Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance
Youth and Young Adult Subcommittee Meeting

Friday, July 15, 2022 I 9:30-11:00am

DRAFT MINUTES

A. Welcome

Alisa Tobin welcomed Subcommittee members to our July meeting. It was noted that the agenda order was unusual. The meeting began with a guest speaker and discussion and then would end with committee administration and the Win Wall. This adjustment to the order was to accommodate the guest speaker's schedule.

B. Overview of the Homeless Youth Continuum by Caitlin Campbell

The Subcommittee welcomed Caitlin Campbell (caitlin.m.campbell@multco.us) from the Joint Offices of Homeless Services in Portland.

Caitlin gave some history of the Homeless Youth Continuum and listed the lead agencies:

- System established in 1998. Services were disjointed. Youth were languishing in programs. No expectation for what youth were doing or where they were going. Goal was a coordinated response to serve youth.
- Since was established, they have had several re-designs.
- Agencies: Janus Youth Programs, Native American Youth and Family Center, New Avenues for Youth, Outside In

Caitlin then spoke about assertive engagement. She described the importance in HYC of building relationships between youth and a staff person. The staff person holds youth with positive regard. Holds hope with them. In that type of relationship, the hope is that the youth are inspired to make choices for themselves. HYC uses a model with a focus on developmental outcomes. She also commented that their services are low barrier, inclusive, culturally responsive and tailored to meet individual youth needs.

The HYC has developed some great tools and resources. Caitlin offered (and has followed up – materials are all posted on Basecamp under "Meeting Docs & Files" in a folder called "Homeless Youth Continuum"):

- Brochure giving an overview of the Homeless Youth Continuum
- Intake interview tailored for 18-24
- Tragedy Response Plan
- Behavior Matrix

She went on to describe what it takes to have a continuum like this, including lots of meetings, trust, communication, shared responsibility, and system resources.

Discussion followed. Matt Rasmussen commented on the importance of having youth-centered services, adding that the people on this call are the ones who are on board with that. In response to a question of where to start, he commented that there's not a particular place to start, it would be a matter of just doing it and not being afraid to jump in.

Alisa Tobin commented that she's been in several conversations recently about staffing and burnout and retention. She's interested to see the Tragedy Response Plan and how it supports staff.

Laurie Shaw Casarez commented that this reminds her of work she did for the Child Advocacy agency in San Diego. There was a consortium that the HYC reminds her of. She commented that it was bumpy as it was building but it was highly successful in all the right ways. She also reflected that 10-11 years ago, she participated in Salem in monthly meetings with providers, law enforcement, McKinney Vento liaisons, and city officials to collaborate on youth needs. Sometimes the conversations were about general needs and sometimes about supporting a specific youth.

Theo S and Sam N are young adults who joined the meeting. Theo expressed that he liked hearing the HYC and that it would be good to have in Salem. Sam also commented that she liked it.

There was a great deal of interest expressed in reapplying the work already done in Portland. Specifically, there were requests for the intake interview tailored for TAY and also <18, the Tragedy Response Plan, and also the county agreement.

The committee's goal was to learn about the HYC and also explore developing a similar continuum here in Marion and Polk counties. The group expressed interest in doing so, but it also seems like an intimidating task and there were a few questions put on the table about where to start and also who would fill the role Caitlin fills in Portland. Derek Wentorf offered the perspective that Portland is held up as a role model and that we should not be daunted by their successes to begin where we are.

Shanta Frisbee concluded this portion of the meeting by expressing that this conversation is "leaving me thinking."

C. Committee Administration

Motion made by Shanta Frisbee and seconded by Heather Pascoe to approve the June Minutes. Passed unanimously.

D. Win Wall

- Alena Harvey, UGM. Work in public relations and marketing. Wanting to better understand homeless youth and the whys and hows and the work community partners are involved in.
- Heather Pascoe, System of Care program manager. Moved two weeks ago from PacificSource to Willamette Health Council, which is much smaller. Excited to already have a stipend policy up and running.
- Laurie Shaw Casarez, Youth Development & Outreach Coordinator City of Salem. Slowly figuring out some paid internships or workforce opportunities with the city and connected to youth and young adults. Successes with historic preservation, which includes not only historic buildings but also archaeological digs with opportunities for young people.
- Megan Perez, Church @ the Park. Prepping for YHDP. Shout out to HOME Youth Services. Thanks for a really good partnership. They are great at mentoring youth, at seeing them where they are at and supporting them.
- Sam N, Backbone member. First time at a YYA meeting and that's a win!
- Lexi Meyer HOST: Currently have 7 of 10 beds filled. It's been a while since over half capacity. We have just about all of youth in extended living transitioning out.
- Alisa Tobin, HOME: Working through hiring process to bring an outreach manager on board and so close. A personal win is that my fiance and I found a place to move into!
- Cathy Clark, Mayor of Keizer, chairman of the Board: Shout out to Closets Program. During covid, they gave everything away. Then came to the city for help with needs to restock. City of Keizer said yes, and now youth in schools can advocate for themselves and meet their personal needs in a dignified way. Personal win: 4th grand child born this week.
- Marianne Bradshaw, CoC Staff Consultant: A shout out to the youth and to people like Alisa and Shanta who offer consistent support.
- Theo S, Backbone member: First YYA meeting. Making resin plugs for claws.

[In attendance for first part of meeting but had to sign off before the Win Wall: Caitlin Campbell, Hailey Hulsey, Matt Rasmussen, Derek Wentorf]

E. Provider Needs/Updates

Cathy Clark commented that the start of school is right around the corner! Thank you for all the work as school starts.

Heather Pascoe shared that the system of care leaning into strategic planning and is working with a consultant from Portland State University. There may be an ask or need in conjunction with this work.

F. Closing/Next Steps

Next meeting: Friday 8/19 9:30-11:00am on zoom