

Department of Human Services
Child Welfare Report to the Legislature on Runaway and Homeless Youth
Oregon Revised Statute 417.799

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is submitting this report to the Legislature as required by ORS 417.799 Runaway and Homeless Youth, a result of House Bill 2232 enacted in the 2015 Legislative Session. This report provides a status of the system of services and supports for Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) developed by DHS, and information about the committee appointed to advise and provide expertise to DHS related to the needs of Runaway and Homeless Youth in Oregon.

Program Updates

The department has engaged several approaches to develop the system in Oregon for Runaway and Homeless Youth:

- A. Learning Opportunities
- B. Services
- C. Homeless Youth Advisory Council
- D. Additional Outreach

A. Learning Opportunities:

In November 2016, DHS supported individuals associated with three private Oregon RHY providers to participate in the West Coast Convening (WCC), a series of day and a half sessions involving government and program staff from the states of Oregon, Washington, and California. In addition, members of the Multnomah County Homeless Youth Continuum, of which there are also participants on Oregon’s Homeless Youth Advisory Council (HYAC), were in attendance. This semi-annual gathering took place in San Diego and was held to discuss issues around serving homeless youth with a focus on the West Coast commonalities among the states.

November 2016 West Coast Convening presentations included:

- Trauma Informed Research and Policies
- National Initiatives & Updates
 - Homeless Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey Team
 - MANY
 - Runaway and Homeless Youth Awareness Month
 - A Way Home America

Following the 2016 WCC, HYAC member, Caitlin Campbell with the Multnomah County Homeless Youth Continuum (MCHYC), reported that MCHYC started implementing a research tool for predictors of long-term homelessness into their centralized screening. This tool was created and presented at the November gathering by WCC leader, Eric Rice from the University of Southern California. Multnomah County has been gathering preliminary data since implementation in late 2016 and will be looking at scores to determine what services were provided and whether or not the proposed the outcomes were achieved. This data will assist in understanding and eventually shaping the provision of proactive service packages with homeless youth upon initial contact.

In April 2017, the WCC occurred in San Jose, CA and the RHY Program was able to send three different service providers to participate.

April 2017 West Coast Convening presentations included:

- Youth with Foster Care History and Legal Updates
- Innovative Housing and Working with Housing Developers
 - Housing Trust
 - Eden Housing
- Homelessness and Higher Education
 - California Homeless Youth Project
 - Bernard School of Education
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Workshop – YouthCare

- Anticipated Impacts and Strategies under new Presidential Administration
 - A Way Home America
 - Janus Youth Programs

The next WCC will be in Seattle in November 2017.

DHS continues to manage the Oregon Programs serving Runaway and Homeless Youth Listserv to advertise future trainings, funding opportunities, and other information pertinent to this population. Some training opportunities that were attended by Listserv members and shared on the Listserv include:

- Promoting Pathways to Long-Term Success for Systems-Involved Youth
- Paving the Way to College for Students Experiencing Homelessness
- Youth Transition: The High School Years
- Alameda's Youth Transition Partnership: Creating Pathways to Services
- Hidden in Plain Sight: Homeless Students in America's Public Schools
- Supporting the Education of Unaccompanied Homeless Students under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Determining McKinney-Vento Eligibility: Changes under ESSA

DHS has presented training and information sessions with increasing frequency. Some presentations include:

- August 2017 – Piecing Community Together Event (Yamhill County)
- July 2017 – Housing for Transition Age Youth / Emerging Adults (Yamhill County)
- July 2017 – Homeless Youth Oversight Committee (Multnomah County)
- June 2017 – Oregon Housing and Community Services
- May 2017 – Oregon Housing Stability Council
- May 2017 – Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (Lane County)
- September 2016 – Fall Industry Support Conference
- August 2016 – Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA) Summit

B. Service Updates

At the June 2016, Homeless Youth Advisory Council (HYAC) meeting, a decision was made to distribute approximately \$200,000 in unallocated DHS RHY funds. DHS staff reached out to RHY programs to notify them of the funding opportunity and requirements. All programs funded at the time, were given the opportunity to apply for an additional \$20,000. They were required to submit financial statements and narratives in by late August, outlining how they anticipated using the additional funds to better serve youth. The HYAC made recommendations for funding all of the proposals submitted and contract amendments were finalized in October 2016.

