COORDINATED ENTRY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

Call Topic: What is the role of CES *in the identification, triage and assessment of and connection to appropriate housing and services that respond to youths' needs? Focus: serving youth at imminent risk of homelessness and homeless by other definitions*

September 11th CELC call recording can be found [here](#).

Call Objectives:

- Understand scope of CES (it's much more than triaging to a by-name list or housing resource!)
- Understand the "why" and "what then" of working with youth at imminent risk of homelessness/homeless by other definitions
- Discuss effective use of data to understand the need/gaps
- Share ideas on how to involve other systems

Who is currently included in your CES beyond literal homelessness?

St. Louis: any youth who presents asking for housing are placed on the list and using VI-SPDAT score, youth are on same list as adults for housing openings, CES is just focused on housing placement, some focus on family reunification for youth but not through CES.

Hennepin County: Does not a separate youth CES, have only included those that are literal homeless and have been in shelter for at least 14 days or in place not for human habitation. Working to expand to HUD Cat 3&4 soon and using workgroup process to determine how to implement now, want to make sure expansion does not result in getting a lot of couch surfers.

King County: Manages a Top 40 list - priority list - based on TAY VI-SPDAT score, length of time homeless, how long since completed assessment. How are the individuals in the Priority Pool determined? Due to the limited scope of the VI-SPDAT, an algorithm was created to better identify the most vulnerable individuals. The raw score is calculated from the clients' VI-SPDAT score, how long they have reported experiencing homelessness, and the time since the VI-SPDAT was entered into HMIS, weighted in that order. You can find the algorithm below. $x = A + .1L + .0001(T-D)$

- A = VI-SPDAT score added as a whole number
- L = Length of time homeless code:
  - 2 years or more = 6
  - 1-2 years = 5
  - 6 months – 1 year = 4
  - 3 – 6 months = 3
  - 1 week – 3 months = 2
  - Less than a week = 1

- Client doesn't know = 0
- Client refused = 0
▪ T = Today's date
▪ D = Date VI-SPDAT was entered

What types of data sources are you using to understand population beyond literal homeless?

Pima County: Working on defining unstably housed youth, currently only accept Cat 1&4 to CES. For the purposes of TPCH's Coordinated Entry, a youth who is unstably housed is defined as a young adult, between the ages of 18-24, who is unaccompanied by a parent, prior guardian, or other individual who has responsibility for their well-being. While they do not meet the HUD Category 1 (literally homeless) or 4 (fleeing domestic violence) definition of homelessness, they are unstably housed as evidenced by couch hopping/surfing, episodic homelessness, inability to maintain their current housing (imminent risk of homelessness), or by unsafe living situations.

San Francisco: Includes overcrowded in definition of unstably housed youth

Using the best data, you have and your CES goals, what are some of the strategies you're using for youth who are at imminent risk or homeless by other definitions?

San Francisco: Diversion assessment happen for everyone through CES with the goal of diverting as many people as possible, not tied to strict definitions of how to use diversion but trying to be flexible in what we can provide, set a target for how many people to divert.

Assessing safety - very basic, do you have a place to stay or anyone who can take you in? at under 18 program, youth can come back to stay with us, do a lot of family finding and family building; often transportation is big barrier so we help youth get to safe places they can stay (use often for exploited youth); a lot of creativity involved in safety planning; message: do lots of problem solving with youth

Maine: Safety is a key factor for determining priority no matter what their current living/housing situation, different providers assess differently, we ask if they feel safe tonight, can you stay where you are? Is there heat where you are? Have a specific DV screening tool. As a rural community with limited resources, we make direct referrals between service providers based on the youth who present

Massachusetts: A version of self-sufficiency matrix is used which includes different domains with categories, looks at safety in all these different areas, we look at it more broadly than just safety in where you are staying.

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Assessing Safety: Questions to considered in conversation or as part of a tool to determine safety of housing options for youth.

Thank you for the great ideas and examples were exchanged during the call on assessing for safety. In follow up, providing additional questions that are worth considering as you build out your triaging and assessment process. These questions were contributed by a colleague from Center for Combatting Human Trafficking at Wichita State University with extensive homeless youth street outreach experience and currently trains on outreach and identification of youth at risk of exploitation.

1. Do you have a safe place to sleep tonight?
2. Where are you staying? (Who) Do you feel safe there? (this could include domestic violence,
3. other conflicts on the street or...) How long have you stayed there? Where did you stay before that? (Putting together a history— often details come out in conversation that helps assess risk)
4. Where are you sleeping (at the place you are staying)?
5. How many people are staying there? Are able to sleep in your own bed or on a couch by yourself
6. How are you doing physically? Have you been sick? Do you have any illness or conditions?
7. Is there electricity, water, utilities (it is not uncommon for youth to be staying somewhere with no utilities)
8. Has it been condemned? Is it a safe building?
9. Have you ever been kicked out of this place – (not uncommon for youth to get kicked out late at night—cold, nowhere to go, too late to get into shelter, etc.)?
10. Weather considerations (cold weather, extremely hot weather)
11. Do you have access to food, clean water?
12. How long can you stay where you are now?
13. How did you meet the person you are staying with?
14. Is anyone, where you are staying, expected to trade sex for a place to stay, food, transportation, money, etc.—Are you expected to...