

HomeRoom Network

Community of Practice Session II

Establishing a Solid Collaboration with the Local Homelessness
Response System

04/12/2022

Zoom Logistics



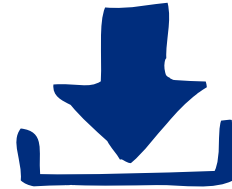
**All participants
can unmute**



**You can share
your camera**



**Questions can be
asked
throughout the
training**



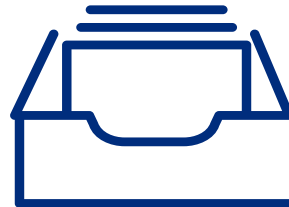
**The powerPoint
will be sent out
after each
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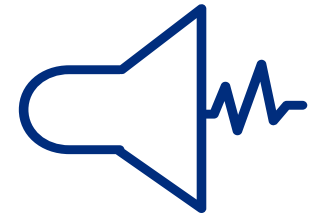
Breakout rooms



**Polls/
quizzes**



**Handouts/
Materials**



**Audio/video
issues**

Welcome!

Please say hello in the chat box and share

- Your name & pronouns
- District
- Share the super power you bring to student homelessness work



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Agenda

- Objectives
- Activity
- COHHIO Course to Home Reminders
- General Overview of Homelessness System
- Building Blocks of System Coordination Discussion
- Group discussion
- Closing
- Resources

Objectives

Attendees will:

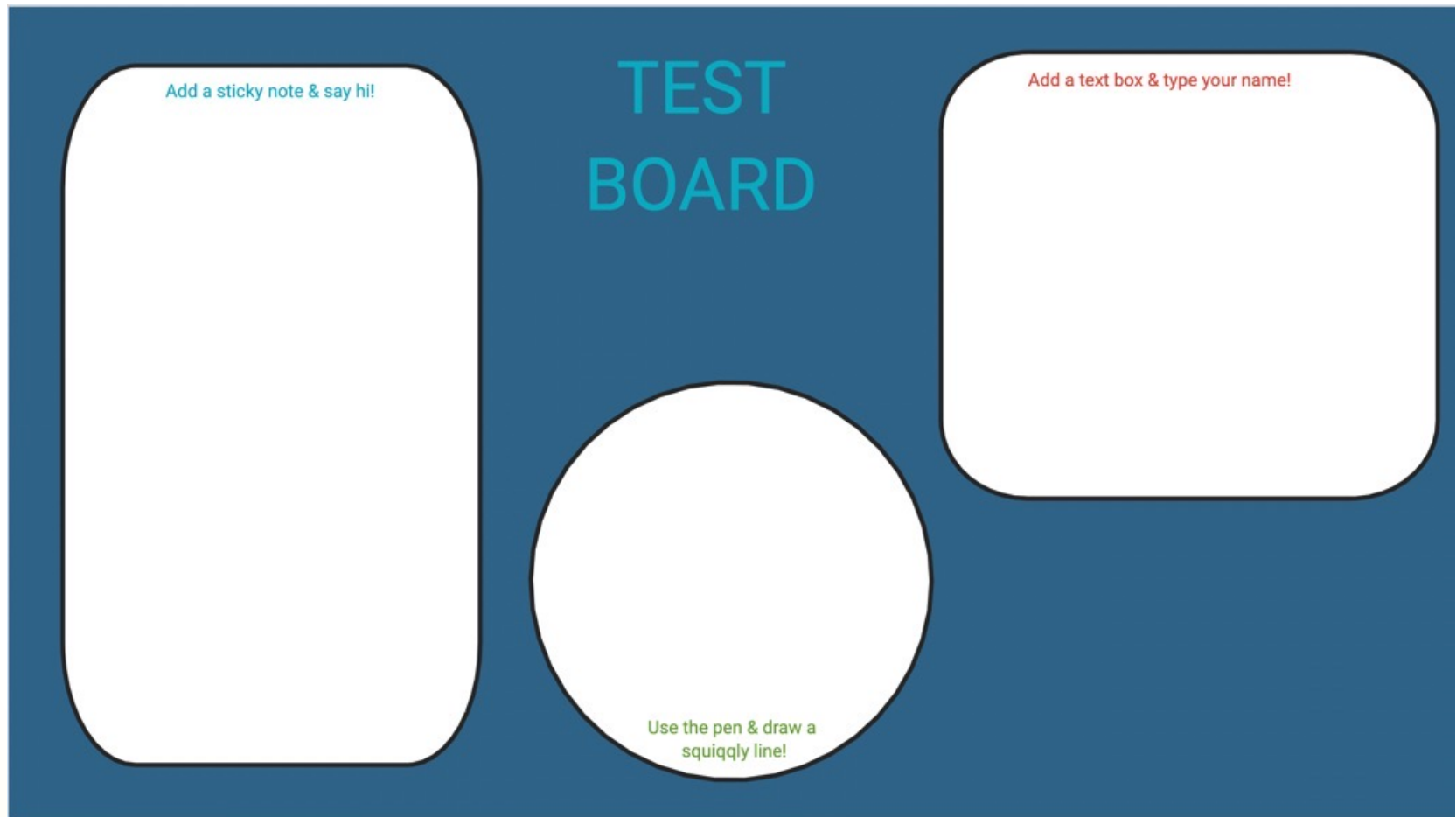
- Learn the basics of the homelessness system
- Learn the benefits of system coordination
- Learn the action steps needed to establish and/or enhance coordination with the homelessness system
- Learn resources to address student homelessness in the district

