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THE STUDY & ADVANCEMENT OF JUSTICE EFFECTIVENESS

Report of a Research to Practice Partnership to Develop the Youth Housing Stability Model for Juvenile Courts

Accelerating Progress in the Justice System

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Executive Summary

Homeless youth experience elevated risks for a variety of maladaptive social, health, and legal outcomes. Among these are higher rates of physical and sexual victimization, drug use exposure, mental health need, and justice-system contact. More than 75% of homeless youth will have contact with police, with more than 50% experiencing arrest. Because of the high proportion of homeless youth who experience justice-system contact, there is currently significant interest in developing policies and programs to minimize this contact while providing youth with the necessary supports and services to remain housed.

The development team used a participatory approach with two juvenile courts to develop a court-based strategy for preventing youth homelessness: The Youth Housing Stability (YHS) model for juvenile courts. The team used Intervention Mapping with local, interdisciplinary workgroups to assess needs and develop outcome targets, map the existing research literature to these needs, and used local data to estimate feasibility and impact.

Key findings from these activities were synthesized into a final model. These findings included the following:

- Homelessness services across counties are variable and fragmented, with availability and scope largely dictated by funding, licensure, and the geographic placement of service providers. An effective prevention model will need to address these system challenges in addition to supporting specific programs for youth and families.
- Very few evidence-based programs are designed to address youth homelessness. However, existing programs which address risk factors for youth homelessness (e.g., home conflict) are likely to work well with this population. Only one such program (Functional Family Therapy) is available to court-involved youth and eligibility is driven by criminal history and not housing risk. Courts will need to develop service maps of right-sized prevention programs already available in the community and advocate to implement additional programs, as needed, to meet these needs.
- Identifying and referring youth to housing and housing prevention services falls outside of the current routine and expected duties of juvenile court staff, including probation counselors. Relying on a probation-led model would present challenges in buy-in,

quality monitoring, and capturing the expected number of youth. Identification should be simple, standardized, and required, but more intensive assessment and case management should be provided by a dedicated staff person who does not have other duties within the court.

The resulting YHS model is intended to address both system and program level needs for the prevention of housing instability for an estimated 100-150 youth within each court, annually. The model has the additional aim of building community capacity for effective prevention through the implementation of services accessible to youth referred from non-court agencies as well. The model articulates 5 key components:

1) Regular, court-wide awareness trainings on risk factors and identifiers for youth homelessness
2) An identification and referral system using routine data flags
3) A dedicated housing stability coordinator to receive referrals, conduct housing stability assessments, and connect with community providers
4) A stepped care model of prevention services to provide the right dose of intervention based on youth and family need
5) Coordinated housing services for youth already experiencing homelessness

The model presented in this report attempts to articulate a standardized, practical role for the juvenile courts to play in addressing youth homelessness. The development process included a consideration of the potential risks of building services only accessible to court-involved youth as well as the feasibility of shifting current probation and court practice in the short vs. long term. The resulting model is expected to be feasible to implement at the current time given the general practices of court and probation staff while providing a conceptual model of assessment, referral, and stepped care that is expected to be applicable to courts and other youth service systems as systems evolve.

Introduction

This report summarizes the development of a juvenile court-based model of youth homelessness prevention and intervention funded by the Raikes and Block-Leavitt Foundation by a grant to the Center for the Study and Advancement of Justice Effectiveness (SAJE). The project adopted a participatory research approach with two juvenile courts in Washington State (Kitsap and Snohomish Counties). This approach was used to develop an innovative model given the lack of existing system-level interventions focused on the intersection of housing instability and justice involvement. This report is the first phase in a project that will also examine quantitative predictors of housing instability for youth who are court-involved.

Background

Housing instability and homelessness present significant risks to youth health and well-being. Youth who are homeless over an extended period of time will be exposed to violent victimization and drug use at higher levels than stably housed youth (Ferguson et al., 2011; Kaufman & Widom, 1999; Stein et al., 2009; Yoder et al., 2014). Nearly two thirds of youth will be victimized while homeless, including physical or sexual assault (33%), being threatened with a weapon (41%) or robbed (41%; Administration on Children, Youth, and Families [ACYF], 2016; Kipke et al., 1997; Rotheram-Borus et al., 1991). A little over one fourth of youth report "being sexual" in exchange for a place to spend the night (ACYF, 2016). Runaway and homeless youth are at a greater risk of depression, substance use, and conduct problems compared to housed youth (Chen et al., 2006).

Homelessness also puts youth at increased risk for arrest. Over three quarters of homeless youth will have contact with the police and more than half will be arrested (ACYF, 2016). While these contacts may result in a youth receiving services, the collateral consequences of justice involvement may also act as a barrier to future stable housing (Quirouette et al., 2016). For youth transitioning out of incarceration, the legal status of having a criminal record can limit opportunities for securing independent housing (Mears & Travis, 2004) or moving back with families living in subsidized housing (Snyder, 2004). Incarceration of

more than a year may also disrupt preexisting social networks, leaving youth with fewer supports upon release. These youth rely heavily on public systems to provide basic housing and needed resources for successful transition back to the community and are less likely to stay in stable placements (Tam et al., 2016).

A number of recent reports include policy and practice suggestions for improving justice responses to youth homelessness (Columbia Legal Services, 2015; Morton et al., 2017; Britton & Pilnik, 2018; Pilnik et al., 2017). For example, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's Ten Principles for Change is designed to support communities to improve housing stability for justice-involved youth (Pilnik et al., 2017). These principles focus on reducing or minimizing future justice-system contact for youth entering the justice system and on accessing stable housing for youth exiting the justice system. The report recommends not charging youth for survival behaviors, repealing such laws, and eliminating court fines. The report also recommends strategies to reduce the likelihood youth will be released from justice settings into homelessness (Pilnik et al., 2017). These recommendations include more expansive transition planning, coordinated school reenrollment efforts, and maintaining open child welfare cases through justice placement. A different report from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges proposes strategies courts can take to prevent youth homelessness, including coordinated reentry planning and prevention through dependency proceedings (Britton & Pilnik, 2018).