Following the 2017 Legislative Session and the determination that the RHY budget was going to remain at its current funding level, the HYAC had discussions about utilization for 2017-2019. The HYAC recommended that DHS continue to contract with the providers currently serving Runaway and Homeless Youth under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. Beginning on July 1, 2017, contract amendments were executed to continue services through January 31, 2019. The following Runaway and Homeless Services continue to be provided through 25 contracts with 14 different providers:

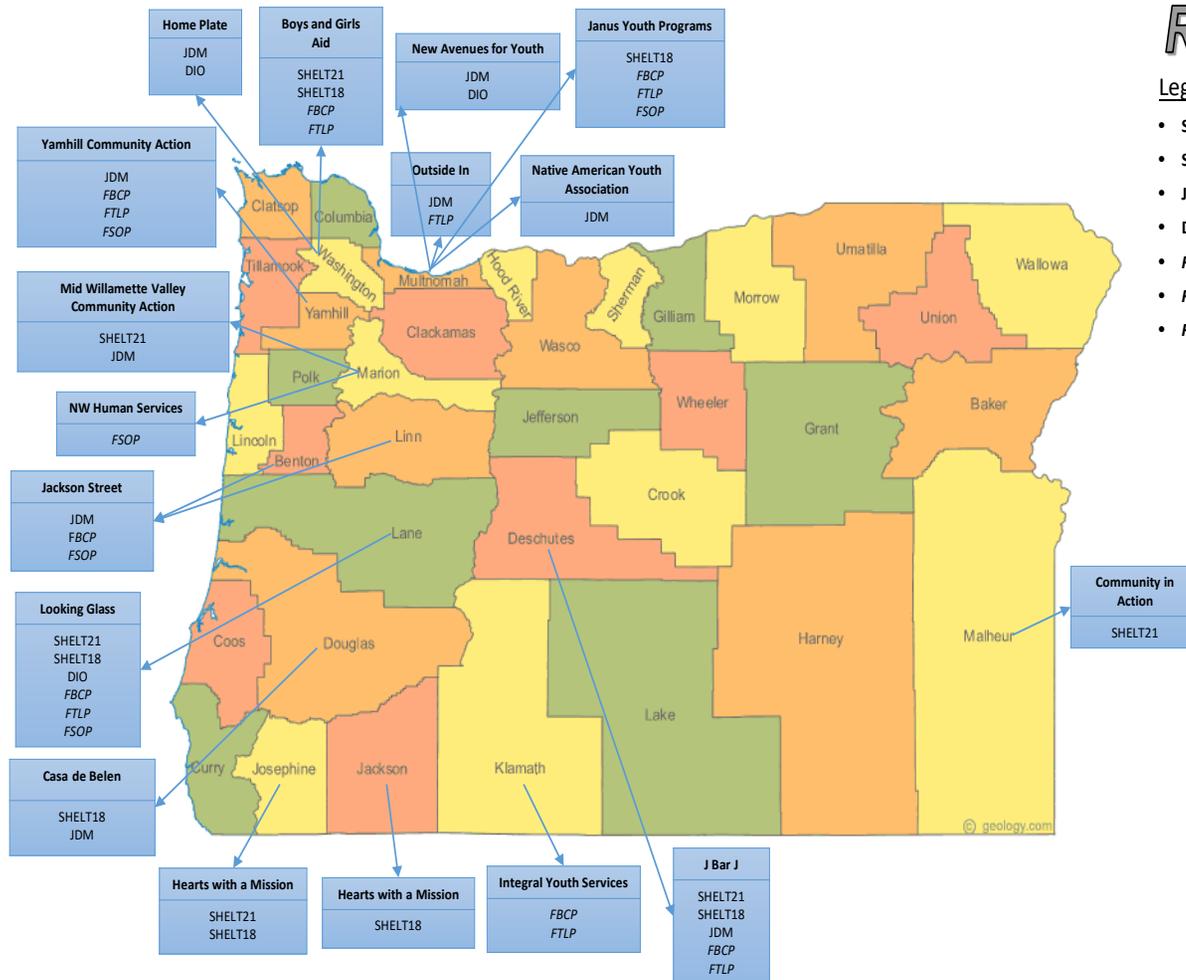
- Overnight Shelter Services (serving unaccompanied minors 18 years old and under)
- Overnight Shelter Services (serving youth and young adults up to age 21)
- Drop in Day Facility and Outreach Services (serving unaccompanied minors 18 years old and under)
- Job Development / Mentoring

Though unchanged from 2016, the following map shows where State funded programs are located, as well as where the federally-funded Basic Center, Transitional Living, and Street Outreach Programs exist throughout the state. Federally funded programs could soon shift as the grant cycles for Basic Center and Street Outreach are coming to a close and proposals for future funding have been submitted. It is anticipated that the Federal Office of Administration for Children and Families will make selections by September 30, 2017. Additionally, the federal Transitional Living grant cycle is coming to a close in April 2018.

