

YYA Committee Meeting Notes

March 17, 2022

4:00-5:30pm

Present: Phil Ringwood, DIAL/SELF; Shelby Dempsey, BCRHA; Simone, YAB; Benna, YAB; Stacy Parsons, McKinney-Vento Liaison; Emily English, Gandara; Shaundell Diaz, CAPV CoC; Michele LaFleur, CAPV CoC; Olivia-Gilbert, YAB; Lydia Davis, CAPV Youth Programs; Olivia Morris, YAB; Heather Welty, CAPV Youth Programs; Rhea/Kaia, YAB; Zanyia, YAB; Andrea Tomsho-Dexter, CAPV Healthy Families; Damien-Michael, YAB; Teri Koopman, CAPV CoC

Introductions/Check-Ins-Simone

YHDP Project Updates

Gandara (TH/RRH)-Emily

- In Shine TH one mom moved in and one successfully moved out into an apt
- We have an open spot
- We are looking to hire a housing specialist
- Its difficult finding housing under FMR (Fair Market Rent); Some were in poor condition & didn't meet HUDs inspection requirements

Dial/Self (RRH)-Phil

- 4 bed RRH program
- 4 slots are filled-1 is housed and 3 are in housing search
- Responds to question in the chat: FMR is an amount of money HUD determines to be appropriate for town by unit ([FY 2022 Fair Market Rent Documentation System — Statewide Summary for Massachusetts \(huduser.gov\)](#))

BCRHA (TAY, Moving to College, FYI Vouchers) –Shelby

- Have received a lot of referrals and housing search has been difficult
- Stockbridge HA holds the FYI Vouchers and they have been great to work with
- FYI vouchers offer youth who have left DCF a 3 year temporary subsidy which have helped stabilize
- There has been an increase in referrals from DCF
- Continue to work with one Moving to College scholarship recipient

CoC Updates-Teri

- **Total Number of Youth Referred:** 3 new referrals (1 to MHA Navigation, 1 to Gandara TH and 1 to Dial/Self RRH)
- **Total Number of Youth Housed:** Currently 23 Housed, 1 in the Housing process (apartment identified-can't move in until 04/01), 7 recently housed
- **Total Number of Youth Currently on BNL:** In total 71; 45 on the BNL (including 12 youth who are no contact and are slated to be exited from BNL if there is no contact for 6 months) 26 on the new BNL

- **Michele inquired whether there were duplicated numbers on BNLs;** Shaundell stated no-if name is on new BNL they are removed from old BNL

YAB Updates (Rhea)

- YAB decided to wait for one month on legislative workshop and we will not be proceeding with Springfield because they want to meet in person
- At Building Bridges we talked about the importance of internet and device access; we are skipping March Building Bridges to enable time for other things

TAY/ DCF Care Package Update (Lydia)

- We have made some progress-are doing them on a rolling basis as we get referrals
- Shared screen of online form that youth can complete to select items and preferred delivery or pick up method (e.g. can be delivered to case manager if preferred)
- Items offered include: self-care items, phone chargers, head phones, comfort items, gift cards, snacks; We tried to make this trauma informed and pronoun respectful
- YAB will compile packages, include some homemade items, and will share
- They want to give links to everyone in TAY and FYI; Shelby (who works with FYI youth) and Ryan (covers TAY youth) will share
- In Franklin and Hampshire County DS received 3 TAY referrals; there are no FYI vouchers
- Olivia asked what items would the youth most desire
- Phil has no immediate insight
- Shelby spoke to Lydia and Georgia-thinks comfort items (such as blankets) & household items

Question re FYI vouchers-Shelby Responded

- FYI (Foster Youth to Independence) area 3 year temporary subsidy voucher given to youth who have exited out of DCF system
- They only pay 30% of their income towards housing
- Currently have 13 young adults who are a part of this program
- She heard that they are considering extending the program to 5 years

Resource Flyer-Regional Advisory Pregnant & Parenting YYA (Andrea)

- Andrea works for Healthy Families at CAPV; provides support for parents age 23 and under in Franklin, Hampshire, and North Quabbin regions; match young parents with a home visitors
- Have been trying to pull together a resource list for youth who are pregnant or parenting but don't have a finished product yet
- Is seeking feedback from prog participants and Reg Advisory members
- Screen shared some of the versions; Wanted something with QR codes and limited words; one version seems overwhelming with writing and boxes; Second version has diff colors and shares just fewer resources that are more specific to PAPYYA; wanted to see what agency to list for YHDP housing (DS is currently listed) –Healthy Families and YPP; Was trying to figure out what housing YHDP thing to list;