Currently housed youth may also be arrested for behaviors that signal risk for imminent homelessness. Home conflict, for example, is one of the most common precipitants of youth homelessness (ACFY, 2016). At least 50% of youth homelessness appears to be directly preceded by a family conflict resulting in the youth running away or being kicked out of the home (ACYF, 2016). Courts process a high volume of referrals for adolescent family violence cases and it is likely that a substantial number of these cases include youth who will experience homelessness in the near term. Consequently, the justice system may be well placed to assist in identifying and preventing homelessness as well as minimizing the legal consequences that may arise from being unhoused.

An analysis conducted by our team using state data for this project found that just under 40% of youth screened for court services had a history of housing instability through

runaway, and 2% were not under the supervision of an adult at the time of assessment (although this may be skewed by youth who were under the court's guardianship at the time of assessment; Walker et al., in press). This is important to understand because justice systems have a number of competing mandates and performance goals. Implementing the systemic changes recommended by the previous policy reports are likely to be more successful to the degree that homelessness is identified as a significant issue for justice-involved youth or can be aligned with other initiatives addressing similar needs.

The current study is supported by a research-practice partnership with two juvenile courts in Washington State to develop and evaluate court-based models to improve the identification and service referral process for youth at risk of homelessness. We applied principles of community-based participatory research (Israel et al., 1998; Bess, 2009), ensuring that the developed model reflected the values and system operations of the local setting.

Development of Community Plans

Sites

Snohomish County Juvenile Court is a midsized, geographically diverse jurisdiction covering semi-urban, suburban, and rural areas. The population of adolescents ages 12 – 17 within the county was estimated at 59,225 in 2017 (Washington State Office of Financial Management [WAOFM], 2017). The largest proportion of these youth were White (75.3%), with Hispanic (13.71%), Asian (9.81%), and Multiracial (9.08%) youth also making up a large percentage of the subpopulation. Black (3.25%), American Indian / Alaskan Native (1.19%), and Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander (0.68%) youth made up the smallest proportion of youth in the county. Snohomish Juvenile Court has participated in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative since 2012, having implemented numerous policies and practices oriented towards reducing youth detention for lower-level offenses. The court recorded the second lowest rate of detained youth in the state for 2014 (9.1 detentions per 1,000 youth ages 10 -17) and the fourth lowest rate of criminal offense filings (11.1 filings per 1,000 youth ages 10 - 17; Gilman,

2016). In 2017, Snohomish filed 882 criminal offense cases, at a rate of approximately 14.9 case filings per 1,000 youth ages 12 – 17.

Kitsap County Juvenile Court is a small sized, rural jurisdiction with a 2017 estimated population of 17,950 youth between the ages of 12 – 17 (WAOFM, 2017). Similar to Snohomish, Kitsap's youth population was primarily White (74.9%), with Multiracial (13.12%) and Hispanic (10.7%) youth comprising a large proportion of the non-white population. Asian (5.3%), Black (3.0%), American Indian / Alaskan Native (2.2%), and Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander (1.5%) made up a smaller proportion of the youth population. Kitsap County does not participate in the JDAI initiative but in 2014 recorded a detention rate comparable to Snohomish of 15.3 per 1,000 youth ages 10 – 17 and a case filing rate of 12.7 per 1,000 youth ages 10 – 17 (Gilman, 2016).

Development Workgroups

In order to produce a collaborative model that responded to local needs, we convened workgroups within each county to steer the development of their respective youth homelessness models, and then found common themes across sites to produce a model that could be generalizable to other courts.

Kitsap County

Kitsap County already had an established workgroup dedicated to addressing issues of homelessness, operated through its Human Services department. When presenting this opportunity to work on a court model of reducing youth homelessness, the county decided to integrate this focus into the existing county work. Accordingly, we worked with the coordinator of this larger workgroup to bring together members with the interest and capacity in specifically addressing youth homelessness and its intersection with the juvenile justice system. The resultant "youth homelessness development workgroup" for Kitsap County was comprised of members from a variety of service providers and public agencies (Table 1). This workgroup was facilitated by both the homelessness program coordinator and the juvenile court administrator, focusing primarily on producing an intervention model for court-involved

homeless youth. Our team had dedicated time on the agenda to solicit information and report back to the group.

Snohomish County

At the start of this project, there were no workgroups or formal interagency collaborations in Snohomish County with the goal of addressing youth homelessness and the justice system. However, the county did have a longstanding group focused on reducing youth substance use through system coordination (Reclaiming Futures). We approached the probation manager of the Juvenile Court to convene a preliminary workgroup meeting with relevant service providers and community agencies. A focus of this preliminary meeting was to present the overview of our project and identify community partners to form a youth homelessness workgroup (Table 1). After this preliminary meeting, we reached out to all identified partners to convene a subsequent workgroup meeting, which was comprised of representatives from juvenile probation, juvenile detention, the school district, the primary homeless youth services provider in the county, and a county-funded advocate working with commercially sexually exploited youth. As the development workgroup continued to convene, members were encouraged to invite additional stakeholders as new areas of need emerged through discussion. Similar to Kitsap County, the members of the Snohomish Workgroup steered the development and ultimate design of their youth homelessness intervention model. However, unlike Kitsap County, the Snohomish workgroup was convened for the express purpose of this project, was facilitated by the University of Washington, and the content of the workgroups were solely focused on the production of an intervention model.

Table 1: County Workgroup Participants[1]

Kitsap County		Snohomish County	
Agency	**Participants**	**Agency**	**Participants**
Juvenile Court	Court Administrator	**Juvenile Court**	Program Manager, Probation Supervisor, Probation Counselor, Assistant Court Administrator, Juvenile Justice Fellow

Kitsap County Human Services	Housing & Homelessness Program Coordinator	**Department of Social and Human Services**	ART Quality Assurance Specialist
Children's Administration	Missing-from-Care Locator	**Everett School District**	McKinney Vento facilitator
Partnering for Youth Achievement	Outreach Coordinator	**Cocoon House**	Director of Outreach Services
Kitsap County Commission on Children and Youth	Human Services Planner	**North West Educational School District**	Juvenile Detention Teacher
Kitsap Strong	ACEs & Resiliency Project Director, Project Manager	**Sexual Exploitation Intervention Network**	CSEC Specialist
Olympic Educational Services District	Youth Services Director	**Providence**	Mental Health Specialist
Coffee Oasis	Outreach Services Director		
Scarlet Road	Director of Outreach		

