



Topic: Ohio McKinney-Vento Community of Practice Notes

Session 1 – Introduction to Homelessness

Date: 3/30/2022

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm EST

Materials

Presentation Slides: <https://cohhio.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/OH-MKV-CoP-Session-One-.pdf>

Recording: <https://youtu.be/kSknmkWdvL0>

Feedback Survey: <https://forms.gle/hABoaQPREvgoD7Bt8>

1. Objectives
 - a. Learn the Background and need for the COHHIO Course to HOME initiative
 - b. Understand COHHIO Course to HOME and the supports available to districts and ESC(s)
 - c. Learn the current state of homelessness and vulnerable student groups
 - d. Learn resources to address student homelessness in the district
2. Activity
3. Introduction of COHHIO Course to Home
 - a. What is COHHIO?
 - i. Coalition on Homeless and Housing in Ohio
 - ii. Coalition of organizations and individuals committed to ending homelessness and to promote decent, safe, fair, affordable housing for all, with a focus on assisting low-income and special needs populations
 - b. COHHIO Course to HOME Team
 - i. Lisa Brooks- Youth Housing Initiative Director
 - ii. Ami Diallo- Youth Housing Initiative Specialist
 - iii. Deanna Perdana- Youth Housing Initiative MSW Intern
 - iv. Josh Johnson- Guest facilitator, Director of Training & Equitable Practice
 - v. Hannah Basting- Guest facilitator, Balance of State Continuum of Care Coordinator
 - vi. Pete Fowler- Guest facilitator, Equity & Training Coordinator
 - vii. Susannah Wayland- Ohio Department of Education State Homeless Coordinator
 - c. Background
 - i. COHHIO & ODE have worked together on several initiatives to prevent and end homelessness:
 1. ODE has been a part of the Balance of State Continuum of Care board
 2. Advisory support on issues within the Balance of State
 3. Collaboration with the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)



4. Creation of an online portal to help youth and families understand resources that are available to them
 - ii. A key takeaway from the development of the YHDP in southeastern Ohio was an idea and vision for being able to better support the McKinney-Vento liaisons in Ohio school districts
 - iii. The American Rescue Plan has given Ohio various opportunities and sources of funding to better assist youth experiencing homelessness. ODE and COHHIO saw this as an opportunity to add capacity and support for school districts
- d. Purpose
- i. Empower Ohio districts in meeting the specific and urgent needs of student experiencing homelessness
 - ii. Provide professional development and resources in meeting the needs of vulnerable historically underserved students experiencing homelessness:
 1. Rural children and youth
 2. Students of color
 3. Children and youth with disabilities
 4. English learners
 5. LGBTQ+ youth
 6. Students in foster care
 7. Justice-involved youth
 8. Pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students
- e. Resources
- i. Training- provide opportunities to interact and learn new content and direct training to help districts better their work
 - ii. System Coordination- Our goal is to help districts build bridges and make community connections that will benefit their work in preventing and ending homelessness for the students and families in their schools
 - iii. Community of Practice- creating a learning environment to support your peer and shared experiences
 - iv. Practice Guidance- COHHIO will use the CoP listserv to provide additional content and resources to help districts further their work, such as toolkits, practice guidance, checklists, awareness materials, etc.
 - v. Technical Assistance- Your district can reach out to us directly for guidance on challenges
- f. Defining Community of Practice
- i. Groups of people who share a concern or passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly
 - ii. The motivation for this community of practice is a group of people coming together driven by a shared learning need: student homelessness with an emphasis on vulnerable populations



- iii. By engaging each other, over time, in collective learning, we develop a bond that fuels the production of resources to influence our own practices
 - g. Agreements
 - i. Check-in & check-out
 - ii. Listen for understanding
 - iii. Expect and accept non-resolution
 - iv. Practice “both/and” thinking
 - v. Be aware of intent and impact
 - vi. Make space, take space
 - vii. Safe terms:
 - 1. ELMO
 - 2. Ouch
 - h. Principles
 - i. Every district has unique needs and experiences, but regardless of our location we have some shared experiences. This is a space to learn from our shared and differing experiences. Lean into shared experiencing and challenges.
 - ii. We want to include our students and their innovative strategies and ideas into our approach to this work.
 - iii. We strive to thread equity into all the work we do.
 - iv. Instead of getting stuck on challenges, we want to use this space to focus on innovative problem solving.
 - v. We promote peer support and shared learning opportunities.
 - vi. We explore, develop, and integrate best practices at the core of our approaches.
 - vii. COHHIO is here to support and facilitate this space for the participants. YOU own this space.
 - viii. Any other principles that are important to your district to uphold in this space?
 - i. Technical Assistance
 - i. The process of providing guidance, tools, resources, and consultation to assist districts in achieving goals
 - ii. Email us at homelesseducation@cohhio.org
 - iii. Call us at (614)280-1984 ext. 143
 - iv. Find addition resources at www.cohhio.org/youth
4. Overview of Homelessness
- a. Defining Homelessness
 - i. 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
 - ii. This includes individuals who:
 - 1. Lost their home due to financial hardships



