

Improving Access to Mainstream Services for Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness

Hilton Anaheim
Anaheim, CA
November 1-3, 2005

Agenda

Objectives:

- Assist State and local policymakers to develop an Action Plan intended to improve access for families with children who are homeless to mainstream health, human services, education, and employment and training programs that are coordinated with housing and other existing community programs.
- Create and reinforce relationships among the Governor's office, State Legislators, key program administrators, and stakeholders from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.
- Provide an environment conducive to the process of strategic decisionmaking that is result oriented and outcome related and benefits families with children who are homeless.
- Assist State and local policymakers in identifying issues or areas of concern that may result in a formal request for technical assistance (TA).

Monday, October 31, 2005

4:00 p.m. – **Registration** **[Pacific Ballroom AB]**
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

7:30 a.m. **Registration** **[Pacific Ballroom AB]**

8:30 a.m. **Welcome and Overview of the Academy** **[Pacific Ballroom AB]**

- Federal Representatives
- Philip Mangano, Executive Director, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Jamie Hart, Health Systems Research, Inc., Moderator

Introductions of State Team Members, Faculty, and Resource Persons and Brief Presentations by Each Team

9:45 a.m. **State Team Session One: Setting the Stage and Revisiting the Vision Statement and the Reality Assessment**

- **Set the Stage**
 - ◆ Objectives and format
 - ◆ Defining “mainstream services”
 - ◆ Integrating various planning activities
 - ◆ Addressing leadership, teamwork, and maintaining momentum
- **Revisit Vision Statement** (if necessary, revise based on draft developed by State Team prior to Policy Academy)
 - ◆ Statement of purpose/reference point for all future decisions
 - ◆ Picture of Team’s ideal future (independent of current reality)
- **Revisit Reality Assessment** (if necessary, revise based on draft developed by State Team prior to Policy Academy)
 - ◆ Inventory/review of current programs/activities, key challenges, previous policy actions, current political environment
 - ◆ SWOT Analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats)
 - ◆ Provides context and identifies resources
- **Assign State Team Members to Specific Breakout Sessions**

California – Mezzanine 3
Indiana – Mezzanine 5
Montana – Mezzanine 7
Utah – Mezzanine 9

Colorado – Mezzanine 4
Massachusetts – Mezzanine 6
Rhode Island – Mezzanine 8

12:00 p.m. **Break**

12:15 p.m. **Working Lunch/Plenary Session One: Focus on the Issues [Pacific Ballroom AB]**

Involving Consumers: Why and How

- William Joiner, Marriage and Family Therapist Intern, Los Angeles

Addressing Family Homelessness

- Marybeth Shinn, New York University Department of Psychology

1:45 p.m. **Concurrent Breakout Sessions #1**

- Youth Aging Out of Foster Care **[Lido A]**
- Addressing the Health/Behavioral Health Needs of Homeless Families **[Lido B]**

- Helping Homeless Families Meet the Educational Needs of Their School-Aged and Preschool-Aged Children [Lido C]
- Reentry and Its Realities for Prisoners, Families, and Communities [Balboa A]
- Are You Getting the Recommended Daily Allotment of Federal Nutrition Dollars? [Balboa B]

3:15 p.m. **Break**

3:30 p.m. **State Team Session Two: Report Out, Identifying Resource Needs, and Setting Priorities/Goals**

- **Report Out from Breakout Sessions**
- **Identify Resource Needs**
 - ◆ Review biographies of resource persons
 - ◆ Identify four or five to attend State Team sessions
- **Priority/Goal Setting – Identify:**
 - ◆ Gaps between the Team’s vision statement and the current reality
 - ◆ Areas to focus energy and limited resources
 - ◆ Basis for planning, policymaking, and setting performance standards

5:30 p.m. **Dinner (on your own)**

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

7:00 a.m. **Networking** [Pacific Ballroom AB]

8:00 a.m. **Overview of the Day/Plenary Session Two: Focus on Implementation, Integration, and Systems Change** [Pacific Ballroom AB]

