

Meeting Minutes

Ad Hoc Youth Housing Workgroup - Meeting #2

October 15th, 2018

9:30 – 11:30am

Community Shelter Board, 111 Liberty St, Ste 150, Conference Room

Attendees: Bryan Brown, Chad Ketler, Elizabeth Pafford, Nate H, Jessica B, Shadow W, Kim Stands, Lynda Leclerc, Michelle Heritage, Ryan Cassell, Sonja Nelson, Aubre Jones, Anthony R, Tom Albanese, Sue Darby, Sam Masters, Rachel Rubey, Lucie McMahon, Michael Salvadore

**Goals for today:**

1. Review Youth Program Models Matrix
	1. Are there things we want to do that would be different?
	2. Are there people who are best served in the different housing models?
	3. What would it look like to take these housing models and make them more youth centric?
2. What is it going to cost us and what is the benefit?
3. How would we know what success looks like in each of these things?

**Transitional Housing/Host Homes**

Job Corp: good concept (Housing and Workforce development) but federal program that is underfunded

Kinship Care Program (Children’s Services) – Family takes in a child and gets a small stipend. Certification is needed if the child is in the system. Other situations include Aunt taking in a child and a case is never opened. Problem is the relationship and support is not there in the family.

Transitional host homes- we want to make sure they are going to a healthy environment

(Youth) when I was put in children’s services by my mom we were there for 2 years then when we were able to go back they charged mom $10K for each kids and her wages were garnished until she could pay it back. There should be a way for services to have temporary care for kids and not charge the parents.

In past, Columbus had a stipend program- paid a little money for a couple months for kinship homes and it worked for 50% and didn’t work for 50%.

(Youth) $ that goes to foster parents, some of that should be set aside for the youth when they age out of foster care

(Youth) extended foster care program in Washington where they give a stipend (table confirmed that program is also here in Columbus)

Host homes can be a great alternative for parent and pregnant teens and populations that are vulnerable in shelter (LGBTQ)

Transitional Host Home Spectrum

Low Intensity (just rent space) --------------------------------------------------------🡪 High Intensity (services)

For the host, it needs to be low intensity because aunts and friends can’t handle mental health. Host homes needs to be for episodic situations

(Youth) Would work if you added case manager, transportation someone to help you along the way (Navigator) – someone who gets physically involved and helping out.

(Youth) need to have counselors and supports who are able to come in

The program and services need to match the environment and the youth’s circumstances. Making sure the host and youth are matched appropriately. The host capability matches the needs and acuity of the youth presented.

The matching and oversight need to be addressed

(Youth) Some youth needs to be in environments that do not produce stumbling blocks (neighborhoods and friends who have not been helpful). Need to honor what youth said they need.

Host homes will not be a big bucket- they will be small because hosts will likely not be able to handle high intensity long term. Dealing with youth is tough and having other services and people come in the home will get challenging.

For it to work, it will have to be low intensity to be sustainable for hosts.

Target pregnant women and utilize CelebrateOne etc. and pilot a project and provide oversight.

**Transitional Housing**

Cap of 18 months, everyone has an individual unit and staffed all week. We have youth and staff who engage in low intensity to high intensity services. The goal is to be living independently – renting their own place or they have moved into units with other family members. Some go into low income housing.

Would needs 100’s and 100’s of spaces with a continuum of stays in order meet the demand (Huck currently has 31 units) 3 months to 2-3 years.

Scholar House phase 3 (up to 5 years) and qualify for a voucher when they leave but most don’t need it because they have a college degree and can get a job. (30 with high eligibility criteria)

*Who needs transitional housing*- the middle intensity youth who can independently live but need supportive services to help them get a house who don’t have mental health or addiction keeping them from being successful.

Some kids are in transitional housing until they meet their personal goals. Other kids are in housing who have mental health or other needs. Need to match the environment to the need.

(Youth) Good for 16 to 20 so alcohol couldn’t be introduced and youth can be on their feet by the time they are 21.

(Youth) For kids just getting out of juvenile justice – step down right out of the system

Transitional housing is supportive – how do we make sure that people are going into transitional housing under the right expectations of success.

Transitional housing can provide 6 months of aftercare. Youth can leave transitional housing to go to permanent supportive housing.