[1]Walker, Valencia, Bishop, Irons, & Gertseva (in press)

Workgroup Process

To support the local workgroups in developing their plans, our team used the Intervention Mapping model (Bartholomew, Parcel, & Kok, 1998) to highlight areas of strengths and need, and to recommend intervention approaches. First developed for creating health education programs, Intervention Mapping is a process for developing new programs and models for specific populations using existing theory and research. It consists of five steps: 1) create a matrix of program objectives; 2) select theory based methods and strategies; 3) design and organize a program; 4) specify adoption and implementation plans; and 5) generate program evaluation plans. In developing the county intervention models, we relied on Social Development Theory (Hawkins & Weis, 1998) and on the principles delineated by Pilnek et al. (2017) to collaboratively produce models which comprehensively address micro and macro youth homelessness factors across areas of homelessness identification, resource/service availability and adequacy, methods of service engagement, and policies governing service provision. Additionally, we incorporated the prevention-to-intervention framework (Tolan, Guerra, & Kendall, 1995) into our facilitation as we presented the workgroups with research-

based programs and models with demonstrated success in addressing risk factors for youth homelessness. A detailed review of the process in Snohomish County is highlighted in an upcoming paper (Walker et al., in press).

Team Meetings

In both counties, the development workgroup convened bimonthly over 8 months (for a total of 4 workgroup meetings). The purpose of the first meeting was to gather as much information as possible from the workgroup participants about existing processes, policies, programs, and resources that could inform the development of a model. The discussion was facilitated by the Principal Investigator of the project and included a series of prompting and clarifying questions about court policies, court staff knowledge and motivation to address homelessness, existing programs in the court and community, community expertise and resources, and areas of perceived significant need. For both counties, suggestions emerged from the discussion about areas of additional information and data gathering needs. The project team followed up and then brought this information back to the second workgroup. In the second workgroup, the teams worked on developing the matrix of objectives identified from the first meeting and through data gathering. In both counties, these discussions produced cross-agency themes around the need for new methods of identifying risk of homelessness in court settings, dedicated staff for assessment and referral, and increased programming options for prevention. Other themes related to the inadequacy of existing housing options and barriers to accessing housing were also identified. The third meeting focused on specific program triage and content for prevention and intervention services. The fourth meeting reviewed the draft model and refined details of the model.

Data Collection

To understand the service context for preventing and intervening with youth homelessness, our team conducted key informant interviews in both counties and captured local data estimating the number of youth who might be identified and referred for assessment in a developed program model. For the key informant interviews, we spoke to a program manager at a youth services organization in Snohomish County that provides shelter, housing,

and services for homeless youth (Cocoon House). In Kitsap County, we conducted interviews with a program manager at a youth services organization that provides services and housing referrals for homeless youth (Coffee Oasis) as well as a youth locator from the regional Child Welfare department. The discussion content of each interview was captured via audio recordings and hand written notes taken by team members. We used directed content analysis (Hsieh & Shannon, 2005) to code the data using pre-selected themes that matched the areas of interest highlighted by the workgroup process (availability of services, content of services, youth satisfaction). As the workgroups progressed, the qualitative data captured were analyzed within the thematic framework produced in the first meetings to build out and reaffirm these initial themes, and subsequently shape the resultant intervention models. This method of triangulation served to facilitate trustworthiness among the workgroup members, and confidence in the credibility of its outcomes (Miles, Huberman, & Saldana, 2014).

In Snohomish County, local data on indicators of housing instability risk were examined to provide estimates of how many youth per month could be expected to be flagged as at risk for housing instability. This included all cases (which could include duplicates) receiving the PACT prescreen between February 2016 through February 2017, n = 555. The prevalence of local data items presumed to indicate risk for housing instability were also compared to the state findings as a check on generalizability of the developed model for other jurisdictions. These indicators include previous runaway incidents, previous out-of-home placement, and level of conflict in the home. In Kitsap County, the workgroup identified address mobility as a marker for housing need among youth accessing detention. This was recorded as the number of unique home addresses provided by youth upon detention within one year. To estimate the number of youth this data marker would identify in one year, data was requested from January through December, 2017 (n = 716).

Key Informant Interviews

Snohomish County. The service agency for Snohomish County provides housing services, independent living skills building, general family preservation/reunification support services, and limited mental health services. Among the housing services provided are short-term and long-term shelter services for minors (12 – 17), with limited short-term and long-term

housing for youth 18 and older who are signed into extended foster care. Additionally, the agency operates a drop-in center for youth that provides ad hoc access to general agency services, as well as laundry and showering services, and a designated activity space. The Snohomish agency identifies itself as utilizing a trauma-informed approach to its work and attempts to scaffold positive youth development through the use of incentive-based participation in agency activities and through employing youth who utilize the agency as peer mentors for other young people navigating homelessness.

Kitsap County. The Kitsap County service agency provides emergency shelter services for youth between the ages of 16 – 24, though for minors under the age of 18, the agency is obligated to connect with a minor's parents within 72 hours of checking into emergency shelter services before they are able to move forward with any additional housing services. The agency also operates a variety of transitional homes for youth ages 18 – 25 (one specifically to serve commercially and sexually exploited youth, CSEC) which maintain their own case management services for residents. Additionally, the county agency has begun to utilize Host Homes as a long-term housing solution for youth as young as 13 years old. The Kitsap agency also provides an array of support services for youth at risk for homelessness and outreach services to identify youth already experiencing homelessness. Notably, the Kitsap agency articulates the structure of its programs as targeting youth engagement with housing, education, employment, and their families.

Findings

In this section we review 1) findings from the key informant interviews, 2) local data indicating the number of estimated monthly referrals, and 3) a literature search for programs designed for a homeless or at-risk-for-homelessness youth population.

Review of County Programs

The content analysis of the key informant interviews with youth homelessness service providers and locators resulted in the following findings: 1) housing options for youth are

fragmented and vary by county, 2) licensing and workforce turnover adds burden to overtaxed agencies, 3) services can be too structured or unresponsive to the needs of chronically homeless youth, and 4) existing social services have infrastructure but insufficient resources to effectively provide the degree of prevention services needed.