- John Wagner, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance
- Charlene Flaherty, Program Administrator for Community Services, Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Sherrie Downing, Coordinator, Montana Council on Homelessness

9:00 a.m. **Concurrent Breakout Sessions #2**

- Housing [Lido A]
- Assisting Homeless Families with Employment Skills [Lido B]
- Creative Use of Funding Mechanisms: Medicaid [Lido C]
- Supporting Homeless Families and At-risk Families Through Creative Use of TANF Funds [Balboa A]

10:30 a.m. State Team Session Three: Completing Priority Setting and Developing Strategies

- **Complete Priority Setting**
 - ◆ Gaps between the Team's vision statement and the current reality
 - ◆ Areas to focus energy and limited resources
 - ◆ Basis for planning, policymaking, and setting performance standards
- **Develop Realistic Strategies/Tactical Plans**
 - ◆ Broad-ranging tactics requiring statewide or cross-agency efforts
 - ◆ Usually involves the combination of several courses of action
 - ◆ Should be directly related to Team's goals and priorities
 - ◆ Includes identifying TA needs

12:15 p.m. **Lunch (on your own)**

1:15 p.m. **Networking With Federal Representatives** [Pacific Ballroom AB]

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Labor
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

2:15 p.m. **State Team Session Four: Completing Strategies and Identifying Action Steps**

- **Complete Strategies/Tactical Plans**
 - ◆ Broad-ranging tactics requiring statewide or cross-agency efforts
 - ◆ Usually involves the combination of several courses of action
 - ◆ Should be directly related to Team's goals and priorities
 - ◆ Includes identifying TA needs
- **Identify Action Steps**
 - ◆ Specific activities to be undertaken based on strategies
 - ◆ Required action from specific individual or entities
 - ◆ Considerations:
 - Who is responsible for coordinating each action?
 - Who is responsible for completing each action?
 - What resources are required?
 - What is the timeline?
 - Who will be affected?

5:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

Assignment: Each State Team should prepare to share with the other Teams their action planning to-date – including their written vision statement, reality assessment, and goals/priorities at tomorrow morning's plenary session. Each Team also should identify what they anticipate their TA needs to be. Results should be recorded on newsprint and posted in the main conference area.

Thursday, November 3, 2005

- 7:00 a.m. **Networking** **[Pacific Ballroom AB]**
- 8:00 a.m. **Overview of the Day** **[Pacific Ballroom AB]**
- 8:15 a.m. **Exchange of Ideas** **[Pacific Ballroom AB]**
- 9:15 a.m. **State Team Session Five: Completing Action Steps and Identifying TA Needs**
- **Complete Action Steps**
 - ◆ Specific activities to be undertaken based on strategies
 - ◆ Required action from specific individuals or entities
 - ◆ Considerations
 - Who is responsible for coordinating each action?
 - Who is responsible for completing each action?
 - What resources are required? What is the timeline? Who will be affected?
 - How will success be measured (benchmarks)?
 - **TA Needs – Identify:**
 - ◆ The nature of issue(s) or the problem(s) for which TA is needed
 - ◆ The type(s) of assistance required
 - ◆ Anticipated long- or short-term goals of the TA
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch (on your own)**
- 1:00 p.m. **State Team Session Six: Identifying Next Steps**
- **Next Steps – Identify:**
 - ◆ Followup activities for Policy Academy (including plans for integrating planning activities)
 - ◆ Next Team meeting date
 - ◆ Timeline and process for revision and submission of action plan
- 2:15 p.m. **State Team Report-outs with Faculty Feedback (5 minutes each)**
- **Teams Outline:**
 - ◆ Key priorities and action steps included in their Action Plans
 - ◆ TA needs
 - ◆ Followup and next steps
- 3:15 p.m. **Closing Remarks and Review of Next Steps** **[Pacific Ballroom AB]**
- Josephine Robinson, Director of the Federal Office of Community Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- 3:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

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Sponsored by:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Health Resources and Services Administration
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

In partnership with:

U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service
American Public Human Services Association
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
National Association of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Directors
National Association of County and City Health Program Directors
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Conference of State Legislatures
National Governors Association
National Head Start Association
U.S. Conference of Mayors

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Breakout Session Descriptions

Day One

1. Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
2. Addressing the Health/Behavioral Health Needs of Homeless Families
3. Helping Homeless Families Meet the Educational Needs of Their School-aged and Preschool-aged Children
4. Reentry and Its Realities for Prisoners, Families, and Communities
5. Are You Getting the Recommended Daily Allotment of Federal Nutrition Dollars?

