

Listening Circle Notes

Postsecondary Education

February 3, 2023

Meeting via Zoom

Facilitated by:

Kate Hutchinson, Lutheran Social Services

Susanna Curry, Sacramento State University

Jesse Archer, SSF

Megan Johnson, National Center for Homeless Education

Attendees:

Jason Sitar, Lutheran Social Services

Jose Napoles, Lutheran Social Services

Arturo Baiocchi, Sacramento State

Carol Roberts, Lutheran Social Services

Valerie Adger, ARC Basic Needs Center

Jesse Archer, Sacramento Steps Forward

Debbie Raucher, John Burton Advocates for Youth

Tanya Hernandez, Sacramento County Office of Education

Emily Tupper, Sacramento State University

Rochelle Robinson, Sacramento State University

Megan Johnson, National Center for Homeless Education

Ardy Azhari, Sacramento Steps Forward

Erica Jaramillo, HART team

Linda Ram, Sacramento State Foster & Community Youth Initiatives

- Jesse Archer reviewed the YHDP process

- Megan reviewed example past projects that have been funded by YHDP in the education domain
- Brave Space Agreements discussed

### **Notes from questions to group**

#### **What are the needs of youth and young adult students in college in who are experiencing homelessness in Sacramento?**

- Students experiencing unemployment or underemployment coupled with increased rental rates in Sacramento
- Property managers are looking at a more comprehensive credit history which can be a barrier to some students to get housing (e.g. even with voucher can't get in because of credit history)
- How to get students into tiered support to help them pay rent
- Some people won't rent to college students, getting turned away
- Students can get a voucher
- Students need better access to financial aid, issues with financial aid: policies around satisfactory academic progress (lose financial aid related SAP and thus housing),
- Cost of attendance policies can be a barrier (Debbie Raucher JBAY)
- Help for students to understand how to pay for school (scholarships, financial aid, etc.) -list of scholarships
- Reduce number of "asks" for students experiencing homelessness can be overwhelming
- Non-refundable application fees for apartments can be a barrier
- Culture Climate and Perception of Faculty/Staff impact the effectiveness of supporting students

#### **What are some of the situations causing our youth and young adults to become homeless?**

- No broad stroke reason, lots of different reasons- DV, new to area, kicked out of home, move out of family home and new place destabilizes quickly (issues with roommates, etc.)
- Non-traditional students can't access resources targeted for TAY
- Landlord fees can really be a barrier
- Students who do not have a guarantor is another issue
- LGBTQ students sometimes experience problems with being kicked out of family home
- Other conflict with parent(s) around desire to pursue higher education
- History of housing instability prior to entering college
- Difficult to maintain housing they do secure
- No easy answer. Youth are destabilized when they move out of the family home. Living situations selected turned out to be unhealthy. Lot's of unhoused students are older (30's and 40's). Youth are navigating a lot of changes at the same time. Can we use our weight to pressure landlords to rent to our students? LBGTQ and Transgender students are forced out of their homes.

## How can we prevent youth from becoming homeless?

- Addressing financial aid barriers
- Financial wellness (peer-to-peer support, coaching)
- First generation students need extra support
- Basic Needs centers need to avoid creating dependency or entitlement systems in higher ed, education around financial wellness could be beneficial
- Ready to Rent curriculum (LSS)
- Contact Coleen Ganley from the State about how to allocate community College Funding (Kate volunteered to do this)
- Financial wellness for students who are first-gen/undocumented when experiencing homelessness. Assisting with college applications such as FAFSA/CADAA
- Removing stigma so that students can engage in services to help them be successful (remove negative feelings about situation that they are in so that they can engage in services in an effective way)-ownership and accountability of the student to address their situation
- Leverage other funding sources to expand what's available - community college system recently given additional \$10 million on top of existing \$9 million, so they are going through a process as we speak to figure out how they are going to allocate those funds. Someone from this group might want to reach out to figure out how much ability to leverage could be part of the equation (JBAY)
- Megan-University of Texas at San Antonio worked with first lady of President to work on leveraging other funds
- Students apply for emergency funds and use it on things other than rent/deposit, so paying the funds directly to the landlord is important

## What resources currently exist on campus for college students in Sacramento?

- Emily Tupper-Sacramento State: today we have on-campus emergency housing (students w/o dependent)-4 beds (non-gender identified), also off-campus agreement with off-campus hotel with warm breakfast (for students escaping crisis, 14-day stay)-most expensive way, partnership with LSS (students age 18-24) and Sacramento Self Help Housing (students aged 25+) for Rapid Rehousing, students pay \$500 and \$200 goes into savings account so have about \$1800 at the end (not really working to do this), rental subsidy-meet with financial wellness and offered subsidized rent (three-tiered model, in future this would be direct payment to landlord), philanthropic fund and basic needs dollars for one-time move-in support (security deposit, first/last rent) up to \$2,500-\$2,750
- Valerie ARC Basic Needs: partnership with LSS- 25,000 students at ARC so volume of need is enormous. 2 case managers on campus-intake and processing for students with basic needs. Emergency hotel vouchers for those who are unhoused or in DV situation (14 days stay so can get stabilized while there), connection to other students looking for roommates particularly at lower rates, working on getting rental deposits off the ground, property gifted to campus and Valerie is asking for those funds to go to housing programs. Working on connecting with

property managers to understand income requirements and vacancy rates. Will be asking if campus can pre-screen students

- Michele Steiner: I need notes on what she shared, as I got distracted by a chat message
- Sac City: food distribution every other week, motel voucher program, Jose is case manager 2 days out of the week
- Financial aid, housing on campus
- Guardian Scholars (no age limit for unhoused youth)
- Youth Action Board
- Affinity groups
- Community within CARES office at Sac State
- Counseling services on campus

### **What are system gaps for youth experiencing homelessness in Sacramento? How would you fill those gaps?**

- Silos on campuses are a big issue- case conferencing meetings in college setting, multidisciplinary approach
  - To address gap: Working on developing online platform Hornet Wellness hub to break down silos, affinity centers
- Students fall through the cracks in silos
- Affinity groups-look at where students gather
- Helping students navigating legal services and getting rid of evictions off of students records
- The way they do criminal records expungement clinics we need one for evictions too
- Education about how to access resources- community providers think that college should be helping student and vice versa ("passing the buck")
- Need for affordable housing
- At CRC issue with state funding is not super flexible- can't do what they want to do, want to be able to have emergency housing available but very early in development of that
- We are developing a "wellness communications tool kit" to share across campus to help make messages more consistent to spread the word about resources and services.
- Need a housing navigator. Siloed departments. Would like a college case conferencing meeting. Would like to use a multi-disciplinary approach. Need affordable housing. SHRA process is frustrating. Need education for students in the apartment finding process.

### **What systems are frustrating or confusing to work with in resolving housing crises for college students?**

- SHRA- turnover of staff, SHRA mistakes when student is accountable,
- Voucher education — finding apartment with voucher is very difficult