



Department of Commerce

Office of Homeless Youth Advisory Committee

February 3, 2017

10:00 AM- 1:30 PM

John A Cherberg Building, Room A

Capitol Campus

In Attendance:

Casey Trupin, Raikes Foundation (chair)
Melinda Giovengo, YouthCare (vice-chair)
Kim Justice, Office of Homeless Youth (staff)
Jake Fey, State Representative
Kris Hermanns, Pride Foundation
Bridget Cannon, Volunteers of America

Katara Jordan, Building Changes
David Frockt, State Senator (arriving late)
Kim Bogucki, Seattle PD (late, via phone)
Cheryl Bayle, Office of Homeless Youth (staff)
Cole Ketcherside, Office of Homeless Youth (staff)

Meeting goals:

- Elect committee officers
- Committee is informed on OHY work plan for 2017, work of YAEH, and models for serving youth
- Committee provides input to OHY staff on performance outcome measures

TIME	ITEM	PRESENTER/ FACILITATOR	MATERIALS	ACTION
10:00- 10:10	Welcome & Introductions	Casey Trupin		
<p>Casey let everyone know Rep. Kochmar is no longer serving on the committee. The House Republican Caucus will appoint a replacement. Sierra Phillips is stepping down. If approved by the Governor's Office, Tatyana Barron from YAEH will take her place.</p> <p>Casey let everyone know we can have non-voting, non-appointed members at the table. The group, with public participation, discussed other voices that might be important to bring to the table. Responses included school liaisons, public health officials, LGBTQ organizations, juvenile justice, upstream systems like foster care and treatment, employers from the business community, legal</p>				

advocates, and more youth and young adults who have experienced homelessness. Kim asked folks to let OHY know if specific individuals come to mind. Kim circulated thank you cards for resigning committee members.				
10:10- 10:15	Approve minutes from 8/31/2016 and 10/05/2016	Casey Trupin	Meeting minutes	Vote on meeting minutes
Katara motioned to adopt the meeting minutes from 8/31/2016 and 10/05/2016. Motion approved.				
10:15- 10:25	Officer elections	Kim Justice		Vote on committee officers
Kim provided an overview of committee elections and our current officers. Kim said both currently serving officers would like to get re-elected. Rep. Fey motioned to re-elect our current officers for chair and vice-chair. Motion approved.				
10:25-10:45	OHY updates	Kim Justice		
<p>OHY submitted the 2016 report to the Governor and Legislature on December 1st, 2016. Many organizations have adopted recommendations from the report in their advocacy. OHY had a press event on Jan 24th to announce the plan, and get it on the radar of lawmakers and media. In conjunction, OHY worked with the Governor's Office to create a directive to establish an interagency work group focused on creating shared goals around preventing and ending youth homelessness. The meeting will convene for the first time in the spring, and will be ongoing. With support from the Raikes Foundation OHY will hire a staff person to manage the workgroup. Kim gave an overview of the press coverage at the event.</p> <p>Kim provided an overview and members discussed current bills that could impact the work of OHY including HB 1630, HB1816, HB1570, HB 1170, SB 5293, SB 5382, HB 1628, SB5241, HB 1867, and SB 5656.</p> <p>Regarding HB 1570, which increases document-recording fees to provide additional revenue to homeless housing providers, Liz from Mockingbird said her understanding is the 45% requirement would not apply to the increase in funding. Kim said when the homeless youth act was created HOPE/CRC was exempted from the 45% requirement, but the other programs which were through proviso did not fit in that exemption. When OHY had its last funding cycle, we tried to be as creative as we could by balancing out the 45% requirement as a system rather than making each grantee meet that benchmark. Melinda said HB 1570 would allow grantees to pay another non-profit to lease a building. Kris asked about the support behind this provision. Rep. Fey said there might be an attempt to get a state appropriation as well to get rid of the document-recording fee.</p> <p>Regarding SB5656 (introduced by Senator Miloscia), which expands the definition of neglect to include homeless and unaccompanied youth and removes young adult programs and outreach from the scope of OHY, Casey said it would require SYS workers to make CPS reports based on the fact youth were homeless. Kim noted SYS staff are already mandated reporters under existing statute, but should the definition of neglect change that could affect when SYS staff make reports. Casey said he believes the bill also allows opiate users to be involuntarily committed. Liz said the bill would expand the definition of gravely disabled to include opiate use, defined as active</p>				

use of heroin. Casey said the bill would have a tremendous impact on the advisory committee's work. Casey said Senator Miloscia is targeting issues that have been brought up in this committee. Hopefully, it will generate a discussion to a sustainable solution. Melinda asked how likely the bill would move forward. Rep. Fey said there are elements that would not pass the House.