Fragmented Housing Options for Youth

Snohomish County noted that it had few long-term housing options for youth over the age of 18 who were not involved in foster care. It expressed that it would be exploring the option of Host Homes for these youth. Additionally, the Snohomish agency felt that its long-term housing options for minors were not always suitable for youth ages 12-15 (due to the independent-living nature of its programming).

> *"12 to 15 [year olds]… they are not well suited for [our] type of program. We will take those younger kids, and we have, because if they don't have any options obviously we're going to house them…[but] they tend not to do well in that setting."*

Snohomish also noted the lack of family shelter options within the county, which results in youth being separated from families in order to access housing.

Conversely, while the Kitsap agency has demonstrated success in long-term housing options for youth 18 and older (and preliminary success in utilizing host homes for youth as young as 13), there was a dearth of emergency shelter options for youth under the age of 16. Further, there exist no specific housing opportunities for commercially sexually exploited children, who present a unique set of needs.

Workforce and Licensing Challenges

The workforce for shelter agencies are typically made up of young adults who stay one to two years. Turnover is high due the heavy nature of the work and the demands of licensing (such as having shelter staff available 24/7 and in ratio to the number of youth sheltered). Background checks also take a long time to process, making rehiring difficult and putting a strain on existing staff. Both agencies acknowledged the importance of licensing and

regulations to ensure the safety of youth but noted that the rigidity of licensing (and funding) requirements can contribute to the development of gaps in service provision.

> *"It's just, you know, licensing is a good thing to keep youth protected, but at the same time it is, it has its challenges."*

For example, per licensing requirements, youth shelters can only support youth under the age of 18. Youth who rely on shelter services due to persistent, systemic barriers are moved to adult housing upon turning 18 while not being fully prepared for independent living.

Challenges Serving Chronically Homeless Youth

The Snohomish agency observed that chronically homeless youth engage with housing services in particular patterns. For those youth who utilize short-term shelters, the agency frequently observes youth "shelter-hopping" between sites in Snohomish and neighboring King Counties. Additionally, the Snohomish agency operates shelters with very structured programming, and finds that it can be difficult for youth to acculturate to this structure once they've accessed services, causing them to leave. This difficulty in adjusting to the structure of housing programs contributes to what both county agencies observe as self-elected homelessness, where housing and shelter services are available for youth (indeed, in some cases where youth are currently accessing housing or shelter services) but youth ultimately abstain from taking advantage of resources. In such cases, the county agencies are sometimes able to engage these youth in other support services, and always communicate to youth that shelter/housing services are available if and when they would like to access them.

> *"I think about understanding that [youth] are going to mess up and they're going to go on [to runaway] and maybe use drugs. And when they come back, we welcome them and we let them know that… we're glad you're back."*

Youth who take advantage of the county agency housing resources have often experienced homelessness with their family as a young child. Youth will frequently utilize shelter services during family episodes of homelessness, return to their families when housing

is found, and subsequently return to patterns of shelter use when housing is lost. Both agencies serve foster care and adopted youth who leave stable housing situations and seek out shelter/transitional housing services as preferred placement. The Kitsap agency observed that foster and adopted youth in particular engage in patterns of self-elected homelessness in spite of having, what they viewed, as ideal housing situations.

> *"One thing that [we've] noticed, that really kind of strikes a nerve…is that a lot of [our] youth who [we] work with who are adopted, who have loving, caring adoptive parents…choose homelessness over those homes."*

The Snohomish agency noted that in situations where youth of color are placed with White guardians, the White guardians often lack the ability to support these youth in their racial identity, leading to conflict. They further suggested that the interplay between trauma and adolescent development results in behaviors that foster/adoptive parents are not prepared to manage.

> *"As you know, teenage brains are so volatile, [it's] kind of a thing that the adoptive parents, it's too much for them to take on and the youth suddenly breaks apart from their adoptive parents and we see those kids in our shelter."*

Infrastructure Present for Delivering Prevention Services

Both the Kitsap and Snohomish agencies provide homelessness prevention resources for youth and families, though they also acknowledge the limitations of these services and the general lack of prevention services within their respective counties. The Kitsap agency offers case management services for youth which adopt family preservation/reunification principles and prioritize reengaging youth with their families. Additionally, the agency provides prevention resources under the mantel of outreach and support services, notably, operating skill-building classes within district schools, providing education (re)engagement services, conducting employment training programs, overseeing a mentoring program, and operating a crisis-intervention text-line. The Snohomish agency's prevention services are primarily oriented towards parents struggling with their youth, and families in general. For parents with lower-

level needs, the agency offers brief parenting phone consultations with a licensed therapist (offered both in English and Spanish), as well as a short parenting workshop series. The agency also offers more family case management for families with higher-level need.

Quantitative Findings

Kitsap County

Data from detention admissions indicated that 96 youth listed two or more address changes within calendar year 2017, while 26 youth listed three or more address changes. Utilizing this data marker alone as a flag for referral into Kitsap's intervention system, a housing coordinator could expect approximately 8 youth referrals per month. Kitsap County also collects data regarding family conflict, history of abuse, mental health, substance use issues, and a youth's housing situation. Kitsap is currently in the process of reviewing these data to obtain a more accurate estimate of referrals into their intervention model. Presuming Kitsap utilizes data markers for two or more address changes, any ARY/CHINS/Truancy petitions, youth with any indicated non-parental living arrangements, and youth with a history of abuse, aggression/violence, or family conflict, a current estimate of the Kitsap Model is approximately 10 to 13 youth per month to be screened for prevention and/or housing services.

Snohomish County

From prescreen data on youth referred to court services, a minority of the youth (about 10%) had at least one previous out of home placement in foster care, a mental health treatment facility, or a state justice facility. The percent of youth with an assessed runaway history was also relatively low compared to the total assessed group: 22% had at least one previous runaway episode and 7% had more than five previous runaway episodes. Youth displaying consistently hostile behaviors at home, presumed to be a risk factor for being kicked out by parents, reached 11% of the assessed sample.

