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

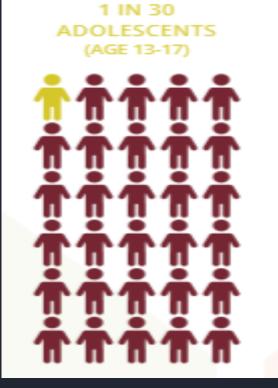
Conference on Ending Homelessness 2020

Thursday October 8th

1:15pm-2:15pm

Objectives

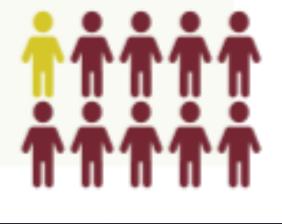
- 1. Understand the landscape of homelessness for young people.
- 2. Define the difference between equal service delivery and equitable service delivery.
- 3. Learn how to universally redesign CE to better meet the unique needs of young people experiencing homelessness.















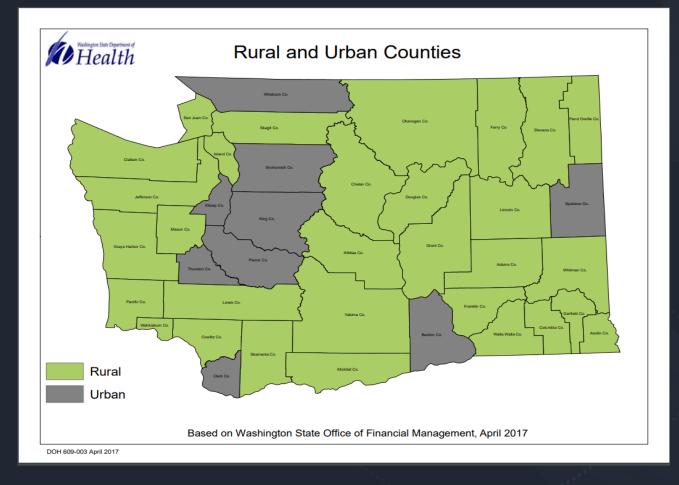
- 47% of youth and young adults exiting systems of care in WA are BIPOC (Black/Indigenous/People of Color).
- 1,800 young people leave WA-state-funded facilities into homelessness or unstable housing every year.
 - Almost two thirds (1,178) of them come from the inpatient behavioral health system.
 -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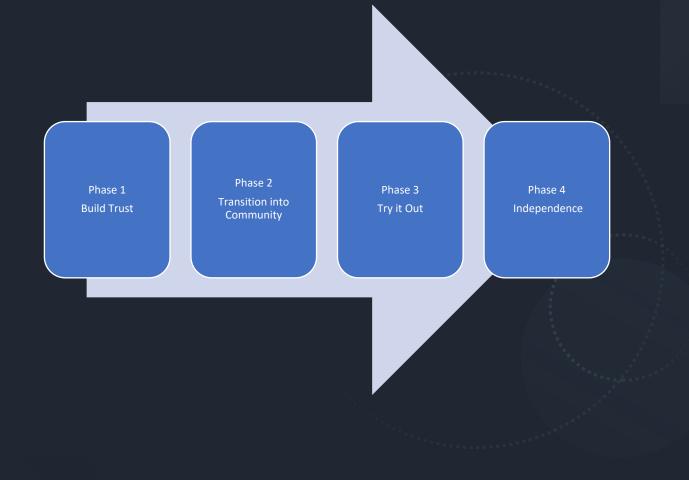
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Filling the Gap: Critical Transition Coaching



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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.