Topic: HomeRoom Network Community of Practice
Session 3 – Providing Culturally Responsive Care and Resources; a Focus on LGBTQ+ and BIPOC Youth
Date: 6/14/2022
Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST

Materials
Presentation Slides: https://cohhio.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/FINAL-HomeRoom-Session-3-Content-6.14.2022.pdf
Recording: https://youtu.be/G6a25zBz1H0

1. Welcome Activity
    a. Weather Report
2. Checking-In
    a. Previous Community of Practice sessions:
        i. HomeRoom Network:
            1. Introduction to Community of Practice (3/16/22)
            2. Establishing a Solid Collaboration with the Local Homelessness Response System (4/12/2022)
        ii. McKinney-Vento:
            1. Introduction to Homelessness (3/30/22)
            2. Meeting the Unique Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness in Rural Ohio (5/18/22)
3. Community of Practice Learnings and Reflections
    a. Community of Practice Discussion
        i. What is working so far about this CoP?
            1. Members have found new ways to connect with their CoC and customize their local HMIS intake process by developing a custom data reporting element. This enables homelessness providers in their community to ask families their current school district during the enrollment process for homelessness services. If a family indicates they are in the district the district can run a report of all families served by the homelessness providers with a filter for families in their district who have been verified by local providers. This has enabled the district to identify vulnerable students and families experiencing homelessness.
            2. Members shared that as a result of CoP they have established a local committee to complete a summer local homelessness count to supplement winter homelessness count number and generate a more accurate idea of community need throughout the year.
            3. Members have found it helpful to hear from others, to know their county is not alone, and that there are other counties in the state with the same concerns and shared needs.

      4. Members have developed new ways to capture more accurate data on individuals experiencing homelessness in their counties.

      5. Members have been able to gain additional resources to share with social workers, community providers, etc.

      6. Members have been able to work to refine systems and approaches to support students and families

   ii. What topics are you interested in? Where do you want to dig deeper?

      1. Ideas on how we can help unaccompanied youth were requested

      2. Opportunities to provide feedback after the session but not immediately after the session so ideas can resonate.

4. Providing Culturally Responsive Care to Black and Brown LGBTQIA+ Youth and Young Adults (Guest Presenter: Erin Upchurch, Kaleidoscope Youth Center)

   a. Kaleidoscope Youth Center is the largest and longest standing organization in the state of Ohio that serves LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults

      i. Youth led, youth inspired, youth informed

         1. The KYC team works in partnership with communities across the state and beyond to provide safer and affirming spaces for LGBTQIA+ youth people aged 12-24

      ii. Best practices

         1. KYC combines best practice standards in trauma informed and healing centered youth programming with those designed to increase protective factors that LGBTQIA+ youth often lack; and access to affirming resources, referrals, and crisis intervention

      iii. Dedicated space

         1. Although multiple other youth serving programs exist in Central Ohio, there are presently no other programs or projects solely dedicated to serving the specific needs and experiences of young people in the LGBTQIA+ community

      iv. Organizational values

         1. The work of KYC is informed by the practices of:

            a. Restorative and transformational justice

            b. Racial justice

            c. Intersectionality

            d. Anti-oppression

            e. Trauma-informed/healing engaged care

         2. KYC is committed to providing supportive and collaborative services that acknowledge that people are experts in their own lives

         3. KYC seeks to recognize and challenge systems of power that perpetuate barriers and injustice in young people lives,

and we are aware that not all young people get the same results through the same hard work under these existing systems

    v. Theory of Change
1. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

    vi. Practice Framework
1. Transformative Justice is a framework that seeks to transform the conditions that caused/allowed harm to occur
2. Centered on 3 core beliefs:
   a. Individual and collective liberation are equally important, mutually supportive, and fundamentally intertwined
   b. The conditions that allow/allowed oppression and exclusion to occur must be transformed in order to achieve justice in individual and collective experiences of oppression
   c. System responses to oppression not only fail to advance individual and collective justice, but also condone and perpetuate cycles of oppression, discrimination, and marginalization

b. Overview
   i. The complexities of supporting marginalized youth are vast; from systemic oppression to hate-based violence
   ii. This session takes a deep dive into racial equity and intersectionality. Attendees will explores innovate approaches and best practices on meeting the needs of marginalized, vulnerable youth experiencing homelessness

c. LGBTQ+ young adults are more than twice (approx. 120%) as likely to experience homelessness as their non-LGBTQ peers
   i. LGBTQ youth make up only 7% of the general youth population, but account for 40% of the homeless youth population
   ii. In 2019, Measurement Resources reported that in Central Ohio approximately 3,00 youth were identified as homeless/housing insecure
      1. This means that an estimated 40% of those youth, or 1,200 youth, identify as LGBTQ+

d. Estimating
   i. We have to estimate because there are no current mechanisms to collect representative demographic data and LGBTQIA+ youth often do not meet criteria to be certified as homeless; even though they don't have a home/guaranteed place to sleep.