While the presence of these indicators was relatively low in the overall population, the number of youth with at least one of the above indicators reached 175 youth a year when runaway history was set to at least two prior episodes (not accounting for possible duplicates). Divided by 12 months, the court could expect about 14 referrals a month if these items were

considered “flags” for potential housing instability or risk. If the indicator for consistent youth hostility in the home was added as a flag, this could add another 60 youth a year, for an estimated 19-20 “flagged” youth per month from court-referred youth alone. The court also processes about 20 ARY cases a year, increasing the estimated monthly expected referrals to 22-24 cases. The workgroup was not able to access detention data for the planning phase, but estimated another 5 referrals monthly from detention and diversion/non PACT screened youth. This led the workgroup to estimate approximately 30 referrals per month for a housing coordinator to assess, triage, develop case plans, and coordinate follow-up with indicated services.

Review of Programs

Our team conducted a literature program search in order to inform the developing models about available or researched services. This included a literature search focused on programs developed for homeless youth or youth at risk of homelessness as well as a review of family-based services designed to reduce adolescent family conflict.

Search Strategy and Program Selection

To gather relevant programs, the following databases were searched in June of 2018: NIJ’s Crime Solutions; SAMHSA’s NREPP; Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development; and CEBC for Child Welfare. In each of these databases, the following search terms were utilized: “homeless,” “homelessness,” “street youth,” “runaways,” and “throwaways.” All programs that resulted from those searches were examined in detail and programs whose aim was to prevent or reduce youth homelessness, runaways, or throwaways and/or were intended to improve outcomes for these populations were selected.

A total of 26 programs were selected using the above parameters (see Appendix A for a full list of programs). These programs were sorted into five categories using the intended population and expected outcome, including: 1) currently homeless youth as an intended population; 2) youth at risk of homelessness as an intended population; 3) previously homeless

youth as an intended population; 4) housing stability as an intended outcome; and 5) programs that did not include housing stability as an intended outcome.

Programs for Currently Homeless Youth

We identified 15 programs developed to serve currently homeless youth. These included programs whose target population was homeless youth as well as programs adapted or extended to include homeless youth. Programs targeting homeless youth varied widely in program features. They included programs aimed at general functioning; programs that focus on substance use disorder, trauma, or other mental health issues; programs for those aging out of other support systems; education programs; housing programs; family-based programs; and programs aimed at organizational change. Of the 15 programs targeting homeless youth, only 2 were rated as having a substantial evidence base, 6 of the 15 programs were rated as promising, and 7 were not rated for evidence. Programs with a strong evidence base with homeless youth as an intended population included Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA) and Parent Management Training, Oregon Model.

Programs for Youth at Risk for Homelessness

We identified 10 programs whose intended population only included those at risk of homelessness. Program features targeting those at risk of homelessness also varied widely. They included programs aimed at general functioning; mentor/case management programs; programs for current or recently released juvenile offenders; programs for those aging out of other support systems; family-based programs; education programs; and a program for those at high risk of involvement in sex trafficking. Of the 10 programs targeting only youth at risk of homelessness, none were rated as having substantial evidence base, only 1 was rated as promising, 3 were rated as having no effect, and 6 were not rated for evidence.

Programs for Previously Homeless Youth

We identified one program whose intended population only included those who were previously homeless (FamilyLive).This program is a family-based intervention focused on youth with histories of trauma (including homelessness). This program was not rated for evidence.

Programs with Housing Stability as an Intended Outcome

We identified 15 programs intended to improve housing stability for youth. These included programs whose only aim was to improve housing stability, programs that include housing stability among a number of intended outcomes, and programs that directly provide housing as part of their program. Programs intended to improve housing stability varied widely. They included programs aimed at general functioning; programs that focus on substance use disorder or other mental health issues; mentor/case management programs; programs for newly released juvenile offenders; programs for those transitioning out of other support systems; family-based programs; education programs; and a program for those at high risk of sex trafficking. Of the 15 programs aimed at improving housing stability, 1 was rated as having a substantial evidence base (A-CRA), 3 were rated as promising, two were rated as having no effect, and 8 were not rated for evidence.

Programs without Housing Stability as an Intended Outcome

11 of the 26 programs we identified did not include improving housing stability as an intended outcome. These programs varied widely and included programs aimed at general functioning; programs that focus on mental health issues; programs aimed at improving family relations; programs aimed at reducing recidivism; and a program aimed at affecting organizational change. Of the 11 programs that did not include improving housing stability as an intended outcome, only one was rated as having a substantial evidence base (Parent Management Training for reduced adolescent aggression), 4 were rated as promising, one was rated as having no effect, and 6 were not rated for evidence.

Review of Programs Shown to Improve Family Conflict for Adolescents

Overall, we found the program literature focused on intervening or preventing homelessness for youth to be sparse with limited research. Accordingly, we also undertook a review of programs shown to improve family conflict for adolescents. We reasoned that these programs would be good candidates for preventing homelessness for youth whose housing instability was precipitated by conflict in the home. Using the same inventory and database sources as the previous search, we searched for programs with the key words of “adolescent

family violence," "adolescent domestic violence," "family conflict," and "family climate." The result of this review is shown in Table 2. Our search found that there are a number of well-tested and evidence-supported programs shown to improve family climate, reduce family conflict, and reduce adolescent aggression. These results were also presented to the county workgroups.

Table 2: Program Review for Effective Family-Based Prevention Programs for Adolescents