Melinda said, per an All Home King County CoC meeting, there is a bill that would reimburse student loans for people in the mental health field, which could really help with staff retention. **Kris asked for that to be sent around.**

Governor's Budget

Kim discussed how the Governor's budget could impact OHY. There is \$4 million in proviso funding specifically to OHY. The funding permits innovation grants to other public partners to test different models. It could allow CA or JJ to introduce risk assessment tools. The funding could be used to support providers through TA and creating integrated services, such as the ability of grantees to contract with family or behavioral health specialists to bring services where youth need.

10:45- 11:00	YAEH update	Tatyana Barron		
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Tatyana said YAEH has been working on statewide expansion to Tacoma and Olympia. This month YAEH has been doing legislative advocacy trainings. Terri has been a chapter leader for two months and doing work with A Way Home Washington. Angel just presented during OHY's press event.

11:00- 11:45	Discussion on models and costs of care	Melinda Giovengo		
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Melinda said a group of executives and program folks met to think about what a model of care could look like for young adults ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness. Melinda introduced the group. A handout was distributed that aligns with the presentation. The presenters included Sylvia Fuerstenberg from Auburn Youth Resources, Derek Harris from CYS, Derek Wentorf from Friends of Youth, Brook Knight from Seattle YMCA, Julio Cortez from Cocoon House, and Heather McGuinness from NWYS.

Melinda said the group thought about concrete models of care because they noticed people checking boxes saying they wanted to serve young adults in homeless housing but they had no experience with the population. The group wants to provide some benchmarks around what it takes to provide effective housing to young adults. The presentation included the groups shared philosophy, importance of youth centric models, lower case management ratios, longer lengths of stay, need for ancillary services, staffing, and what OHY can do to support these models.

Following the presentation, the group and committee discussed the importance of developmentally appropriate services, the role of transitional housing as an effective model amongst adolescents, leadership provided by HHS around best practices, etc. **The group hopes OHY can guide the state and local CoC's regarding housing models that are developmentally appropriate for youth.** The group feels local CoC's are only wanting to fund Rapid Re-housing programs, which are not developmentally appropriate for young people.

Melinda said, “you can’t re-house someone whose never been housed before”. The other issue discussed was the over emphasis on highest return on investment, and wanting to fund providers who can do the work the cheapest.

Kim asked if our existing housing programs (YAHP, IYHP) fit the models proposed, and if we need more parameters to ensure this. Bridget said Spokane’s YAHP program was pushed into a RRH model rather than THP. Kim said it sounds like some of the approaches chosen do not fit the best models. Derek H said it would be helpful if we had broader language that can be used at the local level when making funding decisions. Cheryl asked the group to think about how this might look for rural areas without youth agencies. Rep. Fey said he is surprised we are talking about getting the cheapest rather than quality outcomes. Melinda said most of the providers here have said they have had many conversations with their CoC’s and been told their cost of care is too high.

Kim said she is hearing a parallel between what folks are asking here today and what we are working on around CE. Kris said this issue came up with Washington Youth and Family Fund. **WYFF could help with research that backs up why these models are developmentally appropriate.** Melinda said this is not innovative; we have been doing this a long time. This has a proven track record. Katara said it may not be innovative, but it might not be business as usual either.

11:45-12:00	Lunch break			
12:00-1:15	Review and provide input on program performance measures		Sample performance measures	Provide guidance to OHY on performance measures

Arriving late, Senator Frockt asked for an update on what was being discussed. Kim provided a brief overview of the Governor’s budget. Senator Frockt asked for advocacy tools he can use in the Senate. Senator Frockt asked a couple questions about HSSA. He said there is disagreement in the senate about the count of homeless youth with some members thinking the problem is overstated. OHY’s report provides a more accurate count. Casey clarified either figure could be correct since OHY’s figure only represents unaccompanied homeless youth. **Casey asked Katara if the committee could have a presentation by School House Washington.** Senator Frockt is going to go over counts of homeless youth with Kim.

Performance Measures

Kim provided context for why we need performance measures, specifically performance measures will help us clarify our goals and evaluate program effectiveness. Kim provided insight into OHY’s timeline and process around implementing performance measures. OHY has been working with an external consultant, Kathryn Gale, and will get input from the advisory committee, as well as have several calls set up with grantees. Kim went over a handout of questions in each member’s packet. OHY will be using our data dashboard, five priority areas, JLARC and federal measures to help inform the process of selecting outcome measures. Kim said any outcome measure we end up with is likely going to be covered in HMIS. Kim said OHY would look at taking a two-phased approach to implementing the performance measures. The first phase would allow grantees to become familiar with their data, which will help

OHY set benchmarks. Those benchmarks could be directional rather than percentages. Casey asked if having direction benchmarks would be only for those programs that are low performing. Kim said it might differ. Kim said the goal of phase one would not be to tie performance measures to incentives or consequences. Bridget asked to have a robust conversation when it gets to that point.

