Creating a Cycle of Possibility

Understanding the Runaway and Homeless Youth Population
What Is Homelessness?

- Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or who reside in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation
- Those who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence (unstably housed)
- Individuals or families who are fleeing or attempting to flee dangerous or life threatening situations (domestic violence)
Who Is At Risk?

- Doubling up
- Couch surfing
- Hotels/Motels
- Individual or family with AMI below 30%
Runaway and Homeless Youth “Categories”:

Definitions

- Runaway
- Throwaway
- Homeless
- Family and Multi-Generational Homelessness and Poverty
- Respite---Homeless Prevention
Why Are Youth On Our Streets?

Reasons/Contributing Factors

- Family Conflict
- Poverty
- Abuse/Neglect
- Trauma
- Emerging Substance Use Issues
- Emerging Mental Health Issues
- “Aging Out” of Foster Care
- LGBTQ +

*These are only some examples. Contributing factors are as varied as the individuals.*
Demographics and Ages

- Ages 13-24
- Any gender, race, sexual preference, financial status, etc.
- 79% Male, 15% Female, 6% Transgender or No Gender
- 89% of unduplicated youth were 18-24 year olds
- **Metro Denver** most recent data-1,159 youth under 18
- 450 Transition Age Youth 18-24 yrs. old
- Most recent **Larimer County** count- 53 youth under 18
- 30 Transition Age Youth 18-24 yrs. old
- 70% in state
- 40% Boulder County
- 20% Denver Metro
- **9% Larimer County Youth = 64**
- We served **650** unduplicated youth in 2016
Why offer youth specific services?
Facts Risks

- 1.7 million homeless youth = 39% of the homeless population nationally
- 1 in 30 young people in the US will experience homelessness
- 14 is the average age a youth becomes homeless for the first time
- 1/7 young people between 10-18 will run away
- Within 48 hours on the street, 30% of youth will be recruited for sexual or labor trafficking or propositioned for survival sex
Facts and Risks continued

- A national HHS study found that 46% of homeless youth left home because of physical abuse, 17% because of sexual abuse.
- >50% of young people in shelters or on the streets report that their parents told them to leave or knew they were leaving and didn’t care.
- ~40% of homeless youth identify LGBTQ.
- ~75% of homeless youth use drugs or alcohol as a way to self medicate trauma experiences.
75% of homeless youth have dropped out or will drop out of school

HIV rates for homeless youth are 2-10x higher than other samples of the same age range

5,000 young people die every year on the street because of assault, illness, or suicide

Homeless youth are up to 60% more likely to attempt to commit suicide
Engagement Philosophies:

- TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICES
- POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
- HARM REDUCTION
- HOUSING FIRST
- STABLE HOUSING
- EDUCATION
- EMPLOYMENT
- WELL BEING
- PERMANENT CONNECTIONS
SERVICE PRIORITIES:

- STABLE HOUSING
- EDUCATION
- EMPLOYMENT
- WELL BEING
- PERMANENT CONNECTIONS
SERVICES:

• Street Outreach
• Drop-In Center
• Overnight Emergency Shelter
• Family Reunification
• Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counseling including Equine Assisted Therapy for Trauma
• Education and Employment Services
• Pro-social and Psycho-educational Activities
• Life Skills Acquisition
• Intensive Case Management
• Mentoring
• Transitional Housing
• Rapid Re-Housing
• *Permanent Supportive Housing

*2nd Quarter 2019
Engagement Considerations:

- Safety and trust
- Assess readiness
- Prioritize needs (basic needs Holistic Supports)
- Chronological vs. developmental age
- Acknowledging trauma, loss, and betrayal
- Consider behavior in context
- Trust in the Resiliency of Youth
Permanent Supportive Housing for Homeless & At-Risk Transition Age Youth
Permanent Supportive Housing

Outcomes and Successes

Supportive housing improves lives
- Housing stability
- Education
- Employment
- Social-emotional wellbeing
- Physical health
- Personal identity
- Self sufficiency
- Permanent connections

Sense of independence
Sense of contribution
Sense of community
Sense of empowerment

Attention Homes: Boulder PSH for Youth Opportunity
Permanent Supportive Housing

- **Permanent** - no time limit
- **Like an apartment** - 12 month lease
- **Client-driven case management** - delivered on site, as needed
- **No preconditions** - housing **first**, supportive services second
- **Subsidized** - rental assistance
- **Income restricted** - pay no more than 30% of income

Lindquist Apts, Minneapolis - 24 PSH units for Youth

28th St Apts, Los Angeles - 7 PSH units for youth

Attention Homes: Boulder PSH for Youth Opportunity
Permanent Supportive Housing

Proposed Program

- 40 1 bedroom units (350 SF)
- TAY: between 18-24 yrs old
- On site case management offices, staff meeting rooms, counseling offices, classrooms, community space
- Community kitchen, media room, community garden, outdoor patio, game room, yoga/fitness room
- Social enterprise on site
- Job training, self-sufficiency