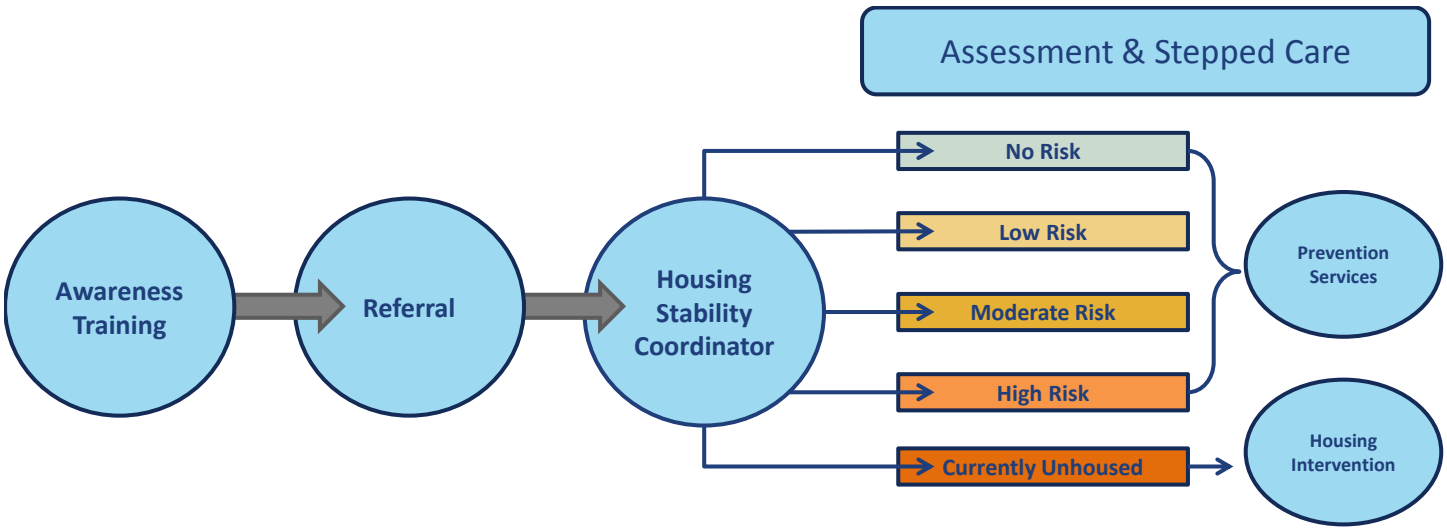
Program	Target Population	Outcome		
		Rating	Prevention Level	Research
Brief Strategic Family Therapy	8 to 18 years	Blueprints: Promising NREPP: OJJDP/Crime solutions: Effective	Indicated Prevention, Intervention	Aggression, Substance use, Family functioning
Creating Lasting Family Connections	9 to 17	NREPP: 3.0-3.5 Blueprints: Promising OJJDP/Crime Solutions: Effective	Universal, Selective	Substance use, Family functioning
Functional Family Therapy	12 to 17 years	Blueprints: Model. Crime Solutions: Effective OJJDP: Effective	Indicated Prevention; Intervention	Aggression, Family functioning, Substance use
Guiding Good Choices	12 to 14 years	Blueprints: Promising Crime Solutions: Effective SAMHSA: 2.6-3.1 out of 5	Universal Prevention	Substance use, Family functioning
MultiSystemic Therapy	12 to 17 years	Blueprints: Model Plus. Crime Solutions: Effective OJJDP: Effective SAMSHA: 2.90-3.2	Indicated Prevention. Intervention	Aggression, Out of home placement, Delinquency
Parent Management Training	3 to 12 years	Model Program	Selective Prevention Indicated Prevention	Aggression, Internalizing
Raising Healthy Children	5 to 18 years (different modules for childhood, early and late adolescence)	Blueprints: Promising Crime Solutions: Promising	Universal Prevention	Substance use, Educational outcomes
Staying Connected with Your Teen	12 to 14 years	OJJDP: Promising	Universal	Aggression
Step Up	12 to 17 years	None (unpublished studies show promising effects in reducing arrests for youth on probation)	Indicated Prevention, Intervention	Recidivism
Strengthening families (ages 10-14)	10 to 14 years	Blueprints: Promising Crime Solutions: Effective SAMHSA: 2.8-3.3 out of 5	Universal Prevention	Substance use, Aggression, Delinquency

Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families and Communities	Birth to 18 years. No specific teen version.	Rated as promising in a 1999 matrix from OJJDP/SAMHSA *But has a Washington Evaluation	Universal Prevention	Family functioning
Strong African American Families	Adolescent	Blueprints: Promising Crime Solutions: Effective OJJDP: Effective NREPP: 3.6-3.8	Universal Prevention	Delinquency

Youth Housing Stability (YHS) Model for Juvenile Courts

Data from the qualitative and quantitative analyses were reviewed along with the principles identified from the Intervention Mapping exercise and the prevention services literature to develop the Youth Housing Stability (YHS) model for juvenile courts. The workgroup members reviewed the major gaps and resources identified from the previous meeting and the prevalence data to develop a working model to improve identification, system coordination, and services to reduce youth homelessness through prevention and intervention services. The results specified the need for five major components: 1) agency wide awareness training; 2) screening and mandatory referrals using routine data across multiple court divisions; 3) a dedicated housing coordinator position; 4) stepped care prevention services; and 5) coordinated housing services.

Figure 1: County Model for Youth Homelessness Prevention and Intervention



Training

The workgroups identified agency wide training as a needed component of the model in order to address the challenge of inconsistent awareness and perceived responsibility to address homelessness among current court and probation staff. As identified by the workgroup, the training would need to be offered to all probation and diversion staff and focus on flags for homelessness not available in the existing assessment tools, the benefits of addressing homelessness for reducing youth recidivism, and any new procedures the court adopts to assist with system coordination. Following best practice from the literature, the training should be conducted by an individual with significant experience working directly with homeless youth (Havlik et al., 2016). Content would likely follow some of the trainings currently offered online through the National Center for Homeless Education on signs of homelessness, understanding "doubled up," and preventing drop out. This might include training court staff to look for signs of lack of continuity in education (lack of personal records, attendance at many schools), poor health (hoarding food, significant fatigue), transportation problems (erratic attendance), poor hygiene, and significant social/behavioral concerns (unwilling to form relationships, need for immediate gratification; "Potential Warning Signs of Homelessness," n.d.).

Data Flags Using Routine Data

Given the challenges of instituting an entirely new screening tool on top of existing paperwork and responsibilities, the workgroup focused on how to use existing indicators to flag youth for referral to a central coordinator for further assessment. The workgroup identified the indicators on the prescreen assessment as noted above, as well as indicators from detention (McKinney Vento data), the at-risk youth court (ARY, noncriminal court), and for youth on warrant for failing to appear to court. For court-referred youth, this included all youth with two or more instances of running away, current or past foster care status, and the highest score possible (3) on an item measuring levels of home conflict. For ARY youth, the workgroup recommended that all be referred to the program for assessment. For detained youth, all youth with an active McKinney Vento indicator, all youth detained for an assault, and all youth with more than one runaway episode would be referred. Because of various screening practices for

youth on diversion, the recommendations varied. For diverted youth receiving the PACT screen, the same indicators would apply as for youth referred to court. For youth not receiving the PACT screen, the diversion staff would be trained on common indicators of family stress and housing risk to facilitate referrals to a housing coordinator.

