**YYA Committee Meeting Minutes**

**September 15th, 2022**

**4:00-5:30pm**

**Participants:** Olivia M, Beatriz C, Blue B, Cy, G, Heather, Lydia, Olivia G, Olivia M, Phil, Michele, Shaundell, Nancy, Rhea/Kaia, Ryan, Alicia, Camila

Introductions/Check-Ins *(Presented by YAB)*

* *Intro question:* Names and Pronouns (if you want to share) Favorite Fall flavor? *(Presented by Olivia M)*

**YHDP Project Updates**

* Gandara not present
* MHA not present

**YHDP Sub-recipient Updates (DS, Gandara, MHA)**

Dial/Self- Has 4 beds for RRH, two folks are housed, two spots are either open or have recent referrals

Purchase of the building in the Berkshires- owned by Louison House, already owns property- received half a million from the state, will be transferred over to start working on the project. Have a preliminary approval for the application concept to another arm of the state for federal funding for another million or so to finish developing the project. The latest round of the HUD funding application that will go into effect in 2023, will also include support services funding for that new building when it’s up and running. Good mix of funding coming in that’s beem receive ad/or is in route to get the building up and running and hopefully having additional servcice dollars as well. Coming along and Louison House are doing a great job.

I couldn’t keep up with the written section from Kathy around Louison House in general and their youth work/engagement!

* Emergency housing and case management services. We provide emergency sheltering in our Flood house building in North Adams for at least 2 individuals, currently partnering youth with child and pregnant youth on the waiting list. Usually in our emergency sheltering at the motel we have youth also with numbers varying with the 20-30 people we house on an emergency basis. We provide daily assistance to food, transportation and supplies to their daily living at any site of ours. We also prioritize parenting youth for our family PSH housing in apartments in the community and in our Transitional Housing congregate shelter, and sometimes individual youth come in through Coordinated Entry to our individual PSH units. For all these youth we provide supportive services. we provide crisis and emergency support and intakes with info and referrals to all who call Louison House, of which youth are a growing number. Youth in our housing and as many of the youth who call in crisis as we are able, we provide follow up and case management. We confer and work collaboratively as much as possible with youth we get calls form or are drop ins, with Ryan, Kim, and our other partners at BCRHA.

What does BCRHA do in the Berkshires around YYA programs?

Ryan- do a lot of work with FYI Stockbridge Housing, certain amount of vouchers available to use and want to increase it to 24. Basically like Section 8 housing, cuts housing in half. About to have a client move into a 1500 three bedroom for 626, another form of subsidy they work with. HCEC comes through, work with youth 18-24, look at how to maximize income then look at affordable housing options. FYI voucher program hugely helpful in giving people a chance to have housing. FYI = Foster Youth Initiative

Set amount, around 8 FYI vouchers. Not sure if there’s a certain limit/amount for other programs or other HAs, Ryan offered to look into information at other programs.

Trying to see if they can maximize the vouchers with TAY from DCF- ‘Transition aged youth’- has some funds which can help but not housing vouchers themselves.

* Serves Youth transferring out of the DCF system
* Does not mean DCF stops working with them

**CoC Updates**

Since July, 7 people have moved into their own apartments either through PSH, or RRH, or with navigation assistance

Since July, 1 referral to Gandara RRH, 3 referrals to RRH navigation, 2 people have been identified who will be moving in to PSH

Currently there is a waitlist for MHA PSH. Once someone transitions out, someone else is identified to move in from the waitlist

**YAB Updates *(Presented by YAB)***

Recently felt like YAB wanted to do something more in person, going to volunteer at Stone Soup Cafe soon

Going on a trip to Mike’s Maze!

Building Bridges moves from every month to every other month for a little more time to plan and for everyone to plan to attend. Still working out timing but hoping to make it a time when more people can attend. Having it on a consistent basis that rotates with YYA committee meetings could be a good plan

Looking to identify a new youth-led project

**Reviewing the CCP goals that we have not started yet? Goal targets? Priorities? Other projects?**

* Goal 1- Choice for YAB around which steps they want to engage in
* Started reviewing CCP goals not yet completed to plan for moving forward on those items
* Looking at resource flyer for pregnant and parenting YYA
* Olivia M mentioned that she has a document with the meal sites for Greenfield and offered to share with others
* Shaundell has a master resource list she keeps updated. If the YYA committee takes on making resource flyer she can add anything the committee wants and it will be ready to share, would prefer that it isn’t shared super wide though- there's a ton here!
* Goal 2 -Next action step- integration of supports into every aspect of the service delivery system, reunifying families if safe, YYA committee should look to incorporate more family connection in diversion practices.
  + Michele will look into the ‘Aftercare’ data collected in CoC programs to see if this would be useful for connections to other supports/family connections. Will also check in the RHY data elements for additional data collection we could suggest or fields we can use to evaluate.
  + One idea is an assessment of safety for YYA, Nancy talked about the CoC’s development of a crisis assessment
  + Olivia brought up goo points around difficulty in receiving services when there’s an expectation that someone can stay with their parents/family into adulthood
  + CE Committee to consider CE expansion to engage family connectedness
  + Meeting, maybe in person, with kinship programs, family counseling programs, and bridge supports to connect with the CE system/learn about YHDP projects
* Goal 3- expand CE system to meet unique needs of YYA
  + Have rolled out new CE tool
  + Still need to do work around engaging with families in assessment and prioritization
  + There could be some tension between the schools and some of the local youth providers, may be getting in the way of people getting what they need
  + Maybe YAB getting in touch with school counselors to engage with youth with lived experience, guidance counselors are likely to know
  + Landlord engagement! Have a workgroup that meets every 3 months. Group put together a survey to send out to area landlords
  + Good point brought up around the uncertainty of ‘aging out’ of YHDP or YYA specific programs- there's a ‘move on’ policy encouraged by the CoC but would be good to check if there’s a specific section around ‘aging out’ or if we can improve identification for when this may happen for someone ahead of time to prepare with housing resources that aren’t age specific
* Could some complexes or companies set aside some units for YYA, or other specific vouchers/resources set aside for young adults?

**Questions:**

* Relevant Holly @ Heros
  + Treehouse Foundation
* Outreach
  + Look @ funding
    - Influx of YAB
* New member PLE (YAB)
  + School counselors
* General Thoughts
  + Local affordable housing prioritizes units for youth?
* Youth Resource Flyer
  + Let YAB decide what goes in the list
    - If they cannot commit to this project, this committee can work on this.

**Next Meeting & Announcements**

* One month YYA meeting then one month Building Bridges Meeting? Currently we meet monthly but sometimes don’t have much of an update and people can’t make it to every monthly meeting. Moving to have this committee not meet in October but meet in November because Building Bridges will meet in October and they can alternate
* Approved, officially moving to bi-monthly
* Review CCP Not Completed Goals
  + Sending with this email
* Sending out Greenfield Meal Flyer

**Next Meeting:** November 17th 4p-5:30p