Warm-Up Activity

- Jamboard escape



Jamboard Run Down





COHHIO is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to ending homelessness and to promoting decent, safe, fair, affordable housing for all, with a focus on assisting low-income and special needs populations.

COHHIO Course to HOME Team



**Lisa Brooks she/her
Youth Housing
Initiative Director**



**Ami Diallo she/her
Youth Housing
Initiative Specialist**



**Deanna Perdana she/her
Youth Housing Initiative
MSW Intern**



**Evelyn Garon, MSW
she/her
Youth Housing
Initiative Specialist**

Local Expert Wisdom Panel



Karen McHenry she/her
Program Director


Homeless & Missing Youth Program
A Program of Bellefaire JCB



Aubre Jones she/her
Outreach & Youth System Manager


communityshelterboard
Until everyone has a place to call home

Community of Practice Agreements

- Check in and Check out
- Listen for understanding
- Expect and accept non-resolution
- Practice “both/and” thinking
- Be aware of intent and impact
- Make space, take space
- Safe Terms:
 - “ELMO”
 - “Ouch”

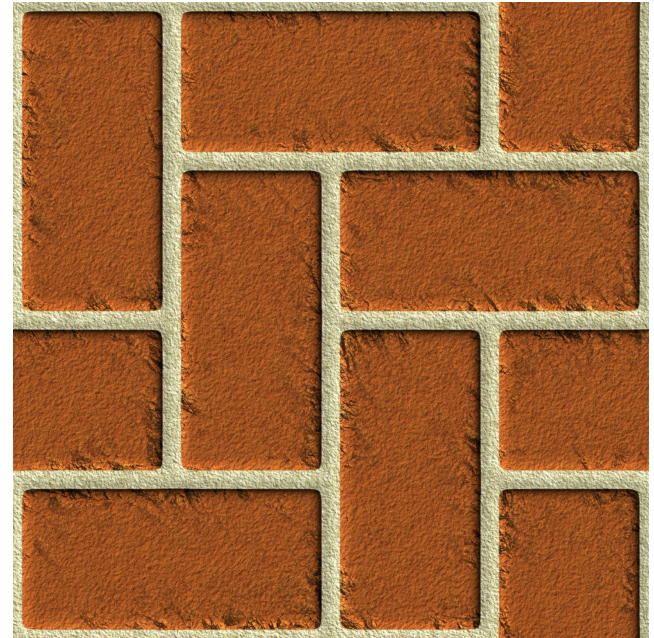
Community of Practice Principles

1. We recognize that all communities and districts are unique but have some shared challenges and can learn from each other's experiences
2. We embed student and family leadership in decision-making, designing and implementing strategies
3. We ensure strategies and approaches improve equity, including racial & LGBTQ+ equity
4. We are solution-oriented and creative in our planning and problem solving
5. We promote peer support and shared learning opportunities
6. We explore, develop and integrate best practices at the core of our approaches

COHHIO is here to facilitate the conversation and share knowledge learned from working with communities, not to own the space

Any other principles that are important to your district to uphold in this space ?

Overview



***If you want to go fast go alone, but if you want to go far,
go together.***

-African Proverb

Defining Homelessness

Signed in 1987 -- The McKinney-Vento law says that homelessness includes individuals who do not have a fixed, regular and adequate home because they have lost their own home.

