

**Atlanta Continuum of Care**  
**Youth Strategic Planning Session**  
**September 21, 2016**

**Attendance:**

Allison Ashe, Covenant House  
Daphney Barnett, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Sherise Boston, PCCI  
Blue Cole, DHS  
Lisa Curia, Covenant House  
Nicholas Forge, GSU- School of Social Work  
Brittany Gardner, Lost n Found Youth  
Joshua Gray, Partners for Home  
Terry Isaac, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Cynthia Loftin, Essence of Hope  
Cathryn Marchman, Partners for Home  
Michael Martin, Young Adult Guidance Center

Keylon Mitchell, HHS-ACF  
Zach Nikonovich-Kahn, Families First  
Kathy Palumbo, Community Foundation  
Jenny Paveglio, Covenant House  
Shafeeq Rashid, YouthSpark  
Joe Savage, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness  
Tracey Scott, Atlanta Housing Authority  
Cindy Simpson, Chris 180  
Kimberly Wallace-Stewart, Partners for Home  
Rick Westbrook, Lost n Found Youth  
Ashley Williams, Partners for Home  
Amy Zarembo, Partners for Home

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Cathryn Marchman welcomed everyone and reviewed the objectives and plan for the day
- The attendees introduced themselves

**Level Setting – Best Practices (see attached slides)**

- Brittany Gardner and Dr. Forge presented on best practices regarding addressing youth homelessness
  - o They discussed various practices used, such as Trauma Informed Care and Harm Reduction
  - o In their work, they see that the “Five Cs” play a big role in working with youth
    1. Competence
    2. Connection
    3. Character
    4. Confidence
    5. Caring/Compassion
  - o They spoke on how youth want to be involved and are not a “problem to be solved”
  - Six principles to remember when working with youth
    - Clients can recover and reclaim
    - Strengths not deficits
    - Community as a resource
    - Client is the director of process
    - Relationship is key
    - Primary setting is community
  - o There are several evidence based practice models available
  - o Proposed shared visions to be included
    - consumer centered
    - strength focused
    - collaborative and empowering
    - identity affirming
    - culturally competent
    - trauma informed
    - skill building
    - choice maximizing

- holistic view of health
- There was a discussion regarding re-traumatizing and how it needs to be not only a philosophy but also a practice to “do no harm”

### **Level Setting - Identify Shared Values and Level Setting**

- Joe Savage presented proposed goals regarding youth homelessness, in line with USICH
  - Ending youth homelessness by 2020
    - If not preventable, homelessness will be rare, brief, and nonrecurring
    - There was discussion about the feasibility of this goal for special populations, but the group agreed to accept this as a goal
  - Target population to include 24 years old or younger, unaccompanied youth which includes youth in emergency shelter, transitional housing, street/place not meant for human habitation
    - There was discussion that HHS and DOE have a boarder definition to include couch surfers and doubled up youth
      - A consensus was not reached so this was tabled until USICH releases more guidance
  - Philosophy to adopt
    - Housing first, along with the proposed shared visions listed above
      - consumer centered
      - strength focused
      - collaborative and empowering
      - identity affirming
      - culturally competent
      - trauma informed
      - skill building
      - choice maximizing
      - holistic view of health

### **Data Overview - Metro Youth Count (see attached slides)**

- Eric Wright presented an overview of the count he conducted in the Summer of 2015
  - <http://Atlantayouthcount.weebly.com>

### **Atlanta Data (see attached slides)**

- Josh Gray presented on Atlanta specific data, including first point of entry for youth and beds specifically dedicated for youth

### **USICH Opening Doors (see attached slides)**

- Joe Savage presented on the USICH Opening Doors plan, and reviewed the FY16 and FY17 priorities
  - Test models for serving youth and strengthen capacity
  - Establish criteria and benchmarks regarding youth homelessness
- There was a brief discussion regarding the use and coverage of HMIS
  - The new system, Client Track, allows for better sharing among agencies. Also, non-traditional providers (AHA and VA) are also using HMIS. There has also been great federal leadership regarding data sharing.

### **Coordinated Entry and Youth Services Network Design (see attached slides)**

- Cathryn Marchman and Joe Savage led an activity to identify the current system map for the community
- There was a small group activity in which scenarios regarding youth who faced homelessness were presented and addressed in an ideal system

- There was a brief discussion on how to design a coordinated access point/network
  - o Multi-point initial access points that are well-branded and accessible
    - Internet
    - In-person
    - Phone
  - o Common assessment tool
    - Not only to determine proper housing intervention but also to prioritize
    - VI-SPDAT – good tool but doesn't have enough on trauma for youth
    - California and Denver were mentioned as examples of communities who use a good tool
  - o Assignment
    - Housing – ES, TH, PSH, RRH, host homes
    - Integrated healthcare – MH/SA, recovering support
    - Support – education, employment
    - Family reunification
    - Faith community – host homes

### **Strategic Plan**

- Joe Savage led a discussion on key measures to assess success, and the following were agreed upon
  - o Decrease newly homeless
  - o Length of stay under 30 days **\*\*Tabled\*\***
  - o Reductions in returns to homelessness
  - o Increased exits to PH
  - o Increase income
- True Colors Fund is coming in November
- Next Steps between now and November
  - o real time vacancies (contingent on new HMIS)
  - o alignment of outreach
    - Communication plan of location
  - o App design– Eric Wright to take the lead
  - o Youth page on PfH website
  - o Common assessment tool – Cindy
  - o Outreach committee
    - Youth participants
- Longer term
  - o IDs and birth certificates
  - o UW anti-trafficking issue (Ryan F)

### **Demonstration Project**

- Amy Zaremba provided a quick overview of the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project NOFA that HUD released
  - o Up to 10 communities will be selected based on community plan to end youth
    - Once identified, projects applicants from those communities will apply for the funding
  - o This is a community effort, so similar to the bonus project for the recent CoC NOFA, we will hold meetings for input and assistance

### **Closing Remarks**

- Cathryn Marchman thanked everyone for taking a full day out of their schedules and for their commitment to addressing youth homelessness.
- Cathryn Marchman also thanked Joe Savage for his leadership and facilitation of the day.