

Youth and Young Adult Services Committee Meeting - 6/15/22

In attendance: Nancy Alvarado, Three County CoC, Olivia Bernstein, MHA, Ellen Broadhurst, social worker, Sarah Cloutier, Way Finders, Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC, Lynn Guertin, BHN, Janice Humason, Friends of the Homeless/CSO, Kristine Irizarry, Impact Center, Teri Koopman, Three County CoC, Cheryl LaChance, Way Finders, Michele LaFleur, Three County CoC, Yvonna Lomax, Westover Job Corps, Nelson Lopez, Thrive Center, HCC, Yiesie Mateo, My First Place/HopeWell, Phil Ringwood, DIAL/SELF, Mark Watkins, Gandara Center, Tasia Williams, STCC, Kat Wong, Hampden County CoC

- Program updates: staff changes, openings, data integration, college pilot and other outcome reports
- Discussion areas: evaluation of new system/continuous quality improvement; responding to mental health needs and challenges of clients
- Network legislative and FY23 budget updates
- Next meeting date

Hampden CoC Updates

- YHDP staff changes: Tyrese Tillman of CHD and Emily English of Gandara have moved on. For CHD, Keith Hedlund has taken over Safety Zone programs; for Gandara, Mark Watkins is interim director. Also staff openings exist in both CHD and Gandara.
- Working on a data integration system to connect state and federal data systems. As of 7/1, moving data into the new system, still awaiting outcomes. Hoping to share this system to other programs statewide. This is an exciting advance for both streamlining reporting and being able to better use the data in analysis and advocacy.
- 2 young adults graduated from the college pilot program - congratulations!

Three County CoC Updates

- Shaundell Diaz taking over as youth program point person for the CoC.
- Welcome to Nancy Alvarado who is the new Homeless Services Coordinator!
- Partnering with Way Finders to provide youth with financial literacy training
- DIAL/SELF is hiring for a full-time case manager.
- DIAL/SELF reports that a few young people are living in hotel shelter, consistent with a seasonal spike.

This Committee's data review process: agreed we would align our data review with the quarterly data reports that are due to the state - the next one will be due in July - we will look at the most recent quarterly report at our next meeting in September.

Discussion of mental health needs:

There was a general discussion regarding the gap in mental health services for young people. The challenges of not enough mental health providers was universally acknowledged. There is not enough help!

Gandara opened an urgent care resource for young people in need of mental health support. This is especially helpful since frequently young people are ready to get help in the moment but then the moment passes. Having urgent care available is key.

A need for more regular training on the basics - e.g., trauma informed care - and a regularly updated list of resources for youth would also be helpful.

Network Legislative and Budget Updates:

This is crunch time on key legislation and our FY23 state budget. Please be sure to connect to the [Network blog](#) to stay in the loop on quick action steps. They all make a difference!

Next meeting date:

Wednesday, September 14, 9 am