The value of identifying routine data is twofold. First, routine data does not add any additional burden to court staff. Because screening is intended to yield false positives and identify youth who do not have significant housing needs, screening data do not need to be direct measures of housing instability or risk. Routine data collected in the current courts were judged to be a good indicator of likely need and risk and future planned analyses will assist in developing even more precise decision rules using this information. Second, using routine data for screening and setting an expectation around referrals provides a path for quality control that is not present when court staff are asked to make referrals from their judgement alone. The use of routine data takes some of this discretion and risk of bias out of the hands of court staff, and allows for potential checks on whether referrals are being made as expected.

Dedicated Housing Coordinator

The workgroup felt a dedicated job position was necessary to avoid underserving youth who could benefit from further assessment if the responsibility to provide comprehensive housing and services coordination otherwise fell to the probation counselors. This is also supported by findings that educational liaisons for preventing youth homelessness (e.g., McKinney-Vento advocates) who take this role on in addition to administrative or teaching positions (school counselor, vice-principal) are often too stretched to meet the needs of homeless youth (Havlik et al., 2016). Further, this would ensure that referral would not be limited to only youth on probation and eligibility could be opened up as needed. The workgroup also felt that the coordinator should come from a community agency rather than the court so that the youth could continue to have contact with the individual past the point of justice contact, if necessary. The coordinator's job would be to locate youth referred by court staff, conduct a housing assessment, and develop a support plan to include leveraging available resources and services to keep youth in the most stable, home-like situation available. This could include connecting the family with effective family support services, coordinating short

and long term housing, providing or arranging for transport, coordinating with schools to preserve enrollment, or advocating for the youth in relevant social service systems. The coordination would prioritize transitioning the youth and family to longer term case management services and would not be expected to last more than two to three months per case.

Table 3: Components, Objectives, and Content for a Youth Housing Stability Program for Juvenile Courts[1]

Component	Target Population	Objective	Content
Awareness Training	All court divisions (diversion, probation, ARY, detention)	• Engage court staff in supporting a new direction in practice • Set expectations about referring youth based on routine data flags • Educate staff about common signs of housing instability for discretionary referrals • Engage court staff in sexual exploitation response training oriented towards homelessness prevention	• Definitions of youth homelessness • Overview of existing services • Signs and risks for homelessness • Existing screening items requiring referral • *Sexual Exploitation Identification and Response*
Referral	All court divisions (diversion, probation, ARY, detention)	• Identify youth across the continuum of court involvement • Create court wide expectations for referring youth	• PACT prescreen items: ≥2 times runaway; any out-of-home placement; highest level of hostility at home • At Risk Youth (ARY): all petitions • Detention: ≥2 times runaway; all DV assault holds; current McKinney Vento
Housing Stability Coordinator	All court referred youth and families	• Centralized coordination of services • Brings expertise on housing and family-based prevention to court operations • Works flexibly with court staff to support housing as one component of a case plan	• Conducts agency wide awareness trainings • Follows up on court referrals to conduct a housing stability assessment • Develops case plans • Monitors case plans through completion of services (for prevention) or after confirming contact with community-based case management (for unstably housed youth)
Prevention Services	Youth assessed as low to high risk for instability but currently housed under adult supervision in a family that is currently housed	• Provide a continuum of care for families based on need • Save costs and time with a stepped care model • Build resiliency in youth and families to promote youth development	• Low need: brief family support through telehealth, phone coaching, education, and information about community resources • Moderate need: selective family-based prevention services, 5-7 weeks of curriculum, practice, and coaching • High need: in home support using intensive family intervention, e.g., wraparound, family systems therapy models
Housing Intervention	Youth unhoused at the time of assessment	• Provide youth with immediate shelter • Plan for long term housing • Build youth resiliency and life skills	• Court Housing Coordinator refers to existing community case management to support long term housing stability

[1]Walker, Valencia, Bishop, Irons, & Gertseva (in press)

Stepped Care Prevention Services

Finally, the model indicates the need for a stepped care approach to family-based services to prevent youth from being kicked out or running away when reunification or prevention is an option. The workgroup discussed needing to "right-size" the family program to the level of the family's need in order to address the original concern that some families need more services than are currently provided or offered. The program model, therefore, aimed to build a feasible system-level intervention for coordinating communication and referrals across service systems while articulating the program principles necessary for effectively preventing and intervening to improve youth housing stability. This resulted in a "stepped care" model of intervention. In this model, youth are assessed and triaged into one of five paths: no need, low need, moderate need, high need, and currently unhoused. Each path specifies a set of appropriate services given the level of need and theory-driven approaches to reduce risk and support long term housing stability and youth development. These include, at the low need level, brief family stabilizing interventions including information about community resources and parent phone coaching. At the moderate level of need, families would be referred to in person group sessions based on evidence-based principles of family-based prevention science. These models (e.g., Strengthening Families, Guiding Good Choices) build communication skills and positive relationships between parents and adolescents. At the high level of need, families would be referred to more intensive in-home supports including Functional Family Therapy (Sexton & Turner, 2011) or Wraparound services (Bruns et al., 2010). At each level of care, families would be assessed for whether more intervention services are needed, with families moving up the hierarchy of intensity as indicated.

Coordinated Housing Services

The housing coordinator is expected to receive referrals, follow up to conduct an assessment of needs, refer to services, and provide brief case management for prevention cases. For currently homeless youth, the housing coordinator would be expected to refer the youth to existing community services focused on providing intensive case management and housing services and then discontinue active case management. As noted in the findings, counties will vary in the supports available to youth who need housing. However, all school

districts will have, at a minimum, a staff member identified to manage the housing needs of students through McKinney-Vento. The court-based housing coordinator would be expected to coordinate with the educational liaison as well as other available resources to hand the youth over to services following the identification of need within the court.

