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

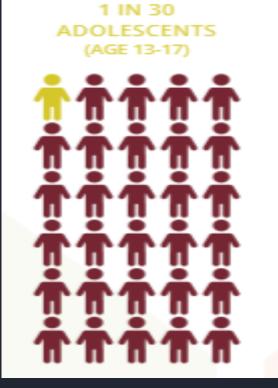
Conference on Ending Homelessness 2020

Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup>

1:15pm-2:15pm

# Objectives

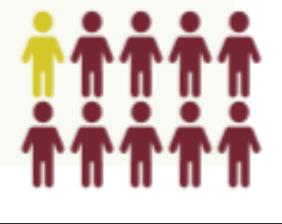
- 1. Understand the landscape of homelessness for young people.
- 2. Define the difference between equal service delivery and equitable service delivery.
- 3. Learn how to universally redesign CE to better meet the unique needs of young people experiencing homelessness.















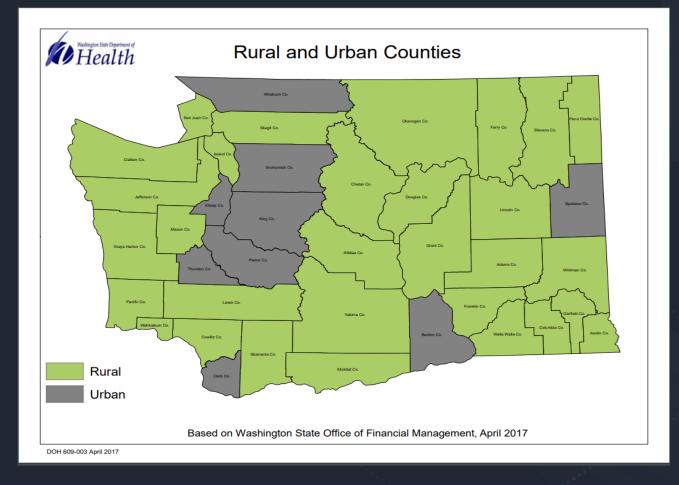
- 47% of youth and young adults exiting systems of care in WA are BIPOC (Black/Indigenous/People of Color).
- 1,800 young people leave WA-state-funded facilities into homelessness or unstable housing every year.
  - Almost two thirds (1,178) of them come from the inpatient behavioral health system.
  - 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



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# 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

Youth of color experience higher rates of homelessness.

Black

Hispanic



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# 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

- 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



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# Targeted Equitable Services



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#### 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



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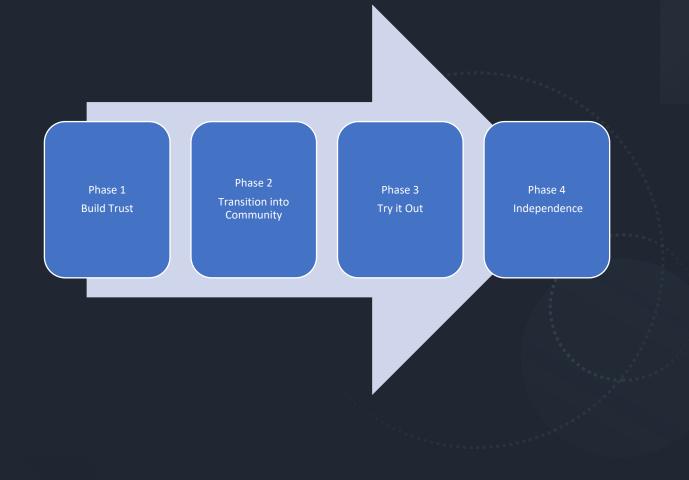
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# Filling the Gap: Critical Transition Coaching



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# Bibliography

- Morton, M. H., Dworsky, A., Samuels, G. M., & Patel, S. (2018). *Missed opportunities: Youth homelessness in rural America*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Morton, M. H. & Horwitz, B. (2019). Federal actions to prevent & end youth homelessness: Recommendations based on research and a national convening of experts and stakeholders. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Erin Shea McCann, J.D.; E.S. McCann, LLC., Pamela A. Martin, Ph.D., ABPP (2018). From Inpatient to Homelessness: Envisioning a Path Toward Healing and Safe Housing for Young People in Washington State. Seattle, WA: A Way Home WA.