



**Topic: Ohio McKinney-Vento Community of Practice Notes**  
**Session 2 – Identifying and Meeting the Unique Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness in Rural Ohio**

**Date: 5/18/2022**

**Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm EST**

**Materials**

**Presentation Slides:** <https://cohhio.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/OH-MKV-Session-Two.Combined-1.pdf>

**Recording:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmrJuL6FI8>

**Feedback Survey:** <https://forms.gle/ZTwM2dTdfky4re4i8>

1. Objectives
  - a. Understand the components of COHHIO Course to HOME
  - b. Understand the national scope of rural homelessness
  - c. Learn best practices for meeting the needs of students experiencing homelessness in rural Ohio
  - d. Learn resources to support students experiencing homelessness in rural Ohio
  - e. Connect with rural peers
2. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. COHHIO Course to Home team
    - i. Lisa Brooks, Youth Housing Initiative Director
    - ii. Ami Diallo, Youth Housing Initiative Specialist
    - iii. Evelyn Garon, Youth Housing Initiative Specialist
  - b. Guest Speakers
    - i. Kenya Haynes, National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)
    - ii. Matthew Morton, Chapin Hall
  - c. Local Spotlight Panel
    - i. Amy Eldridge, Youth Program Coordinator [Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency](#)
    - ii. Amy Vanderhoff, McKinney-Vento Coordinator [Marion City Schools](#)
    - iii. Heath Ring, Shelter Director [Heart of Ohio Homeless Shelter](#)
    - iv. Randall Hunt, Deputy Director and Housing Director [Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency](#)
    - v. Sandra Plantz, McKinney-Vento Coordinator [Gallia County Local Schools](#)
    - vi. Ohio Student, Lived Expert [Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency](#) Youth Action Board Member
  - d. 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
  - e. What is [COHHIO Course to HOME](#)?

- i. Community of Practice
  - ii. Technical Assistance
  - iii. District Toolkit
  - iv. Communications & Newsletter
  - v. E-Learning
  - vi. Translated Materials
- 3. National Overview of Rural Homelessness (NCHE)
  - a. About NCHE
    - i. NCHE operates the U.S. Department of Education's Technical Assistance Center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program
    - ii. Website: <http://nche.ed.gov>
  - b. The Myth of Urban Youth Homelessness
    - i. Urban and Rural Realities
      - 1. Rates of poverty have historically been higher in rural than urban areas
      - 2. According to the 2019 American Community Survey, this discrepancy persists
        - a. Poverty rates in non-metro counties: 15.4%
        - b. Poverty rates in metro counties: 11.9%
      - 3. Youth homelessness affects rural and urban areas alike
      - 4. Rates of youth experiencing homelessness were similar in rural and non-rural areas
        - a. Household prevalence of youth homelessness in rural counties: 4.4%
        - b. Household prevalence of youth homelessness in urban counties: 4.2%
  - c. Relationships and Rigor
    - i. Identification
      - 1. Examine your local data to help evaluate the need for outreach and/or improved identification in your community
        - a. For all school districts nationally, identification rates fall at about 2.5% of the overall population
      - 2. Build relationships with community agencies such as domestic violence shelters
    - ii. Services
      - 1. Focus on student outcomes
      - 2. "Nothing about us without us"
  - d. Contact Information
    - i. Kenya Haynes
    - ii. Program Specialist, National Center for Homeless Education
    - iii. [khaynes@serve.org](mailto:khaynes@serve.org)
- 4. Research on Rural Youth Homelessness: Challenges and Strategies (Chapin Hall)
  - a. Chapin Hall's Voice of Youth County Study
    - i. Revealed a broad and hidden challenge of youth homelessness in America
      - 1. 1 in 10 young adults ages 18-25 experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period