This means:

- Individuals who have lost their own home, suffering a financial hardship or similar reason
- Individuals who are sharing the housing of others
- Individuals who are living in hotels or motels or in campgrounds or trailer parks that are not viewed as year round homes because they do not have accommodations, such as heat or running water
- Individuals who are living in emergency shelters or who have been abandoned in hospitals
- Individuals who are living in cars, parks or public spaces

HUD Homeless Definition

Category 1	Literally Homeless	<p>(1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;(ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); <u>or</u>(iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less <u>and</u> who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
Category 2	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	<p>(2) Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;(ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; <u>and</u>(iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing

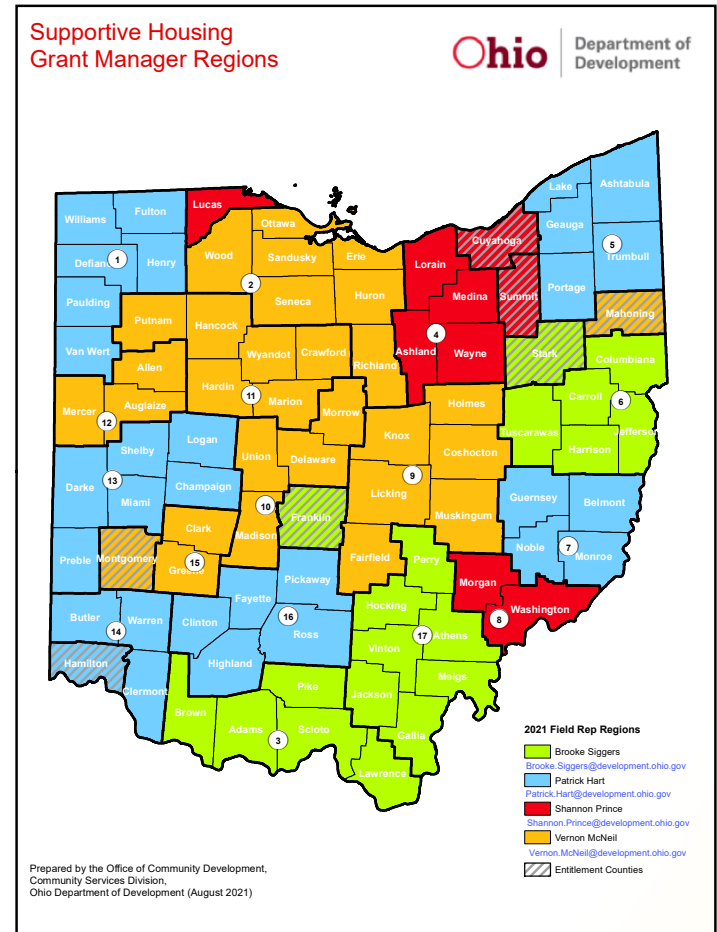
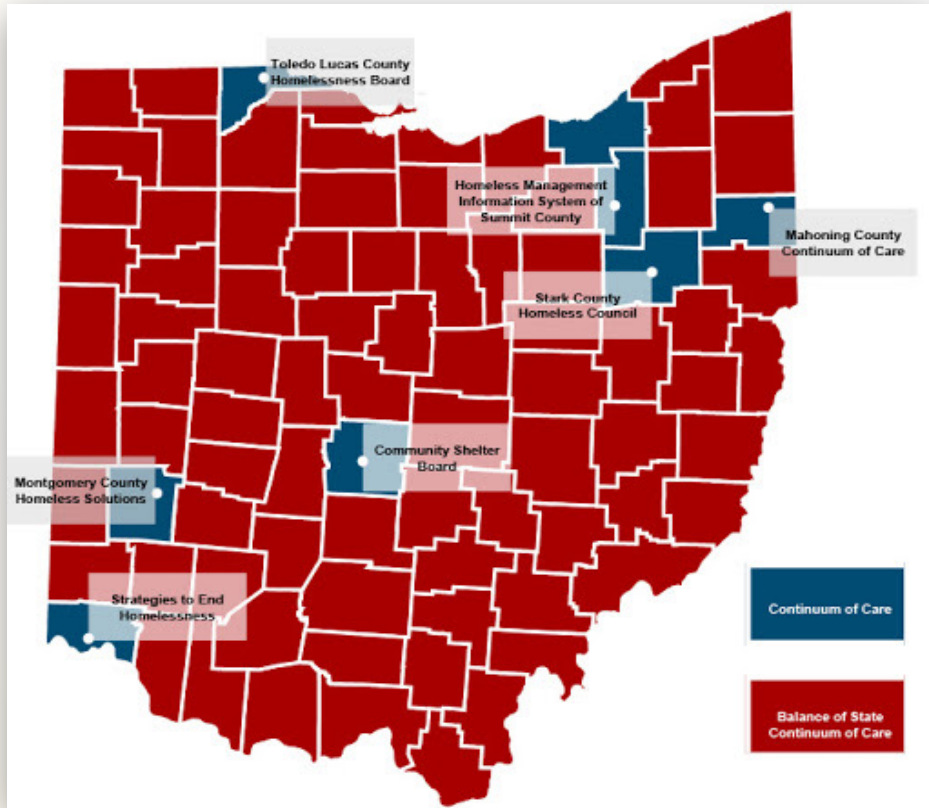
HUD Homeless Definition