RHY Programs

Legend:

- SHEL21 = Shelter – Under 21
- SHEL18 = Shelter – Under 18
- JDM = Job Development/Mentoring
- DIO = Drop In & Outreach
- FBCP = Federally Funded Basic Center Program
- FTLF = Federally Funded Transitional Living Program
- FSOP = Federally Funded Street Outreach Program



Updated 6/2016



In January 2017, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced \$33 million in funding for a Youth Homeless Demonstration Project supporting 10 communities across the country committed to ending youth homelessness. One hundred thirty communities submitted applications, including at least three from Oregon.

Though no entities from Oregon were selected, HUD announced that some unfunded proposals would receive Training and Technical Assistance, which happily included a group consisting of 8 counties from the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care (ROCC) serving Marion, Polk, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Klamath, Harney, and Malheur counties.

C. Homeless Youth Advisory Council (HYAC)

The Homeless Youth Advisory Council is charged with advising DHS regarding policies and procedures that address statewide planning for delivery of services to Runaway and Homeless Youth and their families. Since the last report, the HYAC has met 3 times - January 2017, April 2017, and June 2017. The October 2016 HYAC was postponed due to DHS’s RHY coordinator experiencing extended unplanned parental leave.

HYAC meetings are scheduled to continue throughout the remainder of 2017 and all of 2018 with a goal to build upon a strategic plan for the establishment of a sustainable statewide system for homeless children and youth. Member participation has been varied over the past year and the current membership of the HYAC is as follows:

Representative	System Representation
Janet Arenz	Oregon Alliance for Children’s Programs
Dona Bolt	Department of Education – Homeless Youth
Jamie Broadbent	DHS – Supervisor: Commercially Sexually Exploited Children
Caitlin Campbell	Multnomah County – Homeless Youth Continuum
Jennifer Denning	Community Colleges and Workforce Development
Kevin George	DHS – Program Manager Child Well Being
Kevin Lamson	Hearts with a Mission
Jean Lasater	Oregon Health Authority –Mental Health
Jamie McKay or rep	Oregon Youth Authority
Matt Rasmussen	DHS – RHY Program Coordinator
Claire Seguin or rep	Oregon Housing and Community Services
Anya Sekino	Youth Development Division ODE

Kate Stokes	Yamhill Community Action Agency
Vera Stoulil	Boys and Girls Aid – Oregon Alliance for Children’s Programs
Daryl Turner	Portland Police Association
Jo Zimmer	Rural Oregon Continuum of Care

HYAC Meeting Agenda Highlights:

January 2017:

- Updates on:
 - Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Youth Demonstration Grant and Oregon’s submissions
 - West Coast Convening – San Diego
 - School Homeless Data
- Presentations by:
 - 211info
 - Oregon Housing and Community Services
- Subcommittee Workgroup Review and Planning (see below)
- Budget and Legislative Planning for 2017-2019

April 2017:

- Updates on:
 - Grant Amendments
 - Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)
 - Oregon Housing Stability Council presentation
 - West Coast Convening – San Jose
 - 211 Contract and extension
- Subcommittee Review and Future Planning (see below)
- Budget and Legislative Planning for 2017-2019

June 2017:

- Updates on:
 - Legislative Session results
 - RHY Budget
 - Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) meetings
 - Oregon Housing Stability Council future planning
 - Data Outcomes Project Workgroup
 - Planning for potential Spring 2018 Spring RHY Conference

The next HYAC is scheduled to take place on September 19, 2017 at Looking Glass Youth & Family Services in Eugene.

HYAC workgroups were formed to address needs:

In March 2016, DHS entered into a contract with an independent consultant with topical expertise in homelessness, affordable housing, poverty and social equity to consolidate a number of reports and provide research and analysis, to help inform policy/program development for Oregon’s Runaway and Homeless Youth strategic plan. This comprehensive document highlights the causes and characteristics of youth homelessness, and the types of services and interventions that are needed to address this growing issue. The document was ratified by the Homeless Youth Advisory Council at the quarterly meeting held on July 29, 2016, and a “Call to Action” cover letter was added.

