

# UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH TASK FORCE

**Should have at meetings and/or speak to:**

**Ideal: Mayors, Council Members, School Boards, Police, Service Providers  
And YOUTH from these communities who are on the homelessness continuum**

**Have Data for next meeting:**

Schools involved in Teens Alone  
Police department runaway numbers  
The Bridge emergency shelter numbers by zip codes  
Bridge emergency statistics  
85% go back to where they ran from  
700 kids/per year

**How do you quantify this when the population is so determined to stay underground?**

**Ideal: Add homelessness questions to MN Youth Survey for 2007**

**Beth Holger:**

Formerly with Bridge/ Avenues for Homeless Youth  
Now with state supported initiatives

Similar elements lead to homelessness in kids as in adults:

Mental health, a lack of living wages, the dearth of affordable housing, chemical dependency...but child protection/welfare particularly impacts kids...foster care, juvenile delinquency, abuse and neglect

**Who is working in this area? Are they talking to each other?**

Faith based groups, schools, counties, cities, the state, non-profits

Feds: Continuum of Cares through HUD

A regional approach is required

Unaccompanied homeless youth to be given voice and position at the table...

This is one of the interests of the feds

Family homeless programs state wide for prevention and assistance

Says family...but this is inclusive of youth too

7 million/2 years

**mhfa.state.mn.us**

State agency collaborative/Task force

Laura Cadwell is director

**Homelessness definition:**

**Consecutive for one year**

**Or three times in four years (many of our youth fit this criteria)**

HUD needs to designate funds specifically for youth

With chemical dependency and mental health services provided directly in the shelter

Asked for 1 million to be earmarked for housing...

But got 200K for the state and 40K for St Paul  
supportive housing...vs. permanent housing...not just emergency shelter

### **Archdale/ Youthlink**

Single room occupancy  
30% income has to go for rent  
Don't have high level support services on site  
24 units children ok for 3-4 of these  
14<sup>th</sup> and Nicollet

### **Rich Wayman...(Streetworks Collaborative) Youth Advancement Act**

benefits for youth, child welfare changes for the kids that continually fall thru the cracks,  
emancipation for minors, specific appropriations for youth housing, state should require  
permanent funding for housing, juvenile detention and delinquency reform....advisory  
board...collaborative across communities of service, and inclusive of service providers, policy  
makers, funders and kids that are being served

**Get behind this!**

### **Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless**

**Minnesota Youth Services Agency**...but providers of services only here...need to broaden the  
voices around the table

Families, adults, youth tend to be splintered as service categories  
Probably need to collaborate...especially on 18-24 year olds

Cost effective numbers required by Republican leaders

Baseline data and outcome measures

**Cost benefit analysis should be one of our goals locally**

Nationally at a meeting in Washington DC, the figure was **42-45K cost to house an adolescent  
in juvenile detention for one year.**

**12k to house a teen in transitional housing for a year**

Systems change vs. a simple focus on only direct services

Consider the positive impact of maintaining youth in foster care until 21

There is no pay from federal funders after age 18 however...Illinois does this anyway.

### **Rachel Callahan from MN Coalition for the Homeless:**

Some dedicated resources already exist

Housing trust fund

Minnesota housing fund

Deed tax funded...

Definition met by youth probably in the three times/four years category

### **Concrete, action steps:**

Local media...PSA...letters to the editor

Know the statutes...learn your resources...be creative

Small but manage-able goals/timeline/ownership people  
Watching one paper...writing editorials  
Watching feds...sex trafficking..  
Watching the legislature

**Grassroots movement built in a series of practical and vision driven steps...**

Taskforce  
dedicated and reliable folk  
wide spectrum  
many sectors  
covering our served communities  
covering our served schools  
policy/legislative folk  
advocacy people...children's defense fund, congregations concerned for children,  
joint religious legislative coalition

**Youth themselves...24 plus who are no longer homeless themselves  
talking to legislature face to face...powerful**

**2003 monies for homeless youth was cut significantly**

was in the form of block grants for counties...choices in how to spend  
There is some money if you've been in child protection/juvenile detention  
71% have been part of the child protection system in the cities  
We know that when they emerge from our systems they are not doing well..

(Kathryn Blatz??? Now off of the Supreme Court...very passionate about making the child protection service sector work for kids...)

**Families in chaos...**in our communities...this is a more typical point of departure  
Versus the exit model being thru child protection or juvenile justice

**Common Bond...**

four units...single bedroom units available in 2006  
permanent housing...not transitional  
**Kim Voss, Interfaith Wayzata (resides in Eden Prairie)**

Overall goal to reunite families  
But what percentage are successful...  
Brenda/Bridge...many can be successful after transitional housing  
Mpls transitional/supportive housing units have expanded significantly in 2005

**"they can come home if they can follow the rules"...  
parents won't bless them as homeless  
much less sign them over to access services**

Difficult to quantify this

Forty people in Wayzata middle school that came to hear Rob Ward  
38 had participated in housing a non legal guardian/blood relative

One young man was interested in staying in school here...Dad had been transferred to San Francisco...with dad gone...the one authority that the boy will adhere to...  
Several months of residence is the norm, and then these informal relationships tire...

**Models and partnerships:**

Transitional site housing/scattered site/a **continuum of housing support**  
**CCHT**...Allan...changed goals to serve communities outside of core cities  
**Common Bond**

**“Don’t want the social worker to know that I am couch hopping...cause I think that I will get in trouble”**... even if that isn’t true

**Perception...there is no homelessness in suburban areas**

Michelle from Wilder...interested in expanding **Wilder Survey**  
MN Youth Survey add on questions about precariousness of housing;  
To establish a baseline, to chart the topography of the problem,  
To raise awareness, to eventually document positive outcomes,  
And to generate data for funding and policy initiatives.

Typical scenario:

Stress point deepens

Want her out

Want her gone

But won’t sign papers

Continually kicked out...comes home...kicked out

Shame factor...resistance from families...won’t allow access

Advocate for reunification...

A real barrier that we have no option for emancipated minor...no formal process...

Empowered to advocate for themselves

**Flow diagram would be helpful**

**Voices at the table:**

Mayors

City councils

In the past we have sent something...**send someone now**

Regions and ages and genders would be identified

**Closing commentaries:**

Very involved in service delivery

But still not aware of what is available

50-70 kids in teens alone that would fit the 3 times in four years criteria

Randy Thompson (EP Police):

Some kids/families only have relationships with the police  
they might be the only service sector that is aware/available

What is best for this kid in this situation...they're not going to be waving a big flag...

**Articulate and prioritize specific goals:**

Community and youth education

Funding

Advocacy

Continuum of housing

**Collect the local data**

**Flow chart the populations, the processes, the resources, the funding**

**January 10<sup>th</sup> is next meeting**

**It is all of our responsibility to pass emails on and around to people with interest and passion and expertise.**

Second Tuesday of every month

7:30AM

Room 213B Eisenhower