

Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan Committee

Monday, January 22, 2018

1pm-3pm

Hartford Town Hall

171 Bridge Street, WRJ

Present: Laurel Chen (VSHA), Judy Rex (DCF), Tara Chase (Windsor Co. YS), Daniel Blankenship (VSHA), Bethany Pombar (VCRHYP), Ari Kisler (VCRHYP) Anna Berg (YDP), Kara Casey (VT Network)

Data workgroup

Workgroup is at a little roadblock with HMIS data. George at OEO was able to get some other numbers from the State, so we're still trying to work through those – will report to committee when we have more information.

In the new YHDP NOFA, they ask us to identify proposed benchmarks. Committee reviewed the core outcome areas outlined in the charter, which reflect the USICH framework, and the list of data elements that Laurel has collected.

Questions for the Committee:

- What are the three to five outcome measures that will help us define success?
- What do we feel is really missing?

Discussion:

- The outcomes are not necessarily benchmarks.
- Creating an outcome measurement method to assess these across systems might be a recommendation, but not where we are now.
- For right now, the Committee needs to identify some low hanging fruit that we can use to measure whether we are making progress.
- How do we measure if we are successful?
 - How much, how frequently, how well are we doing?)
 - Aggregate # of YYA in HMIS, GA, DV, non-HMIS, non-DV (broken out by county)
 - Length of time in emergency housing and exits to positive destinations
 - Returns to homelessness
- What is missing?
 - Length of time homeless before housed (does exist in HMIS, just need to pull it)
 - Shelter and transitional housing are still considered homeless, so do we only look at before project entry? HMIS only asks about length of stay in prior location. How does CE play into this? Only asks about length of time homeless under certain circumstances.

Stakeholder workgroup

The workgroup will be meeting later this month to dive deeper into the data.

Reviewed standouts from the Youth Homelessness Survey preliminary results:

- Top contributing factors
- Housing interventions/solutions
- Partners to connect with
- Lack of affordable housing

Reviewed brief summary document of stakeholder interviews:

- Asterisks were not applied consistently, so we will probably remove them from the document
- Take-away: a lot of solutions were discussed, highlighting the need for varied resources
- Solutions consistently mentioned: transportation, extended kinship, affordable housing, case management

The goal for today was to provide the information to Committee members to review and digest. The next step will be for the workgroup to begin to draft recommendations based on the information and bring to the full Committee. The workgroup will edit information into a “mini report.”

Discussion:

- Youth in foster care who are moved around a lot of while in custody are at high risk. DCF is not currently flagging these youth as they age out. YDP is voluntary, but YDCs encourage youth to sign over 18 agreements to continue to receive support/ services after aging out.
- What really jumps out for people?
 - Need to include people at systems table who can make decisions about transportation
 - Wondering how much thought is put into where new affordable housing is built
 - Peer mentoring included with supportive housing
 - Support should start preventatively for families in order to reduce likelihood of homelessness
 - Need for more collaboration between service providers working with youth and those working with adults
 - Need to change community perspective of youth: coming up a lot in youth focus groups as well
 - 3SquaresVT is interesting to see creative ideas presented for housing solutions
 - Changing their marketing approach to reduce stigma; could be interesting to see how they went about making that shift
 - Thinking about how to do that perception shift work with landlords/home share providers, etc.

- Balancing discussion with landlords about risk pools without setting them up to think youth are too risky to rent to

We are coming to the end of this time to sponge up information, but we may not have gotten to everyone we need to. Are there other groups/stakeholders we should contact? If so, we will address at next Monday's stakeholder meeting.

- Local/state policy makers
- Outright
- Domestic violence

Youth engagement workgroup

We have final focus group tomorrow night in Burlington and we're hoping to have people there. Previous groups were very successful with peer facilitators. We're also having a data analysis meeting and have invited peer facilitators to attend. They may be interested in joining the youth advisory board as well.

The youth survey went out last week. We've already had 25 people start it. Some were excluded because they weren't eligible and some didn't finish for other reasons. So far 11 have finished it completely. Incentivized with a gift card; a raffle will be drawn in February.

Discussion about struggle to recruit for this focus group:

- Suggestion: reach out to Cots and Anew Place and see if they have youth in shelter who want to come over for the focus group
- Ari shared update from Will about outreach that has been done and the resistance that seems to exist

We are also working on creating a Youth Action Board. Bethany had intended to bring a charter to the Committee today for review, but after reaching out to the Chittenden Alliance and NN4Y and not hearing back, she was unable to create the draft. It makes the most sense for youth to be involved in creating that charter, so at this point the plan is to wait until interested youth can come together. We continue to actively recruit youth to be involved. February 9th was originally going to be a data analysis meeting, but we may decide to shift the meeting's focus to creating a charter for the YAB. We need to get something to VCEH by 2/20 so that it can be warned for their March meeting and be included in our YHDP application.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) NOFA

The NOFA was released last Thursday with some minor changes for last year's NOFA. An additional community will be funded, so there will be 11 total selected this round. 5 of those 11 communities need to be rural. Bethany, Ari, Laurel, Daniel, and Judy met today to review the NOFA and assign tasks. We'll be working on content and putting together a draft in the next month and a half. The plan is to submit a draft to Naomi at TAC for

review before we submit to HUD. We'll share a draft with the Committee and discuss it at our March 26th meeting.

This part of the process is to apply to become a selected community and work on a plan to hopefully receive funding for projects that supply housing for youth. This two-tiered process allows us to explore best practices and innovative solutions before applying for specific projects.

Systems Map

We're required to submit a one-page systems map with the NOFA, so have begun the work to create this. We recognize that the paths a youth takes through the system will be very different dependent on the youth or the community. While this map may not be helpful for service providers working the field, it may be helpful for those outside of the system gaining an understanding of the field.

The current draft shows the path a youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness might take through prevention, referral, emergency shelter, and transitional housing to end up in permanent or temporary destinations. Committee reviewed examples of other systems maps and discussed what to incorporate into our own map.

Discussion:

- Data adds context that creates more meaning to the map
- Incorporate USICH's short, medium, and long term responses
- Add arrows from prevention to homelessness
- Add arrows between emergency shelter and transitional housing
- Adding YDP's over 18 agreements into prevention
- Move away from referral sources and instead include a column on the far left that is where people are coming from
- Add a return to homelessness section
- Compare destinations to ICA list
- Incorporate planning, evaluation, and assessment piece

As we've been developing our approach to the YHDP NOFA some things are becoming clear. As a Committee, we never really set up an official mode for decision-making, so are looking at who has attended at least 50% of these meetings since being invited to determine which organizations are voting members. We would need 50% quorum to hold a vote. We will clarify membership and bring information to the next meeting. Since workgroups have been doing a lot outside of the full Committee, it seems appropriate for workgroup members to bring recommendations to the larger group for final review.

Next meeting: March 26th

We'll send out a Doodle for May meeting