Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

Youth and Young Adult Subcommittee Meeting

Friday, February 19, 2021 I 9:30am - 11am

MEETING MINUTES

A. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees included: Tricia Frizzell; Carla Munns; Jesse Lippold Peone; Hailey; Heidi Walker; Jack Elliott; Lexi Meyer; Sofie Fashana-Intern with SHA; Laurie Shaw-Casarez; and Mary Heite

B. Committee Administration

⇒ Group agreed to approve January Meeting Minutes in March when more core members are present.

C. Collective Goal Focus

Discussion was held on how to meaningfully engage youth in decision making and in the CoC. Points shared by participants include:

Engaging Youth in the CoC

- Teens and youth need to have a way to express their individual voice and experiences; people say they want engagement but then youth don't get the real opportunity to.
- Integrate youth into the courtroom during foster care decisions and give them a voice in decision-making for their own placements.
- Homeless youth feel "less than human" and nobody seems to want to talk to them; feel invisible and forgotten.
- Show youth how we can make opportunities to engage with adults and "the system" valuable to them, not just how adults can we help out, how can adults help that youth not be homeless again?
- Team up with Chemeketa, Willamette, and Corbin for an unpaid internship opportunity for those who experienced homelessness or housing instability or foster care, offering credit toward education.
- Homeless students and foster care youth feel safe at schools, allowing an opportunity where students (even high school) could have a voice and get a credit for it.
- SKSD has a student representative on school board to provide student perspective; SKSD has an equity committee which is comprised of focused high school students.
- Tricia noted funding may be available to help with incentives and maybe even stipends.
- Laurie shared that during the Shoe Battle of the Schools events, students share personal stories that include experiences with homelessness or unstable housing, potential for HOME/HOST to pull them aside and see if they'd be willing to join the subcommittee.

Increasing Engagement in System Development

- Tricia gave an example where HOME paid Youth Advisory Board internships where youth earn high school credit, noting a barrier on the system level with youth engagement.

- Youth and young adult stakeholders had a Facebook page to engage youth and provide space to express comments and needs; staff from the YYA group were administrators to the FB page and were responsible to respond to youth. This was fairly unsuccessful.
- Youth surveys: need to identify what type of data we are seeking and what to do with it after surveys.
    - Surveys need to be truly anonymous for youth to even consider responding.
    - Explore MVP conducting a survey of MVP youth.
    - Discussed phrasing questions as: "you or someone you know"
    - Youth must be confident answers won't go back to their foster family
    - Make sure youth know you truly care and are trying to fix things to build trust
    - Leave open-ended question for youth to identify interest in follow up from someone
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- Tricia asked if there was group interest and commitment in creating and managing a survey; survey could be a one-time survey or could remain open and reviewed regularly by the YYA group
- Identified overlap with Fostering Hope Initiative goals, consensus was reached to connect more with FHI, CBEL, Early Learning Hub, healthcare agencies and providers, business communities, etc.
- Tricia is going to add Jesse and Sofie to Basecamp (online project management platform) that the team uses to communicate and share information: emails **sofiefashana@gmail.com**; **jesse@blumre.com**
- Jesse identified an opportunity to present to the school board via work session, Jesse offered to facilitate an introduction to the board chair when/if interested.
- Tricia highlighted an opportunity for those conducting youth street outreach for training on best practices, available online: https://www.streetworksmn.org/training-and-resources/streetworks-certification-training-toolkit-overview/.

GOAL 4: Improve Local Youth Data

⇒ PIT Count debrief: Carla shared a brief summary of the 2021 PIT Count. Several attendees echoed the importance of YYA members joining the CoC planning committee next year to assure more focus on youth in future to help conduct an accurate youth count.

⇒ Statewide Youth Assessment: Tricia mentioned the assessment is kicking off next week, February 23rd and is expecting to wrap up at the end of spring/early summer—focus is on youth engagement

- State is paying youth and young adults to get involved with planning meetings and conducting the statewide assessment, funding is coming via HOME to pay youth up to age 24 years
- There will be a kickoff event specifically for any youth for the assessment. Recruitment is open—contact Ryan Pollard, MWVCAA, for more information on the Marion/Polk region: **ryan.pollard@mwvcaa.org**.

GOAL 1: Youth-Focused Coordinated Entry System

⇒ A brief update on Youth Coordinated Entry System implementation was provided. The TAY-SPDT has been adopted by ARCHES and has already been integrated into HMIS. Currently processing with the CoC and determining which agency is most appropriate and able to manage the By-Name List that comes with the youth-focused assessment tool. HOST and HOME are considering various options. HOST is conducting a TAY assessment upon entry, and ARCHES has still been conducting the adult assessment on youth presenting for services.

GOAL 5: Advocate Funding Decisions for Youth Homelessness

⇒ If interested in advocating and/or educating at the state level, please contact Tricia.

⇒ Upcoming training opportunities; funding support is available: **https://endhomelessness.org/events/conferences/ending-homelessness-a-virtual-conference/**

⇒ Success! E-board allocating $1M to current YYA providers for their COVID response, showing support for youth systems through nearly doubling its annual funding allocation (total annual budget is ~$1.5m)

D. Up Tasks

Contacts

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