

## YYA Committee Meeting Agenda

December 16, 2021

4:00-5:30pm

**Participants:** Phil Ringwood, Dial/Self; Shelby Dempsey, BCRHA; Simone Barrows, YAB; Levi Solano-Jimenez, YAB; Ben Hernandez-Kliman, YAB; Stacy Parsons, McKinney-Vento Liaison; Shaundell Diaz, CAPV CoC; Olivia-Gilbert-Lilly, YAB; Lydia Davis, CAPV Youth Programs; Georgia Welch, CAPV YAB/Youth Programs; Olivia Morris, YAB; Andrea Tomsho-Dexter, CAPV Healthy Families; Brooke Murphy-CAPV CoC; Heather Welty, CAPV Youth Programs; Kaia, YAB; Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH; Teri Koopman, CAPV CoC

**Introductions/Check-Ins-** Simone

### YHDP Project Updates

#### DIAL/SELF (DS)-Teri

- Phil is attending a Statewide Youth Count Meeting but will join shortly
- DS continues to receive a lot of referrals and remains short staffed (difficulties filling open positions)
- DS was approved funding by EOHHS to conduct a feasibility study for the purchase or rehab of YYA housing in Franklin/Hampshire or Berkshire County
- DS is one of our EOHHS providers participating in the Transition Aged Youth pilot; DS is the point of contact in Hampshire/Franklin for DCF case managers to refer YYA who are exiting system and are housing insecure; Owen was trained in REDcap and will enter data for both 3 County providers

#### CoC Updates-Teri

As of 12/14/2021:

- Total Number of New Youth Referrals: 4 (3 to MHA Navigation and 1 to Gandara RRH)
- Total Number of Youth Housed: 13 Housed (and 4 in Transitional Housing)
- Total Number of Youth Currently on By Names List (BNL): 73
  - *including 6 YYA who are currently listed "no contact" and are slated to be re-categorized within the next 6 months if no contact is established*

### Other Project Updates

#### Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority (BCRHA)-Shelby

- Shelby shared that she works with youth between 18-24 years of age and she is part of the Moving To College Team
- FYI vouchers help by getting youth into 3 year subsidized housing; She has been able to house four YYA
- She also works with a colleague, Ryan, who is transitioning from another position at BCRHA and will likely start attending some meetings in the future

### **Moving to College Pilot (MTC)-Stacy**

- MTC is a 2 year program for unaccompanied homeless youth; Provides scholarships (to attend community college), on-campus housing at a 4 year college, and case management supports
- Each EOHHS region has 5 spots
- To be eligible applicants must complete a FAFSA, have a diploma/HISET, and meet HUDs definition of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
- There are partnerships all over the state; West region partners with BCC and MCLA

### **YAB Updates- Levi**

- DCF-We heard back from DCF re the care packages; Our original budget was \$400 in total but now that there is increased funding from EOHHS, we can plan for up to \$120 per person
- Building Bridges-Next meeting is Monday at a different time (4:00-5:00 pm); Topic of discussion will be extra supports for winter and how winter impacts programming; YAB members will all be in one room for this meeting

### **Q&A**

- Kaia asked what being “re-categorized” meant if a person on BNL is not in contact for 6 months
- Brook clarified that if there has been no contact for 6 months, the YYAs are taken off the BNL and moved to a dismissal tab; But they can come back on the BNL and be reassessed; We prefer that all YYA on the BNL be reassessed every 6 months

### **New EOHHS Funded DCF TAY (Transition Aged Youth) Project**

- The TAY Pilot Project establishes a point of contact in each region for DCF case managers to refer YYAs who are transitioning out of DCF and are housing unstable; The points of contact in 3 County are supervisors at DIAL/SELF (for Hampshire/Franklin Counties) and BCRHA (for Berkshire County)
- Funds data entry, coordination, and some case management/housing navigation services; Also provides additional flex funding
- State approved incorporating the YAB’s DCF Care Package Project (aka “YAB Peer Support and Engagement Project for YYAs Transitioning out of DCF”) into the TAY budget; \$2,000 has been allocated for YAB stipends and \$1,200 for care package supplies