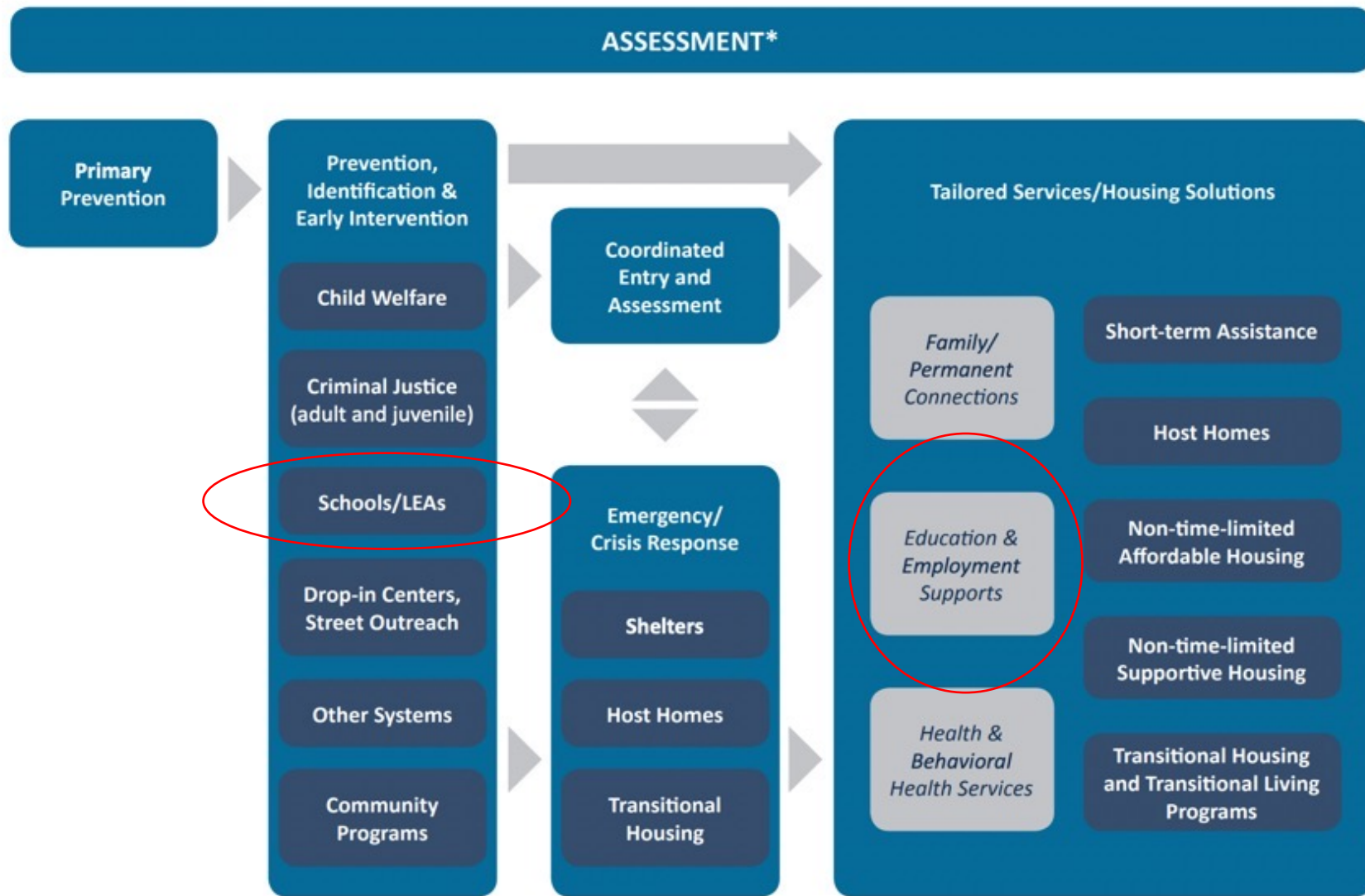
Category 3	Homeless under other Federal statutes	<p>(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes;(ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application;(iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; <u>and</u>(iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers
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Category 4	Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV	<p>(4) Any individual or family who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;(ii) Has no other residence; <u>and</u>(iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing
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[Quick guide to determining homeless status of youth](#)