- Olivia asked whether a trifold pamphlet was possible as it would allow space to include some sentences about the programs; sometimes it's helpful to find out general info and eligibility criteria; Not everyone knows how to access a QR code
- Andrea has wondered about QR codes and sometimes struggles with them
- Reason why we were trying to fit it onto a ones-sided/one page document was to make it accessible and just include the basics
- She agrees that the more the better and wants young parents to see that there is a network of support

PIT Count Experience – Shaundell

- Shaundell went with Lisa-a person with lived experience who has been actively working with the CoC-to Orange together and found two individuals living in cars; share resources and heard their story; They refused to part with animals they took in when someone passed
- Also went to Northampton and Lisa identified some places but they were cleaned out; someone they met was able to benefit from a pod
- Collected 5 surveys in total

YHDP Demonstration Period Project Evaluation (Michele)

- Survey 1 Responses were aggregated, de-identified, and grouped by sub-populations and shared with the YAB; They provided feedback and further revisions were made based to the Response workbook
- Michele shared the Survey 1 tool-it's designed to be given to youth when they first start the housing program; It's more systems oriented and asks questions about their experience with CE
- Most responses are scaled 1-5 and there are opportunities to provide written feedback
- Survey was sent out on tablets; There was some confusion re whether youth needed to complete the survey on the tablet-the YAB expressed concerns that if staff assisted them in entering responses on the tablet that would lead to bias
- Michele shared the compiled survey 1 responses which are tabbed by category (e.g. basic demographics, and average responses by Household status, Race, ethnicity, LGBTQ, Gender and Disability status; Each tab shows their responses by question and the number of positive responses (4 or 5) and the average response
- The YAB suggested that average response be added and pointed out that there was not a gender tab to enable comparative responses; These have been added but I am not certain whether the YAB will look further at this or how to proceed with sharing the information
- Group was asked how they wish to proceed and whether to responses workbook should be shared
- Phil noted that the data pool is very small and we may accidentally identify people; Suggests putting something together that has the least likelihood of identifying someone
- He is interested in see where there are trends and less than stellar responses and pull that out as a general piece of information; Once we get more data in the system we could share differently
- Michele noted that we could just send out averages by group with no individual categories; the YAB came up with some good insights

- Phil stressed that funded programs would like to get that info sooner rather than later-the sooner the feedback is provided the quicker we respond
- Michele shared that the lowest average/percentage positive responses were related to being provided enough info about ways to avoid the adult shelter; L
- Hispanic/Latino and Latina/o(x) youth were less satisfied; If these youth are Spanish speakers maybe they need translators readily available

Youth Count-April 4-May 5, 2022 (Teri & Phil)

- Cat Dysthe, Statewide Youth Ambassador assigned to our region, was detained and is unable to present as planned
- Teri noted that we delayed discussing Youth Count until after PIT Count concluded because we didn't want to confuse people
- Youth count differs from PIT Count-its not an attempt to count all youth experiencing homelessness; Rather it's an opportunity for youth to provide feedback to the state which will impact funding and services
- Its held over a period of time (April 4-May 5) and we want to encourage as many youth (under the age of 25) who are or have experienced housing instability to complete the survey
- Survey is generally shared electronically (there's a QR code) and can be completed on numerous devices; Youth who complete the survey and are housing unstable will receive a \$20 stipend
- Phil noted that DS will do a social media campaign, and the survey will be posted on their website; The survey will also be posted on CoC website and discord
- There are questions for people who previously completed the survey
- Results are published in a report-the FY 21 Youth Count report was just finalized and was posted on the CoCs Website ([Youth/Young Adult Homelessness | 3 County CoC \(communityaction.us\)](#))

YHDP Supplemental Dashboard (Michele)

- There is additional data that YHDP has to submit annually and the CoC just completed it for the first time for projects
- If interested, you can look view the YHDP dashboard on your own time; Michele will give Teri instructions to share re how to create your own SAGE HMIS login; We are MA 507-Berkshire Franklin Hampshire
- Please reach out to Michele if you request access to access to the Dashboard (mlafleur@communityaction.us);
- There are a lot of outcomes yet because people haven't exited the projects; Michele shared Equity in Access charts and how to navigate site

States Homeless Youth Awareness Digital Campaign (Teri)

- Shared digital images from the state's homeless youth awareness campaign which were modified base on input form YAB Collab (which several of our YAB members participated in)

Other

- Shaundell share the People with Lived Experience Flyer
- Olivia asked if anyone did anything with the YAB suggestions for unspent YHDP funds

- Phil informed that providers are still looking at and consider the suggestions; HUD does not allow many of the activities suggested-they would require writing a waiver request which won't be reviewed by HUD anytime soon

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 21, 2022 4:00 – 5:30 pm