e. Causes of homelessness
   i. Family conflict is the most common cause
      1. FOR LGBTQ+ youth in particular, conflict tends to be over their sexual orientation and gender identity

      ii. Additional reasons include again out of foster care system, poverty, and conflict in the home

      iii. Often, it's not one thing that causes homelessness, but a combination of many

f. Housing instability is disproportionately experienced by youth of color

      i. Black and Hispanic young people spend longer periods of time homeless than their White, non-Hispanic counterparts, increasing their risk of re-entering homelessness after exiting

      ii. Among racial and ethnic groups, African-American youth were especially overrepresented, with an 83% higher risk of having experienced homelessness than other races

            1. This disproportionality mirrors black youth racial disparities documented in school suspensions, incarceration, and foster care placement

      iii. Latino/a/x youth were found at higher risk of homelessness than non-Latino/a/x youth

            1. While Latino/a/x youth were 33% of the 18-25 year-olds reporting homelessness, only 19% of youth served by federally funded runaway and homeless youth programs in 2014 were Latino/a/x

g. Oversimplified summary

      i. LGBTQ youth are more than double the risk of homelessness compared to non-LGBTQ peers

      ii. Among youth experiencing homelessness, LGBTQ young people reported higher rates of trauma and adversity, including twice the rate of early death

      iii. Homelessness stems from multiple factors beyond "coming out" for LGBTQ youth

      iv. Youth who identified as both LGBTQ and black or multiracial had some of the highest rates of homelessness

      v. Safe, affirming responses and services are important for engaging LGBTQ youth

h. Prevention and early intervention

      i. Many LGBTQ youths' trajectories into homelessness revealed numerous opportunities for prevention and early intervention

      ii. Policymakers and advocates who serve youth need to jumpstart work on early identification of youth at risk for homelessness

      iii. Identification can create better opportunities for initiating appropriate supports before family situations escalate into a crisis

      iv. Leaders in homelessness systems and services need to understand the importance of earning reputation as safe and affirming spaces – for young people but especially for LGBTQIA+ youth, who are likely to avoid service agencies they don't trust

       v. LGBTQIA+ youth experiencing homelessness need fast access to safe and stable housing to help them avoid the risks of homelessness and get on a path to thriving

i. Recommendations

       i. Provide enhanced training to providers to identify and respond to trauma and hardship faced by this population

       ii. Engage LGBTQIA+ youth as full partners in strengthening systems and services

       iii. Encourage community organizations working with runaway and homeless youth to initiate more sensitive data collection about sex orientation and gender identity

       iv. Enhance guidance in federal grants that serve young people so that resources can better support LGBTQIA+ and minority LGBTQIA+ youth

       v. Locate LGBTQ+ sensitive outreach, services, housing options in or near predominately black and multiracial communities equitably

       vi. Evaluate the most promising interventions to determine their effectiveness for LGBTQIA+ youth, the federal government can take the lead by providing evaluation funding for core interventions

       vii. Partner with and support Black and Hispanic young people to co-create new programs, services, and strategies to reduce housing insecurity and prevent youth homelessness

       viii. Develop street outreach programs around young people's fluid housing situations over time – not just based on where they were last

       ix. Design program and deliver services that center the experiences of youth of color with intersecting marginalized identities to meet immediate needs and support appropriate services

       x. Build in opportunities to better understand past familial traumas and adversities to inform a more tailored approach to service delivery

       xi. Collect better data to identify opportunities for addressing racial inequities

       xii. Advocacy for more expansive and diverse investments and funding for non-traditional and innovate programs

j. KYC Housing Programs

       i. Rapid Re-Housing: housing opportunities through move-in/rental assistance, housing ID, and case management

       ii. Supportive Co-Housing: supportive, intentional community living to meet the needs of homeless, housing insecure, and housing vulnerable young people

       iii. KYC Emergency Housing: supported stay for a minimum of 2 weeks; with opportunity to decrease and disrupt the potential for subsequent crises that arise when youth are without a predictable and consistent safe place to stay

        iv. Emergency Rental Assistance: provided rent assistance to unaccompanied individuals experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, and/or housing vulnerability in Franklin County

        v. Key components
1. Low barrier
2. Intersection and equity informed
3. Extended participation
4. Case management
5. Identity documents
6. Therapy
7. **Zero HUD Funding**

    k. **Change that transforms is a radical act**

5. Session Reflections
    a. How does something you learned connect to what you already knew?
    b. How did it extended you thinking further?
    c. What would you like to learn more about?
6. Resources & Closing
    a. There are a lot of additional resources listed on the final slides of the presentation, such as:
        i. Scholarly Articles
        ii. Best Practice Informational Guides
        iii. Resources