These documents can be accessed here: http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/OSHC/docs/HSC-2017/2%20-%20Apr%2C%20May%2C%20Jun/Runaway-Homeless-Youth-Overview_Strategic-Framework.pdf

At the culmination of this project, two workgroups were created addressing two priorities: “State-level Framework and Resources” and “System Components, Alignment and Supports”.

Beginning in October 2016, these two workgroups met to discuss and assign specific tasks generated from HYAC input and strategic planning needs. Workgroups met again in March 2017.

- State-Level Framework and Resources Workgroup Action Items
 - Significantly increase the state’s resource allocation to Runaway and Homeless Youth services, starting with the 2017-19 biennium.
 - Create a state Office of Homeless and Runaway Youth that is responsible and accountable for meeting the needs of runaway and homeless youth, ages 12-24 throughout Oregon, and that has the resources and authority to provide leadership on this issue.
 - Ensure that every Oregon county has a designated local agency or collaborative that is responsible and accountable for the well-being of homeless and runaway youth in that county.
 - Provide resources to support the development and implementation of local plans that are tailored to reflect each community’s unique needs, capacities, and circumstances within a coordinated statewide framework of core services and strategies.
 - Structure state funding so that it supports communities’ ability to define their own priorities and collaborative approaches within a coordinated statewide framework of core services and strategies. Minimize the administrative burdens of applying for and administering the funding.
 - Create a funding mechanism that enables runaway and homeless youth to be served in the settings and systems that will best meet their needs. Reimburse RHY shelters and transitional housing for caring for youth who are better served in those settings than in foster care, juvenile justice, or other systems.

- System Components, Alignment, and Supports Workgroup Action Items
 - Create a multi-agency coordinating council with accountability for strengthening coordination and alignment among all state agencies that come into contact with homeless youth, including Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Youth Authority, Youth Development Council, and Oregon Health Authority.
 - Work with schools, 211, Continuums of Care, and other partners to create effective systems to connect youth in crisis with information about available services. This includes improved marketing and dissemination of existing sources of information such as 211’s mobile app.

- Work with ODE to increase the resources and capacity of schools to provide early intervention and connect homeless youth to services. This includes increased counselor, staff and teacher training, increased district liaison FTE, and better connections and partnerships with community organizations.
- Make it easier to create host homes and to allow people willing to take in a homeless youth on a temporary basis to do so while ensuring youth safety. Provide host training, support and safety standards.

Progress on the Workgroup Action Items:

DHS has started initial conversations with other states that have a dedicated office and/or multiple staff committed specifically to homeless youth (Washington, Minnesota, Colorado), as well as non-profit entities who have partnered with states in creating such offices. Initial feedback has been that Oregon's current State RHY system is not funded or staffed at appropriate levels to meet the needs of Runaway and Homeless Youth in the state, and that the location of the program within DHS may also be problematic, inhibiting the necessary growth of the program.

Over the past year, partnerships and alignment between local collaboratives and DHS' RHY program have been constructed. For example, a proposal for the Federal Youth Demonstration projects created collaboration between eight counties (Marion, Polk, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Klamath, Harney, and Malheur) and multiple providers in each county, as well as with DHS RHY. This sort of partnership falls in line with the Strategic Plan work toward the creation of a local collaborative that is responsive to Runaway and Homeless Youth needs in each community.

In May 2017, discussions began between DHS, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and a Technical Assistance (TA) provider from ICF International, the primary contact for Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) TA in Oregon, to explore streamlining a process for the submission of data. Many of DHS's RHY grantees utilize HMIS for reporting as they use it for other grants they manage. Additionally, Continuums of Care are mandated to select a HMIS software solution that complies with HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards. As a result, DHS has been engaging in discussions with the HMIS System Administrator at ServicePoint, the HMIS System selected by Oregon, to better understand the system from a statewide level, discuss data and reporting capabilities, and determine if this would be valuable for DHS RHY

programs for reporting. Follow-up conversations with the HYAC and service providers have been ongoing, and HMIS will be presenting at a future HYAC to discuss additional details.