2. Are sharing the housing of others
3. Are living in hotels, motels, campgrounds, or trailer parks that are not viewed as year-round homes due to lack of heat or running water
4. Are living in emergency shelters or who have been abandoned in hospitals
5. Are living in cars, parks, or other public spaces

b. History

- i. The GI Bill, or the Serviceman's Readjustment Act, following WW2 is considered one of the biggest economic transfers of power to white people in the history of the US
 1. Nearly 8 million WW2 veterans received education and training
 2. 4.3 million home loans (worth \$33 billion) were distributed
 3. The distribution of these resources was deeply affected by racism
- ii. The GI Bill has had a huge impact on how household wealth has developed over the following decades
- iii. Urban renewal initiatives, also known as "negro removal", provided money for cities across the country to "revitalize neighborhoods" by clearing out slums
 1. 1949 Housing Act
 2. 1959 Highway Act
 3. These initiatives targeted neighborhoods lived in primarily by black and brown individuals and families
 4. Up to 2/3s of affordable housing units were cleared away
 5. 90% of housing was never replaced
- iv. The Great Migration- black and brown folks were being funneled from the south to northern and western cities in newly created housing projects where they were isolated and marginalized
- v. The war on drugs lead to the disproportionate mass incarceration of black and brown people
- vi. During the 80s and 90s, federal budget cuts lead to the standstill of the creation of additional public housing
- vii. Between 2005 and 2009, household median net worth fell drastically. Black households saw a decrease that was twice as large as that of white households

c. Current Data

- i. In 2020, there were 10,655 experiencing homelessness in Ohio
 1. 7,636 individuals
 2. 3,019 people in families with children
 3. 736 unaccompanied homeless youth
 4. 730 veterans
 5. 700 chronically homeless individuals



- ii. On average, Ohio sees about 2.1% of students experiencing homelessness
 - 1. This number frequently fluctuates
 - 2. We believe student homelessness is under reported
 - iii. In 2018, African Americans are 6 times more likely to experience homelessness than their white counterparts
 - iv. LGBTQ+ youth are 120% more likely to experience homelessness
 - 1. Often forced out of their homes
 - 2. Puts them at risk for further victimization
 - d. Causes of Homelessness
 - i. Housing affordability- limited public housing and voucher programs
 - ii. Income stagnation- the cost of living is rising much faster than income
 - iii. Health- physical or behavioral health issues
 - iv. Violence
 - v. Institutions- individuals being released from incarceration or from long-term facilities might not have anywhere to go
 - vi. Racism- systemic
 - e. Addressing Homelessness
 - i. Equitable & informed approach
 - ii. Cross system collaboration
 - iii. Multi generation approaches
 - iv. Sustainability planning & consistency
 - v. Continuous quality improvement
 - f. Key Resource Partners
 - i. 24 hr. Crisis Response Organizations
 - ii. Continuums of Care
 - iii. Job & Family Services
 - 1. Child & Family Services
 - iv. Community Action Agencies
 - v. ADAMH Boards
 - vi. Health Providers
 - g. Best Practice
 - i. Accessible District Culture
 - ii. Coordinated Community Approaches
 - iii. Serve as a Safe Community Hub
 - iv. Utilize Harm Reduction Approaches
 - v. Utilize Trauma Informed Care
 - vi. Utilize Strength Based Approaches
5. Next Steps
- a. Keep an eye out for listserv emails – lots of content coming soon
 - b. Upcoming Community of Practice sessions
 - c. Coming Soon!
 - i. Homelessness District Toolkit
 - ii. Homelessness E-Learning
 - iii. Resource Website