

Surviving Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Committee
Donut Holes Subcommittee Notes
7/21/2020

10:10 AM- 11:00AM

Molly Knipe discusses how the YWCA Anne Arundel County has been affected by the pandemic.

- YWCA is one of most comprehensive domestic violence resources in MD.
- YWCA had to check the phone line because they thought the phone lines were working.
 - Many people assumed that YWCA and other supportive services were closed due to everything else being closed.
 - Had to put out a PSA saying they were still open.
 - Once we hit Phase 2, calls started to go up again.
 - As of July 8th, using half of safehouse rooms so staff can safely socially distance. Now full.
 - YWCA lost 500k during the pandemic and needed to make it up in about 6 weeks.
 - Will feel a bigger hit in FY 22. There will be a massive reduction in Victims of Crime Act.
 - Providers need to be thinking ahead to future fiscal years
 - Knipe explains that even if clients are being taken care of, we need to ensure that the staff of these organizations are getting their needs met during this pandemic as well. Staff cannot help clients as efficiently if they are also struggling.

Betsey Tolentino- Department of Juvenile Services

- Maintaining a continuity of services during the pandemic.
- Putting in place intentional efforts to be mindful of young people being placed in facilities. Is there a way they can be supervised in the home?
- These facilities are dangerous with respect to the virus.
- Many programs had to make a quick shift at the beginning of the pandemic so they could continue their programs and operations.
- Even if the juvenile is taken care of, many of their families still struggling
 - DJS placed a resource person in each county who knows all the places families can access food, testing or other community based support services they may need during this time.
 - Allowing families to bond with children in the facilities. Ex: virtual cooking classes.
- One good opportunity: Before the pandemic, many youth on the eastern shore could not get access to behavioral health. But during the pandemic it was easier to get in touch with all young people across the state because everything was virtual (telehealth).
 - Still some barriers: access to internet (some foundations provided hotspots), also there is a different dynamic in therapy when it is virtual v. in person.

Bernard Keels- discusses his work with students.

- When pandemic started affecting campuses, it was discovered that many students did not have internet services or lived in food deserts. Going to campus was a big sense of stability for them.
- Many are feeling helpless.
- How can we reach these people in a survey?
- Many students do not have a practical way of accessing resources even if they are available.
 - Ex: when pandemic started, Morgan State started providing emergency food services on Fridays.
 - The problem: many students fell outside the cracks of who the service was advertised to.
 - Program will continue in the fall which is good because many students will be commuting, and many do not have access to food at home. Need dining hall services.

Future long term goal: finding a way to fix the problem of students losing their school enrollment when they get placed in facilities.

- Delegate Bartlett wants to propose mandatory remote learning when children are suspended or out for medical reasoning.

10:49 SURVEY

- We need a list of stakeholders to send the survey to
- Laura will create a google doc under our spreadsheet- please list stakeholders and contact information there.

Any more checkboxes we can add under **Reason For Seeking Services?**

- Add an option for Family/Partner violence.
 - Is there a way to include people who may be living with someone abusive but they are not family or a partner?
- Food insecure
- emergency cash assistance.
- Medical benefits
- Financial Benefits
- Lack of internet?

Included non-binary under **gender**.

Under **current living situation**- Add student housing or lack of student housing

- Should we add temporary housing with an unrelated individual or party?

Included Non-traditional housing with extenuating circumstances

For the youth population- how can we get this survey out to them? There are administrative barriers.

We need to still add more for immigration/documentation

- Many are fearful of services or even going to court for abuse because of their immigration status.

- Deportation, custody issues/fears?
- Medical issues. - Many undocumented immigrants wait until they need to go to the ER. However, there are ER issues not with the pandemic because not everyone can go in together.
- What is the best way to reach the undocumented population?

Next Steps: Shelly will be getting the researchers our new revisions. Keep brainstorming more stakeholders and feel free to edit the survey and add questions and comments.

Next meeting: Tuesday 7/28/2020 at 12:00 PM