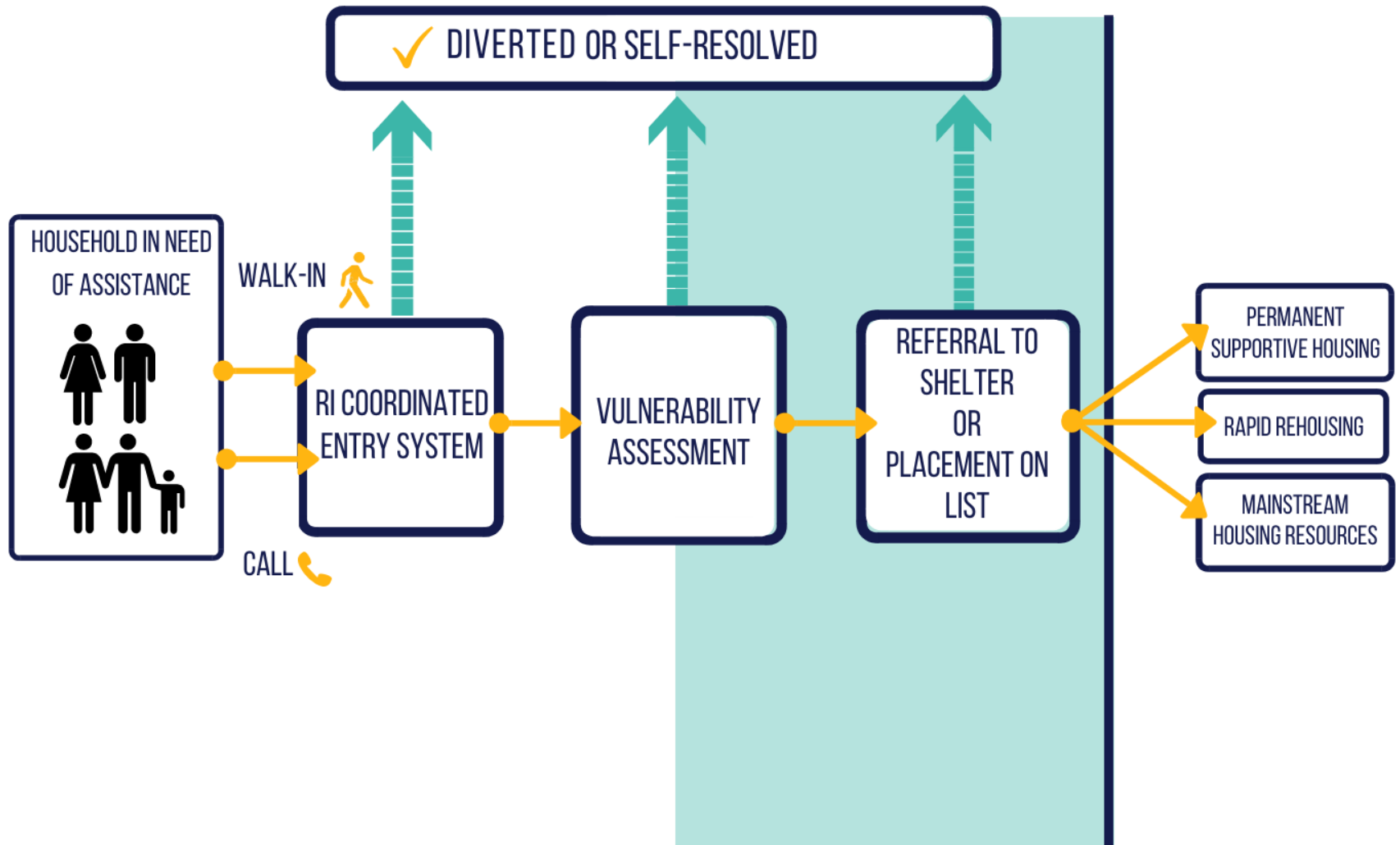
Continuum of Care



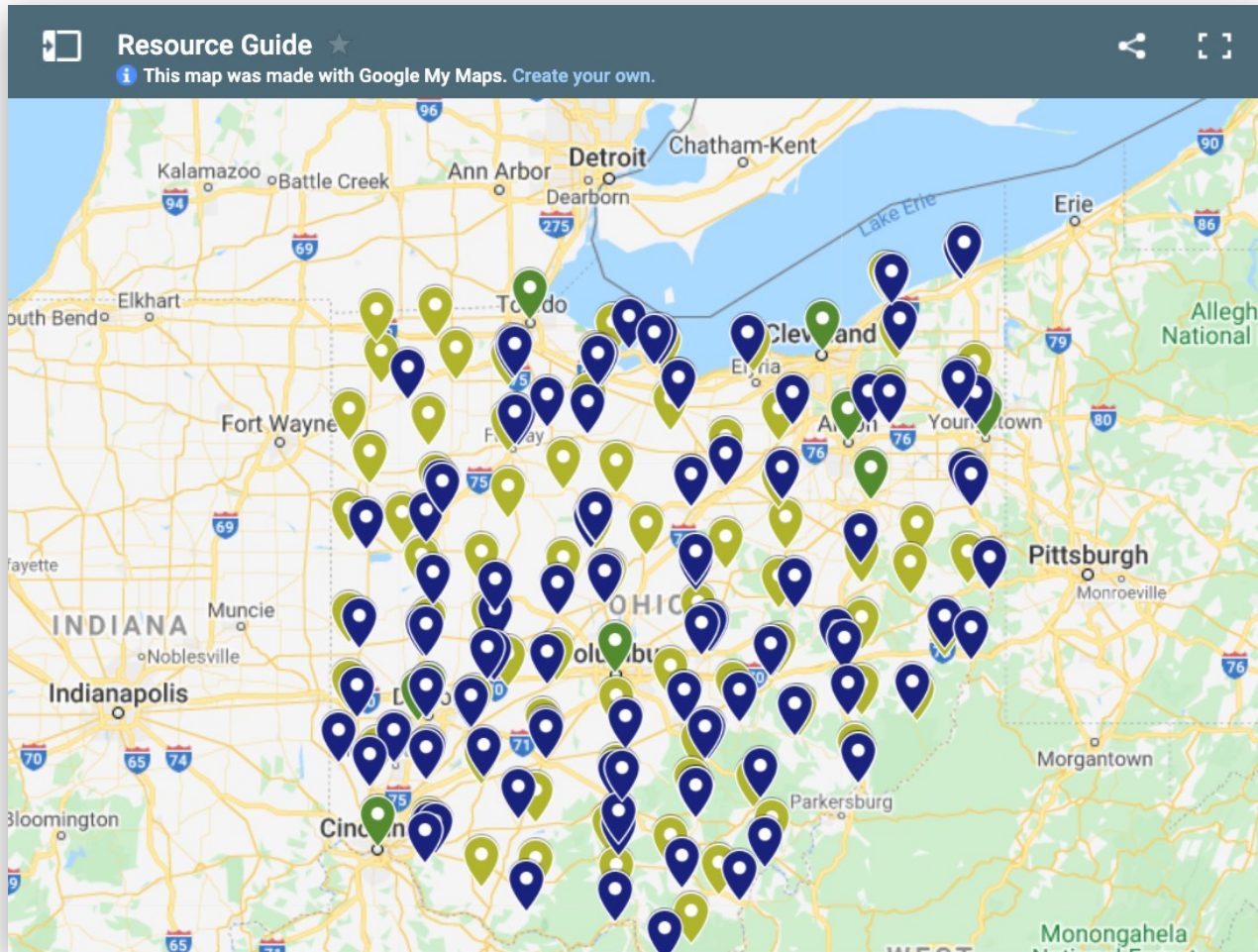


**Throughout the provision of services, assessment will be ongoing.*

COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM



Connecting with CE



Problem Solving



Help people determine if it's possible for them to stay anywhere else that's safe, other than a shelter, the street or somewhere unsafe



Link with financial assistance that is available to the individual or family; other assistance that may help, like mediation services or legal aid



Most people have been doubled up – staying temporarily with friends or family



Look for: ANY & ALL safe, appropriate housing options that can be accessed *immediately*, AND longer-term (*What's the plan tonight & after*)

How do I connect with my CoC?

- Attend your CoC's Membership meetings – meetings are often detailed on the CoC website. (websites in resources slides)
- This includes local coalition meetings across the Balance of State CoC
- Ask to be added to CoC Listserv
- Invite your CoC to appropriate school events or county wide school connections
- Explore the CoC website and get to know the policies and practices



How do I connect with my CoC?

- Connect with your CoC Lead
 - Balance of State: [Erica Mulryan](#)
 - Franklin County: [Steve Skovensky](#)
 - Cuyahoga County: [Melissa Sirak](#)
 - Hamilton County: [Kevin Finn](#)
 - Montgomery County: [Jessica Jenkins](#)
 - Lucas County: [Michael Hart](#)
 - Mahoning County: [Colleen Kosta](#)
 - Summit County: [Marquetta Boddie](#)
 - Stark County: [Marcie Bragg](#)

What are the benefits of school and homeless-housing system coordination?



What are the benefits of school and homeless-housing system coordination?

Increases Access to Available Supports and Services



- Services are deployed no matter which local provider identifies a housing crisis.
- Ensure that students and families have access to the full range of services that are essential to promoting well-being.
- Coordinating service provision, in turn, helps to strengthen educational outcomes and prevent or more quickly resolve housing crises.

What are the benefits of school and homeless-housing system coordination?

Strengthens Cross-Systems Referrals



- Inclusion of preK-12 programs in CoC's planning and implementation of a coordinated entry process helps develop effective cross-system referral, and, in turn, has the potential to dramatically increase access for students and families to crisis and mainstream housing and services.
- Collaboration can inform the development of systems mapping that more accurately describes pathways into and out of crisis than any one system could develop alone.

What are the benefits of school and homeless-housing system coordination?

Builds a Foundation for Shared Use of Common Data



- Sharing of data across systems helps paint a more complete picture of homelessness than the information gathered by different local education, housing, and service providers alone.
- Combining the robust information systems across systems is invaluable in supporting success of individual students and supporting effectiveness of system level planning and coordination.

