



## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) Youth Committee Notes

Thursday, August 27, 2020

#### **Youth Action Board (DC SHY) & YHDP Fellows:**

The SHY YAB has created a PSA video for 2020 HYC to bring awareness to the virtual HYC survey initiative. The video is complete and we are now in the editing process.

#### **DCPS Updates:**

Tierra Washington presented updates on behalf of DCPS. August 31st is the first day of school. Students will pick up devices directly from schools once enrolled. All students will have to re-enroll despite attending last year to get a device. You can visit the We are strong website (<https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/>) to alert school of student needs

- School-Based Homeless Liaison Contact List: [https://dck12-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/timothy\\_durant2\\_k12\\_dc\\_gov/EbJxSCPR-axGupRt3ZWrsUBwaQkqaJBjLIW\\_pUusecxDA?e=QdnZd7](https://dck12-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/timothy_durant2_k12_dc_gov/EbJxSCPR-axGupRt3ZWrsUBwaQkqaJBjLIW_pUusecxDA?e=QdnZd7)
- Attendance will be taken by logging into Canvas between 6 am – 11 pm
- Students can go to school-based health centers to get immunizations
  - List: <https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/school-based-health-centers>
- Parenting University Workshops hosted by DCPS to help youth understand their role in virtual learning and steps to navigate the learning experience virtually
  - Parent University Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/c/dc-public-schools-parent-university-universidad-para-padres-cwwxfgp--HICuoIZ2J8au/>
- Internet access: Last Year devices were not LTE enabled; this year students will receive devices with LTE. Students will not need internet access to log in; students with devices will receive hotspots.
- Kids Ride Free cards will remain active until September. After September they will need to get a new one; can get a Smart Trip from the liaison until they receive the new card.
- Expanding the meal sites; currently have 29:  
[https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/coronavirus/page\\_content/attachments/Meal-Sites-Revised-8262020.pdf](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/coronavirus/page_content/attachments/Meal-Sites-Revised-8262020.pdf)

#### **Youth System Transitional Housing Overview:**

The majority of the meeting focused on presentations from 3 transitional housing providers

##### Sasha Bruce ILP Overview

- The Independent Living Program provides temporary housing for homeless youth.
- Currently serving 12 youth; over the past year, 22 clients have been served. (Co-ed age range: 18-24). – Program located in Ward 6
- Wheelchair accessible
- ILP features apartment-style living, each youth has their own room and may share a common area. – 4 of the 8 units have double occupancy

- Sasha Bruce ILP addresses factors that lead to homelessness such as, substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health issues, family conflict, educational and behavioral challenges, and a lack of independent living skills.
- ILP Program is staffed 24 hrs (with security) – youth are given access to the property by using the intercom.
- The ILP goal is to assist youth in the following areas:
  - Finding stable housing
  - Obtaining and maintaining employment
  - Getting a high school diploma/GED or participate in post-secondary education or vocational skills.
  - Reuniting with their families
  - Gaining self-sufficiency skills.
  - Stabilizing mental health, substance abuse, and other issues
- Intake: TB Test Required Prior to Entry or After, SPDAT/Biopsychosocial Assessments are conducted, program rules are reviewed, ROIs are requested for all organizations or agencies that youth are currently engaged with – entered into HMIS/Sasha Bruce system, Confidentiality forms are reviewed with the client, and Copies are made of vital documents.
- Case Management: Case managers ensure the SBY Intake form is completed by participants within 48 hours, Individual case plans are created to be flexible to the goals of participants.
- Resources Provided by ILP: food, laundry, transportation, cell phone, wifi, etc
- Curfew: 9 PM for the first 30 days in program; after 11 PM (weekdays)/ 1 AM (weekends)
- Visitation: Sundays – Thursdays from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm; Fridays & Saturdays from 11:00 am – 10:00 pm. (No overnight guests)
- Program Exits: 9 youth have exited the program
  - 67% permanent
  - 11% internal transfer
  - 22% terminated
- Mental Health: ILP requires additional mental health support.
  - 14% of participants have mental health needs documented in HMIS, but all youth in ILP have experienced trauma