Day Two

6. Housing
7. Assisting Homeless Families with Employment Skills
8. Creative Use of Funding Mechanisms: Medicaid
9. Supporting Homeless Families and At-risk Families Through Creative Use of TANF Funds

1. Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
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Objectives:

- Identify the unique set of housing and service needs required by youths aged 18–21 who have recently exited foster care
- Present best practices and successful models of States and localities that have developed programming that serves youth aging out of foster care
- Engage the audience in a discussion of the opportunities and challenges of serving youth aging out of foster care

Content:

- Exploration of the variety of independent living program models currently being used to provide housing and services to youth aging out of foster care
- Discussion of the program typologies and the range of services offered in each program type
- Focus of the role of employment and skills training programs for youth aging out of foster care
- Presentation of a model supervised independent living program designed for youths aged 18–21

Presenters:

- Judith Dobbins, Executive Director of Covenant House, Washington, DC
- Joan McAllister, Project Director, North Carolina Independent Living Program

Moderator:

- Michael Sanders, Consultant, Columbus, Ohio

Target Audience:

- Policymakers and representatives from the State Department of Family and Children
- Policymakers and representatives from local workforce investment boards or the State Employment Agency
- Practitioners who work with youth in the foster care system

2. Addressing the Health/Behavioral Health Needs of Homeless Families
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Objectives:

- Provide information and practical application of substance abuse, mental health, and trauma issues and services
- Provide information about the primary health care needs of homeless families and children

Content:

- An overview of the health and behavioral health needs of homeless families
- Issues of homeless mothers, including health problems, barriers to care, reproductive health, mental and substance abuse disorders, and the role of trauma and violence in homelessness
- Characteristics of homeless children, including physical, emotional, and behavioral health and learning needs
- Keys to homelessness and parenting
- Issues and challenges involving funding of services, limitations on evidence-based approaches, access to mental health and substance abuse services, engaging families, prevention and early intervention concepts and care need, linkages with primary care, and cultural issues
- Systems change and responsiveness
- Emerging best or promising practices

Presenters:

- John Parvensky, President, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
- Francine Feinberg, Executive Director, Meta House, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Moderator:

- Lynnette Araki, Office of Planning and Evaluation, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Target Audience:

- Health care providers and managers
- Behavioral health providers and managers
- Policymakers who are responsible for the provision of health, mental health, and substance abuse services

3. Helping Homeless Families Meet the Educational Needs of their School-aged and Preschool-aged Children

Objectives:

- Provide an overview of Federal legislative and policy support from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act designed to eliminate educational barriers for homeless children (Pre-K–12)
- Highlight effective efforts in Orange County (California) that demonstrate how collaboration and coordination among agencies can address educational needs of homeless children
- Identify strategies to enhance collaboration and coordination among State and local agencies to support the education of homeless children

Content:

- Handouts: Introduction to educational issues related to homeless children and overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act that addresses educational barriers for homeless children
- Presentation: Introduction to the McKinney-Vento Act and illustration of model collaborations in Orange County that illustrate how community agencies, including school districts, can address the educational needs of homeless children (Pre-K–12)
- Group discussion addressing the following questions:
 - What agencies and service providers need to collaborate and coordinate efforts to address educational issues related to homeless children and youth?
 - How can coordination/collaboration be increased at State and local levels?
 - General Q&A

Presenters:

- Mary Bishop, Homeless Prevention Coordinator, County of Orange, California
- Jeanne Awrey, Student Support Services Manager, Orange County Department of Education

Moderator:

- Diana Bowman, Director, National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE, Greensboro, North Carolina

Target Audience:

- State and local administrators in programs that address the needs of homeless children, youth, and families

4. Reentry and Its Realities for Prisoners, Families, and Communities

Objectives:

- Discuss a comprehensive approach for working with ex-offenders as they transition from prison to the community (including intake and assessment, pre-employment training, HIV prevention and education, job referral and followup, support services to address substance abuse or mental health issues, housing, and family reunification)
- Discuss the impact on the family when an ex-offender transitions from prison back to the home
- Identify barriers and solutions to housing issues raised in reentry including approaches to working with housing authorities
- Identify barriers and solutions to the issues ex-offenders face regarding finding and keeping a job
- Identify federal resources available to assist jurisdictions in their reentry efforts

Content:

Nationally, over 600,000 individuals leave prisons each year to return to their families and communities. A comprehensive discharge plan is crucial to the returning offender's successful transition. Several major challenges facing a returning prisoner include housing, finding a job, substance abuse and mental health treatment, medical treatment, and issues of domestic violence and family reunification. The transition process needs to begin "behind the walls." An offender's needs must be assessed to understand adequately the challenges he/she will face upon release. At each phase of re-entry, the person's family, if appropriate, should be involved in the process.

Although there are a myriad of issues that ex-offenders face as they transition from prison to their community, key issues such as housing, employment, and family reunification can impact the success he/she will have in the community. Without a roof over his/her head and a steady paycheck, the ex-offender will have little hope of addressing other issues such as substance abuse and mental health, family, child support and child care, etc.

This session will offer attendees models of partnerships that have worked in dealing with housing, employment, and family reunification for ex-offenders. Attendees will learn about the various Federal resources that are currently available for re-entry efforts. For example, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Administration for Children and Family, Fatherhood Initiative works closely with men who are returning home from prisons and jails by providing them with the tools to successfully reintegrate with their families and children.

Presenters:

- Anthony Lowery, Safer Foundation, Chicago, Illinois
- Judy McBride, Family Justice, New York City, New York

Moderator:

- Richard Morris, U.S. Department of Labor

Target Audience:

- State-level policymakers

5. Are You Getting the Recommended Daily Allotment of Federal Nutrition Dollars?

Objectives:

- Increase awareness of the availability of funding opportunities and the use of mainstream nutrition assistance programs as a tool for helping serve families experiencing homelessness
- Highlight the local perspective regarding the use of mainstream dollars to help families experiencing homelessness
- Encourage exchange among State participants regarding approaches for using nutrition programs for families experiencing homelessness

Content:

This session will focus on various Federal nutrition programs available (1) to serve homeless families with children and their potential funding sources and (2) to provide the perspective of a service provider who uses a variety of funding sources to meet the nutritional needs of their clients. It will include:

- A description of the Federal response to hunger and Food and Nutrition Service funding available to help meet the nutritional needs of the homeless families you serve, including a discussion of:
 - The Federal response in the area of nutritional assistance and the programs administered by the Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 - Various grant programs that States can use to serve this population better

- Examples of effective use of Federal dollars to provide nutritional assistance, including:
 - A representative from AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. will share how the Foundation uses funding from the DHHS as well as the Food and Nutrition Service to provide nutritional support to their clients
- Discussion of what your State has done or would like to do and questions for speakers

Presenters:

- Vicky Robinson, Food Stamp Program at the Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Gary M. Grier, AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.

