Targeted Universalism in Coordinated Entry: Better Serving Youth and Young Adults

Conference on Ending Homelessness 2020
Thursday October 8th
1:15pm-2:15pm
Objectives

1. Understand the landscape of homelessness for young people.
2. Define the difference between equal service delivery and equitable service delivery.
3. Learn how to universally redesign CE to better meet the unique needs of young people experiencing homelessness.
YYA homelessness
YYA homelessness
YYA homelessness

- 47% of youth and young adults exiting systems of care in WA are BIPOC (Black/Indigenous/People of Color).

- 1,800 young people leave WA-state-funded facilities into homelessness or unstable housing every year.
  - Almost two thirds (1,178) of them come from the inpatient behavioral health system.
  - One third who experience homelessness come from foster care (130), the state juvenile justice system (132), or the state adult corrections system (384).
Senate Bill 6560

Beginning January 2020 any youth being discharged from a public system of care has the enforceable right to be discharged into safe and stable housing.
Rural YYA homelessness
4.2 M youth and young adults experience homelessness in the US.

Rural youth homelessness is just as prevalent as urban youth homelessness.

According to HUD, 75% of US counties are defined as rural.

In rural areas youth are...

- More likely to be hidden
- More disconnected from school and work
- Have less access to shelter and supportive services
- Have a greater reliance on couch surfing and sleeping in vehicles
Disproportionality in YYA homelessness
Disproportionality in YYA homelessness

• Native American youth have more than double the risk of homelessness than their non-native peers.
• Youth that are both Black & LGBTQ report the highest rates of homelessness.
YYA experience disparities at every point in the system
YYA homelessness

1. Family instability & conflict are common precursors
2. Coming out as LGBTQ increases risk
3. Lower educational attainment increases risk
4. History of foster care is common
5. History of legal involvement is common
Equal Services
Targeted Equitable Services
Targeted Universalism
Gaps in Most Coordinated Entry Systems

- Expect youth to come to them for services and do not have coordinated outreach efforts.
- Screen out youth experiencing category 3 homelessness.
- Will not house any youth outside of county lines.
- Prioritizes youth with a tool designed to measure common vulnerabilities seen in adult white homelessness.
- Reward youth for “showing up” like adults & punish when they don’t.
- Hold hard caps in Diversion.
- Does not allow for direct cash transfers in Diversion.
- Operationalizes “hard” exits.
Targeted Redesign

- Develop outreach
  - Take services to YYA don’t expect them to come to you.
- Get creative with funding to be inclusive of category 3 & allow for geographic fluidity.
- Create a new prioritization process prioritizing vulnerabilities specific to YYA in your community.
- Be flexible with participatory requirements.
- Eliminate caps in Diversion and allow for direct cash transfers.
- Implement “soft” exits.
Equal vs. Equitable
Filling the Gap: Critical Transition Coaching

Phase 1
Build Trust

Phase 2
Transition into Community

Phase 3
Try it Out

Phase 4
Independence
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