Transitional housing is a more service rich environment than rapid rehousing.

Alvis and ADAMH as examples of service rich environment

\*IF someone needs services, they would go to transitional housing. If they don’t need that support, they would go to rapid rehousing.

(Youth) Exit to a joint living program – peer support model. Same model for veterans

Transitional housing if here for the program because they need the program

Consider a transitional living framework over a transitional housing framework.

**Rapid Rehousing**

(Youth) Rental assistance needs to be at least 2 months because it takes a couple months to get a job and the first check to clear. 2 months’ rent, security deposit and step down after that.

Help them stabilize in housing then we let go with the option to come back in the next 24 months. Be flexible and provide rent and services.

(Youth) Need a navigator

Have to make sure there is long term support, a person to keep things moving along

How do I go through transitions- in all these systems there needs to be a focus on how to live and make decisions and work through stuff.

(Youth) I’m a parent and pregnant again and I need help focusing myself.

(Youth) Savings account is opened and money put in while in the program, along with step down program

Current model not a great option for young people because of time limited rental assistance, link to outside resources to keep them housed. But youth don’t often live independently successfully at age 19. (note takers reminder- the youth who are 19 are likely not a fully developed 19-year-old. Because of toxic stress, they are likely very underdeveloped.)

Hourly wage is not in line with what is costs to have a rental unit. Need to decide what the pathway is so you can focus on a self sufficiency goal there is going to be recidivism. There needs to be opportunity and accountability. Time limited assistance is the accountability.

Rapid rehousing needs the rental assistance AND a link to whatever self-sufficiency (opportunity rich) outcome

(Youth) Resources should include utility assistance.

Low youth to navigator ratio because once the youth is housed they won’t drop off the caseload. Have to solve immediate gratification issues to get youth thinking about month 4 in month 1.

Opportunity for homeless prevention supports to transition into independent living without having to become homeless. Housing Share- you go into rapid rehousing but to live independently you are living with a roommate.

(Youth) outreach program connected to a library because homeless you hang out there where there is internet and out of the elements.

*Time frame for success*

18 months-

If need 18 months the youth probably needs to be put in transitional housing.

Up to 12 months for people who can hold a job

(Youth) Job and family service’s food program, you do work for assistance. Same with housing. You do work for assistance. Need 8 to 12 months with month 8 starting the step-down program so you don’t have to go from paying nothing to paying everything.

**PSH**

Benefits cliff for youth with disability who are school age. Youth who are 16 to 24 you do not have benefits.

At age 18, there is a new assessment and the youth that had those disabilities covered are no longer covered.

Supportive housing is like a dorm. That is where most of our youth live and is developmentally appropriate. (If you take out the current definition of PSH).

The program doesn’t end AND there is a step-down process if a youth wants to leave PSH

(Youth) Tiny homes communities as permanent housing

*Who needs “the program doesn’t end”*

Youth with more acute long-term disabilities

PSH is developmentally appropriate and youth won’t want to stay in PSH forever. I know right away when youth come to transitional housing who should be in PSH because of their living skills, trauma, social supports and no work history.

Screen in for PSH you know you are going to a permeant place to work on things and maybe be able to move to transitional living when things are worked on

When young people move into transitional living, there is instability already introduced because they will have to leave.

(Youth) when people coming from living on the land there are safety concerns and it’s hard to get used to living in a house.

If you go straight to PSH, that may put a stop to development. We need to do a good assessment before we offer that type of PSH support. Kids who have trauma don’t want to work on their stuff and without that time limit/motivation to get out of bed, (like existing in transitional housing) may not work out their issues/develop.

Consider a non-time limited supportive housing framework for youth (take out the permanent).

Other thoughts:

 Some people just need to know where to go to find the information, other people need more services through a navigator.

(Youth) There needs to be someone to watch the baby when we are working or in school. If we have to take off work because we don’t have childcare, we lose our jobs.

Asset-based community concept- how do you increase those assets to meeting the needs in the community.

Navigating the financial cliffs – very few programs address this in the current system. The childcare and housing cliff.

\*\*Assessment is needed in all these, so we can know where people should be to be most successful AND it needs to be flexible

(Youth) overnight drop in center where they do in depth assessment to find out what type of programs they match up with.