#### Wanda Alston House Overview:

- The Wanda Alston Foundation (WAF) is a Transitional living program 18/mo (Ward 7)
- Target population: LGBTQ Youth (18-24)
- Focus Areas: case management, life skills training, connections to medical, and mental health care, job, and school support
- Program includes a living/shared living arrangements with a combination of single and double rooms for up to 8 youth. (Common areas shared)
- Program provides:
  - 24-hour staffing and security, which includes House Monitors, Operations Director, and Case Managers.
  - Three meals per day, clothing, and toiletries.
  - Access to washer/dryer, a computer lab, and access to the internet/WiFi
  - Financial support to students
  - Fare cards or LYFT/Uber rides as needed for school, appointments, and employment to help our youth reach independent living.
- Intake: DHS intake form completed. Program rules are reviewed, intake documents are completed, individual service plans are developed

- Youth are required to be employed or in school
- All of our youth are required to participate in Case Management.
- Curfews: Can vary from resident to resident.
- Visitation: Allowed at certain hours and only in common areas within our facility.
- Average Length of Stay: 1 year
- Mental Health: 100% of youth matched to WAF have a mental health diagnosis.
- Outcomes:
- 70% successful completion
- 30% unsuccessful in completion (4 residence terminated)

#### Casa Ruby 1 Overview:

- Casa Ruby is an LGBTQ bilingual and multiracial organization in the Washington DC metropolitan area that provides social services and programs to the most vulnerable in the city and surrounding areas.
- The program includes 10 beds (3 rooms – 3 bunks/2 single) located in Ward 1
- Participants are provided: 3 meals a day, laundry facility, access to home phone, and an onsite computer. (WiFi access disabled for participant use)
- Intake Process: Youth are to engage with case management within 24 hours of entry, review program rules, ROI form completion is requested, and TB Test Required Prior to Entry or After
- Case Management: Engagement is case by case depending on participant need
- Curfews: 10 PM ET (Exceptions made for work)
- Visitation Policy: Before 10 PM – prior notice requested
- Outcomes:
  - Average Length of Stay: 9 months
  - 0 clients have successfully exited the program – 5 Terminations

#### **Agency and Partner Updates:**

- CFSA: No update to report.
- DHS: releasing a NOFA and RFA for LGBTQ ETH and TGNC Workforce development program (see below)
- Youth HOPE is hosting a virtual job fair; also taking referrals during the pandemic.
- DBH: RFA released for a vendor to serve Wayne Place locate on the CFSA website; restarting youth council and looking for youth 16-25 to join send inquiries to [jamie.price@dc.gov](mailto:jamie.price@dc.gov).
- DOC: holds town halls with communities' partners and government partners; READY Center participation is virtual; call the main number for triage; all partners still providing services except DOES
- DYRS: No update to report.
- OSSE: working on training dates for liaisons to receive training from partners around awareness.
- OVSJG: partnering with different non-profits to come for work on delinquencies . Released a new RFP that will launch a pilot Re-Entry program for males. (See attachment)
- Re-Engagement: offices are still closed but staff is providing telework support; on-line referral form is live and online chat function is live (<https://backontrackdc.osse.dc.gov/>)
- Community Engagement Group: looking to convene a listening session around the reopening of the MLK Library (October 24th) to strategize re services
- SBY Strengthening Foundations: still looking for partners who have a youth interested in family reunification

- TCP: 2020 HYC September 18-26th; please direct questions to Molly Vetter or Kelley Paton with TCP; Youth count is virtual this year.
- LAYC: Behavioral Health Services for Homeless Youth Program provides Case Management, Mental Health, and Substance use; contact Tyvon@layc-dc.org and [Dora@layc-dc.org](mailto:Dora@layc-dc.org), population age is 17-24
- CSW: update provided on youth successes.

**Important Dates to Flag:**

- NOFA's are available for the *FY 21 Workforce Development Program for Transgender, Non-Binary and Gender Non-Conforming Youth* **AND** *FY21 Homeless LGBTQ Youth Extended Transitional Housing Program* [here](#).
- Email Mariah Green, DHS Program Analyst- [mariah.green@dc.gov](mailto:mariah.green@dc.gov) if you have any questions.

**Summary and Adjournment**