providers apply. This program covers intensive outpatient treatment, medically managed inpatient care, residential inpatient. We have to send youths out of state for care. Both non-profits and for-profits are eligible because CABQ is endeavoring to open up the spectrum of services.

Discussion ensued regarding the financial viability of these programs, and some historical perspective of programs which filled this gap, but did not survive. Not enough young people go, so programs cannot be sustained. This does not mean the need does not exist, but that we have not been successfully reaching youths. YDI is interested in reviewing the RFP in the next cycle.

	<p>Diana Lopez: we have shelter provider, and jump to transitional living. There is a gap in between the two (a mid-level gap). There aren't group homes, and although Residential Treatment facilities are in existence there is not enough capacity.</p>
All	<p>1) Nasha Torres confirmed that this group will continue meeting after the Oct. 16th deadline, and mediated the High Impact Strategies discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need a shelter for 18-25 young adults (it's expensive) - Youth Housing Needs Assessment (HUD may have another cycle soon) - Specific funding for 18-25 for eviction prevention (inside and outside college system) - Rapid Re-housing - Housing maintenance - Wrap-around supports for youths who've found housing (ex. Casa Q's aftercare program) ongoing case-management (reiterated) - Community Connections needs carve-outs for 18-25 year olds (what other programs need to be modified) - Funds earmarked for 18-25 for Permanent Supportive Housing Vouchers (tough to qualify under current HUD standards and documentation requirements) Especially for early onset mental health issues. They often age-out at 22. - UNM/CNM/New Day/Community-engaged subsidized housing with specially-trained RAs, work with social workers, (Need funding -- Gateway!) UNM Researchers could study students.
Other:	<p>Parking Lot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth with lived experience

Next Meeting: Sept. 30th, 4:00-5:30 pm