What are the benefits of school and homeless-housing system coordination?

Increases Community Capacity for Effective Response



- Identify and respond to pressing individual and/or systems-wide problems
- Inform planning and evaluation of programs and services
- Monitor program impact and achievement of goals
- Inform responsive policy and practice; and target use of scarce resources where impact is most significant.

Local experts what benefits have you seen in your communities?



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Discussion

- Key takeaways
- What benefits align with your district?
- What benefits is your district interested in?
- What worries or fears come up?



How do I focus in on this collaboration?

- Everyone knows we need to collaborate but we're not automatically skilled collaborators, we need instruction
- Everyone knows silos are a contributor to system disfunction, but how do we address that?
- Adopting the internal and external agreements of being an effective collaborator



Internal Agreements of effective Collaboration

1. **Agree to listen** – not just hear, but listen with an open spirit, the way you disagree tells the people in the room a lot more about you than the people in the room. Disagree with dignity and respect.
2. **Agree to learn** -- we don't have all the answers. We need to learn where people in the room are coming from. Suspend judgement. Be willing to consider perspectives and approaches. This takes discipline and time. Many mindsets are a resource, not a set-back. Appreciate and respect each experience at the table. Instead of your way or no way, how about all ways? Agree to learn the *language*
3. **Agree to value** – Agree to value what others bring to the table. Begin to understand the motivations for being at the table and buy in on the vision. Take risks, use some courage, ask questions because you have to be able to translate what is being said. Ask them what they mean. Ask them to define things. Ask them what procedures are in place. And appreciate what they are sharing. This will help you to approach partners with understanding and gain them as an ally. Now the team can move the work forward in a manner where everyone buys in.

External Agreements of effective Collaboration

1. **Agree not to be competitive** -- instead agree to be collaborative
2. **Agree to be fully present** – not on your phone, not coming in and out of the session
3. **Agree to be at the table for the right reasons** -- don't be there to advance your career, don't be there simply because your “boss” sent you, no hidden agendas. You're there because you are bought in on the mission
4. **Agree to come to the table to use the time in a productive way** – support keeping the balance between process and accomplishment. You assist when things are leaning to much one way or the other. You're not there to complain, you come to give suggestions and you offer suggestions that you are willing to lead. You lean in.

What are the affects of committing to these agreements?

- You are a collaborator with integrity who is mission driven
- Partners value what you say
- New partners will come to the table for the right reasons because you do
- Partners will not want to waste time because you lead with a mindset of *time is of the essence*
- You don't approach the work on autopilot
- Silos begin to be addressed



Local experts what are some of your collaborator pro-tips?



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Steps Toward Coordination

- Accepting that building cross-systems relationships is a foundation to intentional partnership
- Operationalizing the sharing and analyzing of cross-systems data for program planning and implementation
- Identifying students experiencing homelessness across housing and education systems
- Wrapping-around students identified as experiencing homelessness by schools for housing and services interventions
- Supporting students educational goals through credit recovery, dropout prevention, college preparation and readiness, and higher education transition and degree completion assistance

Steps Toward Coordination

- Engaging in the local coordinated entry process with the expressed purpose of developing a comprehensive and youth-friendly and family-friendly local coordinated entry process
- Participating in local Point-in-Time Count efforts to ensure a comprehensive and effective local Point-in-Time count
- Partnering with Child Care and Development Fund providers and Head Start programs to prioritize children experiencing homelessness for services
- Identifying flexible funds and opportunities to braid resources to meet needs



What can my district do right now?

- Create a district response to homelessness that is developmentally-appropriate and based on positive youth development principles
- Maintain written protocols for district response and broadcast them widely
- Offer safe, inviting, and accessible services and serve as access points between the student and community resources
- Make sure the system utilizes Trauma-Informed Care
- Be culturally-appropriate and inclusive
- Include youth partners
- Request technical assistance when needed
- Have a district staff on key community committees
- Ensure your school is listed on community releases of information signed by family at assessment for on-going coordination

What can my district do right now?