### **CCP Updates- Short-Term Action Steps to Address**

- Teri shared a document summarizing elements of the CCP (Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness in Franklin County, MA) and highlights from the 7.15.21 YHDP CCP Update Worksheet
- CCP was developed by the community-30 Member Planning Team, YAB (Youth Action Board), 3 County CoC (Continuum of Care), and Advisory Council
- Link to the CCP (and Executive Summary) can be found on the 3 County CoC’s Website at [Youth/Young Adult Homelessness | 3 County CoC \(communityaction.us\)](https://www.communityaction.us/youth/young-adult-homelessness)
- CCP identifies 5 goals each with multiple objectives and action steps (short term, middle term and long term)

- A March 2021 update highlighted CCP short term action step accomplishments; This document can also be found on the CoC website under YYA Homelessness
- In July 2021, the YYA Committee discussed incomplete short term action items/steps and brainstormed ideas/suggestions where documented in a YHDP CCP Update Worksheet
- Now we need to start reviewing the Worksheet, list any new actions/tasks that are in progress since the July meeting, and identify next steps (either for the YYA Committee or other Committees to move forward on)

#### Discussion of Tasks Not Yet Completed:

- ❖ CoC will create a system level demonstration period evaluation plan

#### Next Steps: Already In Progress

- 3 County CoC is currently undergoing CE evaluation by MHASA
- YYA Pre-Surveys are system related and will provide some feedback during demonstration Period Project Evaluation
- Further data review is pending transition to new HMIS system

No additional Next Steps were identified

- ❖ Some dissemination activities have been completed, some of **this has been more difficult in COVID**. This should be looked at by the YYA Committee and YAB for planning.

- CE processes
- Youth Serving agency programs and services

- ❖ Complete outreach events in schools to reach YYA under 18 y.o.

- **This has been on hold due to COVID-19**. YYA Committee planning is needed

It was noted that COVID has caused outreach efforts to ebb and flow

#### Next Steps discussed/identified:

- **Resource Flyer:** Andrea noted that the Regional Advisory for Pregnant and Parenting YYA was listed as a suggestion in July because the Committee is creating flyer with key resources and programs for pregnant and parenting YYA with QR codes
  - This is in process and regional advisory committee will review at the next meeting in January
  - Then would like YYA/Pregnant and Parenting YYA to review
  - Flyer will be emailed to Lydia for YAB to review Document will be review
- **Youth Count:** Phil noted that Youth Count is coming up and it's a time to do outreach
  - There will be social media platforms & incentives for completing surveys
  - Several Committees will be developed and ways to get involved will be posted

- Link for engagement:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegz4xOfes8Cfc5Uo1thIYi8VqN4Ry7B46XjwPE57sFc3RuOw/viewform>

❖ Utilize materials from MA Special Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Identification and Connection Committee for planning/executing effective count. (*Timeframe for Youth Count is usually annually in the Spring*)

#### Next Steps discussed/identified:

- Committee members or YAB participation in the upcoming PIT count (end of Jan)?
  - Michele is in process of trying to set up a meeting with YAB (via Lydia and Georgia) do discuss PIT and see if anyone wants to be involved in planning or execution
- Engage a youth member from Three County in the MA Special Commission meetings ongoing to help with planning Youth Count– EOHHS will pay them for this

#### Legislative Updates-Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH

- Shared re MA sign-on letter to protect rental assistance  
<https://www.westernmasshousingfirst.org/advocacy/2021/act-now-to-protect-ma-emergency-rental-assistance/>
- The rental assistance program will begin to ramp down January 1 because they are afraid of running out of money but there are ARPA funds they can tap into to increase the pool
- Urged participants to email their State Rep and Senator
- Demonstrated how to find State Rep and Senator’s email on legislator link and how to copy and paste a message and/or personalize it before sending
- Its unconscionable to cut this rental assistance program when there is money
- Governor signed \$4 billion ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) spending plan
  - Budgets \$600 million for housing including \$150 million for public housing and \$115 for rental housing production
  - Senator Comerford got extra money appropriated for affordable housing and non-congregate emergency shelter in Franklin County

#### Status of YHDP Demonstration Period Project Evaluation

- Status of Evaluation Groups
  - **Surveys**-Providers asked for some additional time to collect final surveys; All should be completed by the end for the week; Once completed Michele can collect the survey responses and de-identify results for YAB review
  - **Data**-Report will likely be built out by Michele in the new HMIS system (which is going live at the end of the month); Data generated by this report will be reviewed by COC staff in spring
  - **Policies** –Waiting on one provider to confirm that they have no additions or updated policies to review

- Teri will reach out to YAB when survey material and policies are ready to be evaluated; Then material can be shared, meetings can be scheduled and scoring plan reviewed

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, January 20, 2021 4:00 – 5:30 pm