**Youth/Young Adult Homelessness Committee Meeting**

**Notes**

**Tuesday, September 8, 2020**  
**4:00 – 5:30**

**Participants-See Attached**

**Important Information related to Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program and CoC can be found here:**

https://www.threecountycoc.communityaction.us/

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ThreeCountyCoC>

**Welcome/Introductions**

**Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)**

* Background-Application, Award, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Expectations
  + In 2019, CAPV applied to have Franklin County designated as a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Community. There was a rural designation for Franklin County, so we applied as rural to give us an advantage. We needed to demonstrate that we had the ability to complete a planning process-we had a handle on our data, we had partners, we had strengths in our community that we could build upon.
  + Franklin County was designated as a YHDP community last August and we were awarded $1.96 million to be granted once we completed our planning process and HUD approved our plan.
  + HUD asked us to include certain structural components and follow certain principles (*U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework and the Four Core Outcomes*) when creating our plan.
  + Signers-We were required to have the following sign off on the plan: local government, the Continuum of Care, child welfare (DCF), and the Youth/Young Adult Action Board.
* Youth/Young Adult Action Board
  + Central to the process, was the creation and leadership of a Youth/Young Adult Action Board.
  + As we writing were our application, we worked with CA Youth Programs to develop a group of young people under 25 y.o. with lived experience of homelessness to become an integral part of our planning team.
* Planning Process
  + We completed an 8 month planning process.
  + We were, and are continuing to be, provided technical assistance by TAC (Technical Assistance Collaborative) around HUD expectations, NCHE (the National Center for Homeless Education) around integrating education into our plans, True Colors United around YYA collaboration, and the Partnership Center around data.
  + Engaged a range of stakeholders through smaller planning team and a number of larger community convenings.

**Coordinated, Community Plan-**All were sent this in advance, we encourage you to read at least the Executive Summary.

* Needs Assessment
  + One HUD requirement was to include data and a needs assessment to explain what the plan was going to address.
  + We completed this for the Three County region prior to our application, in the spring 2019.
  + Findings:
    - Overview-Many YYA are couch surfing and not being served; there is a lack of affordable housing, which puts many YYA at risk and complicates efforts to exit homelessness; there are few employment opportunities; mental health, substance use and trauma are interconnected with homelessness, may have led to homelessness and/or are connected with their experience of homelessness.
    - Highlights-At least 24 YYA experience homelessness on the streets or in shelters in the Three County region on a given night; over a year, at least 101 YYA served by homelessness programs; young people of color and Latinx are significantly overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness compared to the general population (11%-16% identify as African American compared to 4.5% of general population, 21%-35% identify as Latinx compared to 7% of general population); 27% of YYA experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ+, approximately 2 times the prevalence among all YYA in MA; approximately 33% of homeless YYA are pregnant/parenting; 27% of YYA experiencing homelessness reported having been in foster care, which is consistent with national and state estimates.
* Vision, Guiding Principles, Governance Structure, CQI-All Required by HUD
  + Vision- Franklin County envisions a community where all young people have equitable access to safe, quality, stable housing and the supports and opportunities they need to thrive.
  + Guiding Principles-Can see full list in plan, but generally we:
    - Recognize YYA expertise and center YYA engagement/leadership
    - Strive for equity, advocate for policies/resources that address root causes of inequity
    - Promote collaboration, systems building, collective impact
    - Prioritize evidence-based low barrier practices-HF TIC PYD
    - Focus on housing, education/employment, permanent connections, social emotional well-being
    - Seek to improve and use transparent communication with stakeholders
  + Governance Structure-The YHDP Lead set strategy, the Planning Team was the decision-making body, the YAB was part of the Planning team, but had its own meetings to talk through Planning Team discussions/decisions on their own, Advisory Council provided additional input.
  + CQI-This needs to be developed, but generally following this cyclical process:
    - Assessment (review community needs/resources, data)
    - Planning (make a plan based on assessment)
    - Implementation (services/strategies to produce results)
    - Achievement of Results (observe, report progress)
    - Evaluation (analyze data, compare with benchmarks)
* Projects
  + Through our process, we developed a list of projects of housing and supportive services that we felt would address the needs in our community and create a system to better support young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
  + Project reps from DIAL/SELF, MHA and Gandara described their projects

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| **YHDP Recipient/Subrecipient** | **2 Year Award** | **Annual Funding** | **Beds Annually** |
| DIAL/SELF RRH Project | $140,756 | $70,378 | 4 RRH |
| Gandara Joint Component | $828,962 | $414,481 | 6 TH, 12 RRH |
| MHA PSH | $351,120 | $175,560 | 8 RRH |
| CAPV - HMIS | $88,000 | $44,000 | 0 |
| CAPV - CE-SSO | $119,999 | $60,000 | 0 |
| MHA- RRH Navigators | $408,000 | $204,000 | 6 short term RRH |
| CAPV – Planning funds | $22,000 | 1 time only | 0 |
| ***Two year total HUD request*** | ***$ 1,958,837.00*** | ***$ 968,418.50*** | ***36 beds annually*** |

* + These projects are for 2 years as demonstration projects, with the intention that they will become part of the large Continuum of Care projects after the 2 years.
  + These are coming online in the fall, so more on these soon!
* Plan Implementation/Goal Chart
  + The other outcome of the plan is our list of goals, objectives and action steps that we created.
  + The 5 overarching goals we set were:
    - **Identification**-The Franklin County community has a coordinated system to identify all YYA who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
    - **Prevention**-The Franklin County community implements a collaborative system of prevention and diversion strategies to support YYA who are at risk of experiencing homelessness.
    - **Coordinated Entry and Crisis Response**-All YYA experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Franklin County have access to a “no wrong door” Coordinated Entry (CE) system that provides: appropriate assessment, immediate crisis response, individualized support, and safe housing options.
    - **Stable Housing**-The Franklin County community connects YYA who are at risk or experiencing homelessness to accessible supports and low-barrier, stable housing opportunities.
    - **Sustainability**-The Franklin County community develops sustainable partnerships, plans, resources, and system capacity to ensure that the community’s shared vision can be achieved and maintained.
  + Within each of these are a number of objectives and actions steps-See full plan for more detail

**Committee Tasks**

* Role of CoC and CoC Committees (CE, Data/Evaluation)
  + Keleigh described the CoC, which will provide oversight of the projects related to contracts, HUD expectations
  + Brooke described Coordinated Entry and the related work being done there. The intention is to create a separate YYA coordinated entry system.
* YYA Homelessness Committee
  + Goals of the committee
    - Support the implementation of the YHDP Coordinated, Community Plan and is responsible for its outcomes.
    - Make decisions according to the framework developed during the planning process.
    - Review outcome data and feedback from community partners to identify trends, evaluate performance, and both propose and approve changes to the plan.
    - Include key members of the YHDP Planning Team and participants from the YAB, the CoC, YYA providers, child welfare, justice, education and community partners.
    - Strive to include as many representatives from relevant sectors as possible and maintain a racial, ethnic, sexual orientation and gender identity balance that reflects the community to the greatest extent possible.
  + Task List-See Attached. Committee will need to finalize strategies, outcomes, measurements related to tasks.

**Next Steps**

* Review Task List for next meeting
* Scheduling Meetings-Thursdays at 4:00 are really the best for the YAB to be able to participate, so Lisa will schedule a meeting on Thursday in October.
* Additional Outreach?
  + Who else should be a part of this?
  + Are there new people in your agencies, are there people you know who have an uncanny sense of strategic planning?
  + All are welcome, just let me know!