- Learn what your CoC tells HUD they are doing to collaborate with schools
- Shelter staff have residents sign ROI to start communication with schools
- School has a key contact for shelters
- Shelter has a key contact for the schools
- Schools attend Housing Placement/Prioritization Meetings
- Provide letters of support for grants
- Schools can provide documentation of homeless status



Local experts talk about some of the steps you have taken, describe how others could approach these steps



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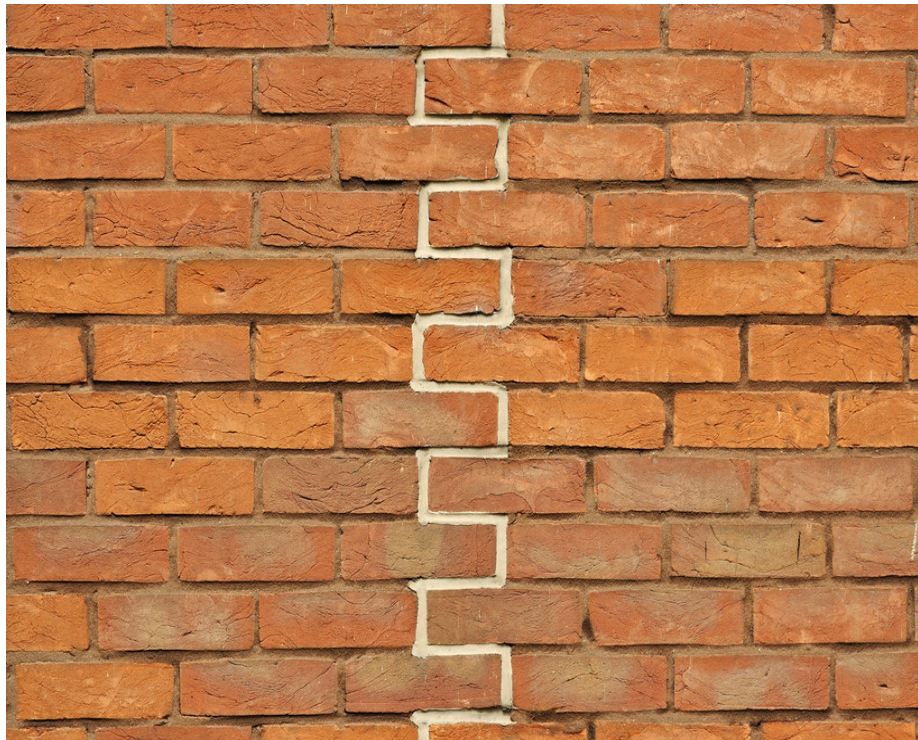
Group Discussion

- What are some takeaway's from todays discussion?
- What steps can your district take in the next month to increase or strengthen system coordination?
- What resources does the district need to achieve this?
- Name a key partner you can connect with in the next month



Check Out

Our Challenges Are Great, Our Determination is Greater



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Next Steps

This is the 1st of many conversations about system coordination, more to come!



Resources

- [Ohio Balance of State CoC](#)
- [Franklin County CoC](#)
- [Hamilton County CoC/UFA](#)
- [Cuyahoga County CoC](#)
- [Montgomery County CoC](#)
- [Lucas County CoC](#)
- [Summit County CoC](#)
- [Stark County CoC](#)
- [Mahoning County CoC](#)

Resources

- [Ohio Access Point Map](#)
- [Bellefaire JCB Homeless and Missing Youth Program](#)
- [Community Shelter Board](#)
- [Ohio Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider List](#)
- [Ohio Youth Homelessness Demonstration Projects](#)
- [Best Practices in Interagency Collaboration Brief Series
Housing and Education Collaborations to Serve
Homeless Children, Youth, and Families](#)
- [Collaboration Works: Examples of Homeless Programs, CoCs, School
Systems and other Education Service Providers working together](#)
- [Ohio Affordable Housing Mapping Tool and Data](#)
- [HUD Homelessness Information](#)
- [Quick guide to determining homeless status of youth](#)

Resources

- [Strengthening Partnerships Between Education and Homelessness Services](#)
- [Housing + ED: Let's All Get Ahead!](#)
- [The Benefits of Housing and Education Cross-Systems Collaboration](#)
- [Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness A Coordinated Community Response](#)
- [Best Practices in Interagency Collaboration Brief Series Coordinated Entry Processes: Building Mutual Engagement between Schools and Continuums of Care](#)
- [Episode 10: Learn to be the Best at Collaboration by Making Seven Agreements](#)
- [The system-of-care for homeless youth: perceptions of service providers \(scholarly\)](#)
- [Communication and Coordination in an Interorganizational System: Service Provision for the Urban Homeless \(scholarly\)](#)
- [Capability Traps Impeding Homeless Services: A Community-Based System Dynamics Evaluation \(scholarly\)](#)

Resources

- [Ohio Department of Education Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Ohio Department of Education American Rescue Plan Homeless II Funds](#)
- [Ohio Department of Education Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness with ESSER and ARP Funds](#)
- [Ohio Department of Education Local School District Liaison Duties, Roles and Responsibilities](#)
- [COHHIO Emergency Rental Assistance](#)
- [COHHIO Course to HOME](#)
- [COHHIO Youth Housing Initiative](#)
- [COHHIO On-Demand Recorded Trainings](#)
- [COHHIO Housing Now for Homeless Families](#)
- [Housing Ohio Conference](#)

Questions?





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