Moderator:

- Marsha Werner, Office of Community Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Target Audience:

- State administrators of nutrition programs
- Conference participants who are interested in mainstream funding opportunities
- Conference participants who work with local organizations in fighting hunger

6. Housing

Objectives:

- Participants will be able to determine the relative merits of housing development, rental assistance, or a blended strategy
- Participants will be able to describe and adapt for local/State use key elements in strategic partnerships that will support new housing opportunities for homeless families

Content:

- Exploration of housing issues, including development strategies, the use of rental assistance, and strategic partnerships to provide housing for homeless families
- Discussion of topics such as a brief overview of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other resources for housing, effective strategies for engaging and retaining homeless families in housing, and successful examples

Presenters:

- William F. Bolton, Multifamily Hub Director, Los Angeles HUD Office
- Ann Denton, Director of Housing, Advocates for Human Potential, New York Office
- Marty Fleetwood, Executive Director, HomeBase/The Center for Common Concerns, San Francisco, California
- Jim Miller, Shelter for the Homeless, Orange County, California

Moderator:

- Pat Carlile, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs Assistance, Office of Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Target Audience:

- State and local administrators in programs that are interested in addressing the mainstream housing needs related to homeless families and children and finding the best solutions to serving them

7. Assisting Homeless Families with Employment Skills

Objectives:

- Demonstrate a collaborative, comprehensive approach to assist homeless families with employment services through many and various mainstream services, including Department of Labor Programs, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and HUD
- Highlight promising practices by local service providers, One-Stop Career Centers, and community-based organizations that effectively and efficiently serve homeless families. These practices include accessing a variety of funding streams, creating a comprehensive network to serve the homeless, collaborative and referral-based case management, building community support, creating a business alliance, and promoting a step-by-step approach
- Encourage discussion and exchange among State Team participants with local and community-based organizations and employment service providers
- Assist State Teams in developing a comprehensive and collaborative strategy

Content:

- Overview of significant and effective programs who serve homeless families by promising proactive practices highlighted in objectives

Presenters:

- Kate Lyons, Associate Vice President of Programs, SEARCH, Houston, Texas
- Steve Nelson, Director of Employment Services, Pima County Community Services, Jackson Employment Center, Tucson, Arizona
- John Rio, Senior Program Associate, Advocates for Human Potential

Moderator:

- Randy Cooper, U.S. Department of Labor

Target audience:

- All State Team members in accessing employment services to help homeless achieve self-sufficiency
- Local community-based providers
- State and local employment, housing, and health services agencies
- Other participants with an interest in employment and training-related services for this population

8. Creative Use of Funding Mechanisms: Medicaid

Objectives:

- Enable State Policy Teams to recommend concrete and creative programs and mechanisms using Medicaid funding streams to better meet the needs of homeless families and children in their States

Content:

- Describe mechanisms that State Medicaid Programs can implement to expedite and improve access to Medicaid eligibility for homeless families and children
- Explain how to use Medicaid to fund mental health services
- Provide examples of how States have adopted Medicaid eligibility and mental health service provisions to benefit homeless families and children

Presenters:

- Pat Post, National Health Care for the Homeless Council
- Gary Smith, Human Services Research Institute

Moderator:

- Ronald Reepen, Region IX, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Intended Audience:

- Local community-based providers
- Administrators of State Medicaid Agencies
- Administrators of State Mental Health Agencies

9. Supporting Homeless Families and At-risk Families Through Creative Use of TANF Funds**Objectives:**

- Identify creative ways of utilizing TANF and other resources to address the prevention of, or rapid exit from, homelessness as it affects families with children
- Present best practices and successful models of States and localities that have developed programming that utilizes TANF funding to address the needs of homeless families with children
- Engage the audience in a discussion of the opportunities and challenges of utilizing TANF funds to provide services to families at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness

Content:

- Presentation of two exemplary programs that utilize TANF funds (paired with other funding sources) to deliver services to families successfully in order to prevent homelessness or ensure a rapid exit from homelessness
- Discussion of the practice of weaving TANF funds with other sources of funding to serve homeless families with children
- Focus on the particular challenge faced by rural communities with few or no homeless assistance resources
- Facilitated discussion to consider the transferability of these model programs to other States and the opportunities and challenges therein

Presenters:

- John Wagner, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance
- Crucita Nuanez-Ochoa, Director of Domestic Violence Programs, Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., Pheonix, Arizona

Moderator:

- Girley Wright, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Target Audience

- State TANF Administrators
- Participants who are interested in exploring and blending funding streams and collaborating to increase resources
- State Team members from the State Department of Family and Children Services