2. 1 in 30 youth ages 13-17 experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period
- ii. Survey data underscore invisible homelessness in schools
  1. 5.2% of high school students reported homelessness in 2-18-19 in surveys
  2. That's over twice the rate of students reported by schools as experiencing homelessness (2.3%)
- iii. LGBTQ youth come into systems with more adversities
  1. LGBTQ youth had 2.2 times the risk of reporting homelessness
- iv. Race and Intersectionality
  1. Youth of color experience higher rates of homelessness
    - a. 11% American Indian & Alaskan Native, 7% Black, 7% Hispanic, 4% White/Non-Hispanic
  2. Explicit homelessness self-reported over the last 12-months:
    - a. 4% white & non-LGBTQ, 7% Black & non-LGBTQ, 8% White +LGBTQ, 16% Black & LGBTQ
- v. Missed opportunities across public systems
  1. Among youth experiencing homelessness on a given night:
    - a. 46% ever in detention or incarceration, vs. 15% of general (older) youth population
    - b. 29% ever in Foster Care, vs. 2% of general youth population
    - c. 34% had less than high school diploma/GED (ages 18-25) vs. 11% of general youth population
  2. In Washington State, the largest number of youth facing homelessness after a public system:
    - a. 19% from residential behavioral health became homeless within 12 hours
- vi. Risk factors for homelessness overlap with risk factors for school dropout
  1. Low educational attainment is a risk factor for homelessness, and homelessness is a risk factor for lower educational attainment
  2. Racial and ethnic inequities cut across both homelessness and educational outcomes
- vii. Rural youth homelessness: equally prevalent but more hidden
  1. Where youth experiencing homelessness stay the night in rural vs. urban counties contributes to this invisibility
- viii. Rural youth experiencing homelessness are more likely to be out of school and work than youth in urban cities
- b. Challenges Identifying Youth
  - i. Undercounting: rural areas underestimate the number of youth experiencing homelessness due to a lack of community awareness
  - ii. Liaisons: youth were not aware their schools had federally required school-based homelessness liaisons
- c. Services and Supports
  - i. Key resource gaps
    1. Transportation and technology
    2. Mental health and addiction services

3. Housing programs and resources
  4. Safe spaces and systems navigation
  5. Work and education
- d. Equity and Inclusion
    - i. Racism: youth reported experiencing racism from rural public systems
    - ii. Tribal nations and marginalized communities: lack funding to develop strategies
    - iii. LGBTQ+: rural areas lack affirming services and supports for LGBTQ+ youth
  - e. Barriers to Cross-Systems Collaboration
    - i. Lack of resources and high turnover
    - ii. Agencies not understanding each other
    - iii. Different definitions of homelessness
    - iv. Data sharing challenges
  - f. Barriers to Youth Collaboration
    - i. Geographic and technological challenges
    - ii. Tokenization
    - iii. Excluding marginalized youth
    - iv. Lack of funding
  - g. The Role of Schools
    - i. In rural areas school systems have to play a stronger role in the absence of services
    - ii. To prevent and address youth homelessness, rural schools need more capacity to:
      1. Identify youth and raise awareness
      2. Dismantle systemic racism
      3. Support LGBTQ+ affirming services and supports
  - h. Youth Driven Solutions
    - i. Developing a direct cash transfer program for youth experiencing homelessness
      1. Shaped on a collaborative process:
        - a. Center on youth, equity, and trust
        - b. Boost housing stability and empowerment
        - c. Identify and manage barriers to success
        - d. Adopt a flexible and simple approach
      - ii. New York City's model: "Cash Plus" Housing Solution
  - i. From Reactive to Proactive
    - i. We can't end youth homelessness without prevention
    - ii. Our homeless system has put providers into a constant state of triage
    - iii. Need to improve our crisis response system around youth homelessness
    - iv. Take a more public health approach to ending homelessness
      1. Can't be solved with just an emergency approach
      2. Pathways and entry points need to be addressed
      3. Single greatest pathway into adult homelessness is youth homelessness
  - j. Systems Change: The Upstream Project

- i. Schools working with community organizations to not just respond to the crisis of homelessness, but also prevent it from happening in the first place
  - ii. Screening and early identification
  - iii. Collecting and using good data
  - iv. Youth and family supports
- 5. Local Spotlight Panel
  - a. Key Takeaways and Reactions
    - i. Amy Eldridge and Randall Hunt:
      - 1. The central role of relationships with young people
      - 2. Making sure that the communication and listening and collaboration is there
      - 3. Coordinating resources and networks
      - 4. Relationship building and discussion among providers is key
        - a. Housing coalitions are great resources
        - b. Developing resource guides and referrals
    - ii. Amy Vanderhoff:
      - 1. Being more visible in schools is very important to supporting students
      - 2. Youth homelessness is a pathway, students experiencing homelessness act out at school, get suspended, and are therefore disengaged
    - iii. Sandra Plantz:
      - 1. Bus drivers often get overlooked as support staff; they are incredibly valuable in helping identify students experiencing homelessness
      - 2. Going beyond the backpack, work with other local providers to ensure all needs are being met
      - 3. Get creative, work with your community providers, and build those collaborative relationships
    - iv. Ohio Student with Lived Experience:
      - 1. School was made aware of his situation and reached out to provide services and supports
      - 2. School has helped student balance work and school
      - 3. School listened to the specific needs of this student and supported him in finding a place to live on his own
- 6. Next Steps
  - a. Session 3: Identifying and Meeting the Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness; a Focus on Unaccompanied Youth and English Learners/New Comers
  - b. 9/14/2022 from 1-2 PM