In June 2017, a RHY Program Evaluation Workgroup was created to review and re-evaluate the current data collection protocol for State and/or Federally funded RHY providers in Oregon, utilizing existing outcomes and indicators as a starting point for creating a simple and effective strategy and logic model for measuring impact across agencies. Having a streamlined understanding of the desired outcomes of youth and young adults, as well as a consistent reporting directive, should lead to a better evaluation of services. Boys & Girls Aid Society, a Portland RHY contractor, provided their Director of Research and Evaluation to organize and lead this process. These protocol reviews will occur on an ongoing basis and the next workgroup is scheduled to meet in August 2017.

DHS is working with its Office of Business Intelligence (OBI) to create a cost allocation formula for 1) better determining what Oregon's RHY budget should be, by taking into account true costs to create and run RHY programs, and 2) better understanding how much financial investment local areas should be committed to achieve the full continuum of RHY services. DHS has compiled specific state and county-wide demographics, predictive homeless data, and multiple sources of homeless youth counts. OBI is in the process of developing a formula.

System Components, Alignment, and Supports Workgroup

- Create a multi-agency coordinating council with accountability for strengthening coordination and alignment among all state agencies that come into contact with homeless youth, including Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Youth Authority, Youth Development Council, and Oregon Health Authority.

In May 2017, DHS was able to present in front of the Oregon Housing Stability Council (OHSC), an action item developed through RHY workgroups. As a step towards the creation of a multi-agency coordinating council, the workgroup wanted to first ensure input from local entities who would be responsible for coordinating and aligning services for RHY. The OHSC is housed under Oregon Housing and Community Services and sets policy,

approves or disapproves rules and standards for programs, approves or disapproves loan and grant applications, and carries out the provisions of assisting with some tasks touching upon RHY needs:

- Stimulating and increasing the supply of housing for persons and families of lower income
- Addressing geographic and racial disparities
- Ensuring funds distributed by the Housing and Community Services Department contribute to addressing other state priorities.
- Providing financing for the construction or rehabilitation of housing;
- Subsidizing new or existing housing costs for lower income households by income support, tax credit, or support service methods;
- In conjunction with the Community Action Partnership of Oregon, ensuring the coordination of state agency homelessness relief efforts.

The HYAC will be working on a more detailed presentation and returning with information and recommendations to the OHSC in late 2017, dependent on agenda availability.

D. Additional Outreach

DHS has continued its contract with 211Info. This partnership, began in September 2015 and resulted in Professional Information and Referral Specialists from 211Info developing, launching, and maintaining a mobile app that includes resource lists and GPS-enabled maps for shelter, medical care, and food for youth who may be homeless or in need of basic services. Additionally, 211Info and DHS are working on a potential development of a mapping tool utilizing information from their app and database. Recently, a decision was made to continue the contract with 211Info to maintain and update the app through June 30, 2018. There have been approximately 20,000 downloads/installs by users since the apps inception. Updates on the design (mapping, search, and customization) continue to be improved and 211Info's database continues to grow.

The Office of Licensing and Regulatory Oversight (OLRO) through DHS is responsible for licensing and oversight of Child Caring Agencies, which includes standards and requirements for maintaining Homeless, Runaway, and

Transitional Living shelters. OLRO has been in discussions with specific providers desiring to create Host Homes, a new service model. DHS does not currently license this type of setting. In an effort to further this conversation and explore options, plans are in place for the OLRO staff to present at upcoming HYAC meetings as well as distributing information via Listserv and any upcoming RHY conferences in Oregon.

DHS connected with Washington's Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, which is housed under the Department of Commerce. They were established in 2015, and through lots of advocacy, vocal stakeholders, and engaged philanthropic partners, their program is becoming more robust. Information was shared regarding their services, budget (over \$20 million/biennium), internal staffing levels (3 full-time staff), and future planning. A decision was made to be partners in collaboration as both States continue to expand the focus on youth homelessness.

As a result of the meeting with Washington's RHY program, DHS connected with A Way Home America and their newly formed collaboration between states doing work with runaway and homeless youth. DHS staff attended their first collaborative meeting on March 2, 2017 and connections were started with the states of Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Connecticut, as well as non-profits (Center for Social Innovation, True Colors Fund, Raikes Foundation) and funding entities (Melville Charitable Trust, Funders Together to End Homelessness). These meetings are anticipated to meet with more frequency in 2017-2018.

Additional information may be provided upon request.

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