Kris said it would make sense to have similar measures as Seattle or King County, if they are comparable. Melinda said the measures King County is developing are not youth centered. Kim said OHY is mindful not to set outcomes that differ from what other funders have, as long as it is good alignment. Rep. Fey said performance measures should be about getting the best quality you could rather than setting up a system to be a punishing agent. Kim said OHY's attitude about this goes back to the Why of performance measures. OHY see this is as collaborative, which is why we want to be deliberate in consulting with grantees. Casey said it is important not to incentivize creaming. Kim said we are not at the point of talking about how to use funding as carrot or stick, but this is something we should continue to think about. Kim has been mindful of what providers do and do not have control over.

Kim went over the draft of the performance measures, and the committee discussed them.

- **Exits to safe and stable housing** (All, except SYS) - Melinda said these outcomes makes sense, and hopes OHY can influence other state performance measures.
- **Family reconciliation** (HOPE/CRC) – Casey wondered if measuring provision of FRS and whether it was achieved is redundant. The group talked about the value of measuring provision of FRS services as a system wide performance measure rather than an individual grantee outcome. With cuts to FRS services, it could be a good advocacy tool if it was measured.
- **Return to homelessness** (HOPE/CRC, YAHP, IYHP) – cannot be measured for minors until the HMIS consent issue is resolved.
- **Enrolled and attending school** (HOPE/CRC, SYS) – Katara asked if the measure takes into account youth between schools as a result of staying in HOPE/CRC, and the extent to which this makes providers responsible for school stability. Melinda said they know the school status of all the youth in the HOPE/CRC programs. Bridget is concerned about using this measure for SYS because that's a large lift for SYS to ensure that youth are enrolled in school. Cole suggested it might be about connecting them to liaisons, as it is important to have a measure that captures outreach to schools. Kris asked who collects the data on whether youth are engaged in educational services. Kim said it would be the outreach workers documenting that data.
- **Social and Emotional Well Being** (All) – Kim said OHY tried to decide on one measure that could be used, and considered health insurance. Casey said some youth may be covered by their parent's health insurance but may not have access to that. Kris asked if providers measure if young people use emergency services less (i.e. ER rooms). Melinda said in HOPE/CRC's they would know. Bridget said that is not captured in HMIS. Melinda said minors do not use healthcare as much as adults do. The group discussed current options for capturing social and emotional wellbeing in HMIS. Melinda said youth admitted to HOPE/CRC are automatically enrolled in Medicaid. Kim shared statewide outcomes from the data dashboard. Melinda and Bridget said as the provider helps young people develop awareness of their issues their assessment of their wellbeing may go down.
- **Client Survey** (all) – Kim said this measures program commitment to youth centered programming. OHY would look for

consistency in case management, opportunities to participate in pro-social activities, etc. Melinda said you could gather health and wellbeing using a survey such as the Developmental Assist Profile (DAP). It would be reflective of client centered services and youth sense of their own future. Bridget said VOA developed a pre and post survey for clients.

- **Lengths of Stay (YAS)** – Kim said HOPE/CRC programs have statutory lengths of stay so it did not make sense to use that as a measure for those programs. For YAHP and IYHP, per the earlier conversation around developmentally appropriate services, we wanted to provide flexibility around length of stay. Therefore, we only use length of stay for YAS.
- **Self Sufficiency Matrix** – Kim said we adopted this as an outcome assessment for YAHP, and it was already an assessment for IYHP. Kim pointed everyone to a handout that goes over the different domains included in the matrix. Bridget said, re: unsubsidized housing exit, we would not want to de-incentivize housing people who are disabled. Kris said she does not think exits to subsidized housing should be seen as a bad thing. OHY agrees and is considering that factor.

Casey said we need to look at what metric we use for measuring outcomes. If you use numbers you incentivize getting to as many youths as possible, if you use percentages you incentive creaming. Casey said this could lead providers to cherry pick who they want to serve to get better outcomes, those easier to engage. Bridget asked HHS how they collect outcomes measures on SYS. Steve Ice said they are working on re-building their dashboard, and recently teased out formulas for everything that may be of value in HMIS. There are some formulas for SYS, which focus on the number of engagements that result in a night of shelter, harm reduction service, or referral. **Steve said he would try to get HHS work shared with the OHY committee.**

1:15- 1:30	Public comment - Please see public participation sign in sheet for full list of public attendees
Jim Theofelis thanked everyone for the thoughtful conversation. Jim hopes to see the number of homeless youth in the performance measures. He hopes we are laser focused on helping youth move off the streets into safe housing. He hopes we consider measures that tell the youths story. We should track referrals to child welfare and the outcomes. Jim said on the record he disagrees with elements of Senator Miloscia's bill but thinks the committee should not mock those with differing views. We should take it as feedback that Senator Miloscia is not alone in his views. Casey said its important members of the legislature consult with advisory committee in terms of coming up with legislation that affects this body. Jim said he thinks Senator Miloscia heard the committee about not having a good faith partner in the foster cares system, and his bill is a response to that.	
1:30	Adjourn