Conclusion

This project was focused on developing a system level intervention for reducing the prevalence of homelessness among youth. Given the high rates of justice contact in this population, others have rightly called for policy and practice shifts to reduce arrest and the collateral consequence of justice involvement. However, many homeless youth are likely to continue to come to the attention of law enforcement and the courts. In addition, many youth are arrested for behaviors that may indicate high risk for imminent housing instability, particularly behaviors related to family conflict. This positions the juvenile court as a potential resource for identifying and referring youth to services that will mitigate this risk. As no previous systemic intervention existed for reducing homelessness for justice involved youth, we undertook a research-practice partnership with two juvenile courts in Washington State to develop a court-based model. This involved gathering data from workgroup members, key informants, local data systems, and literature reviews. The resulting model recommends five steps for policy and program implementation and is anticipated to be feasible to implement across diverse contexts.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Program Search Results Summary

Name	Search Website	Summary	Target Populations	Intended Outcome(s)	Overall Evidence Rating
Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA)	Crime Solutions & NREPP	Outpatient program/behavioral intervention that aims to replace structures supportive of drug and alcohol use with ones that promote a clean and healthy lifestyle. Overall goals are to reduce substance use and dependence, increase social stability, improve physical and mental health, and improve life satisfaction. Includes sessions with adolescents, parents/caregivers, and both together during the course of treatment. It has also been adapted for use with Assertive Continuing Care, which provides home visits to youth following residential treatment for alcohol and/or substance dependence, and for use in a drop-in center for street-living, homeless youth.	Currently homeless youth	Global functioning with emphasis on substance use (social stability outcome measured by % of days working, receiving education, **in a home or shelter**, or receiving medical care)	Effective - more than 1 study
Promotor Pathway Program	Crime Solutions	A community-based program that uses a caring adult, called a Promotor, to provide case management, mentoring, and advocacy for youths with multiple risk factors. The goals of the program are to improve education and employment outcomes, boost life skills, and prevent delinquency and unhealthy behaviors among at-risk or disconnected youths.	Youth at risk of homelessness	Global functioning (including % of youth sleeping in a shelter)	No Effect - one study
Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI)	Crime Solutions	A collaborative Federal effort concentrated on improving criminal justice, employment, education, health, and housing outcomes of adult and juvenile offenders upon their release from incarceration. In total, 69 State and community agencies received funding through SVORI to facilitate the reentry and reintegration of offenders.	Youth at risk of homelessness	Global functioning (including housing)	No Effect - one study
Aggression Replacement Training (ART) for Adolescents in a Runaway Shelter	Crime Solutions	A program that targets adolescents who live in a short-term facility (a runaway shelter) and exhibit signs of antisocial behavior problems (ASB). The program combines anger-control training, social skills training, and moral reasoning education. The goal of the program is to reduce aggression and violence among youth by providing them with opportunities to learn prosocial skills, control angry impulses, and appreciate the perspectives of others.	Currently homeless youth	Reduction in aggression and violence	Promising - one study
Ecologically Based Family Therapy (EBFT) for Substance-Abusing Runaway Adolescents	Crime Solutions & CEBC	A home-based, family preservation model that focuses on families who are in crisis because a youth has run away from home. EBFT was developed based on the HOMEBUILDERS family preservation model in which services are initiated when there is a family crisis, such as a child's removal or departure from the home. The goal of EBFT is to improve family functioning and reduce youths' substance use.	Currently homeless youth	Family functioning and youth substance use and mental health	Promising - one study
California's Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP)	Crime Solutions	An intensive multimodal early intervention program targeting young offenders at high risk of becoming chronic delinquents using intensive supervision and wraparound services to address school behavior, substance use, and high-risk behaviors. The collaborative partners offer an array of enhanced services such as individual and group counseling, mental health services, tutoring, transportation, and vocational training.	Youth at risk of homelessness	Recidivism and education	No Effects - more than one study
Interventions Targeting Street-Connected Youth	Crime Solutions	Interventions targeting street-connected youths generally focus on inclusion, reintegration, and harm-reduction strategies that serve children and young people while they are living on, or closely connected to the streets. The overall goals are to 1) reduce the risks that coincide with living and working on the street, such as early sexual activity and substance misuse; 2) promote inclusion and reintegration into society; 3) increase literacy and numeracy; 4) promote access to education, training, and employment opportunities; and 5) promote a healthier lifestyle, including mental health and self-esteem. These types of interventions are often single projects, drop-in centers, or peer education interventions.	Currently homeless youth	Global functioning	n/a

Name	Search Website	Summary	Target Populations	Intended Outcome(s)	Overall Evidence Rating
Youth Villages YVLifeset	Blueprint	Formerly known as Transitional Living, it is an independent living program for youth in need (e.g., transitioning from foster care or juvenile justice custody). The program lasts 9 months for most youth who successfully complete the program and involves intensive, individualized, and clinically focused case management, support, and counseling. At entrance, each person receives an assessment and individualized treatment plan. The bulk of the services are then provided during hour-long, weekly sessions with a case manager.	Youth at risk of homelessness	Global functioning (including housing stability)	Promising
Parent Management Training - Oregon Model (PMTO)	Blueprint & NREPP	A group of parent training interventions that aims to teach effective family management skills in order to reduce antisocial and problematic behavior in children who range in age from 3 through 16 years. It is delivered in group and individual family formats, in diverse settings (e.g., clinics, homes, schools, community centers, homeless shelters), over varied lengths of time depending on families' needs. It coaches parents in the use of effective parenting strategies, namely skill encouragement, setting limits or effective discipline, monitoring, problem solving, positive involvement, identifying and regulating emotions, enhancing communication, giving clear directions, and tracking behavior.	Currently homeless youth	Global functioning and parenting practices	Model Program
Partners with Families & Children: Spokane	NREPP	A service model that provides intensive, sustained services to families with children who are referred by child protective services, law enforcement, or other public health agencies as a result of persistent child neglect and who are unlikely to respond to briefer interventions. Partners is a strengths-based, family-centered practice based on wraparound-service principles and attachment theory. The Partners model wraps a team of professionals, friends, and extended family members around each family affected by chronic neglect to create an individualized service plan. The treatment services include onsite, gender-specific, integrated substance use and mental health treatment for parents, and interventions to strengthen the parent–child relationship and aims to link parents to needed resources such as housing, employment, and transportation.	Youth at risk of homelessness	Global functioning (including housing stability)	n/a
Say it Straight (SIS)	NREPP	A communication training program designed to help students and adults develop empowering communication skills and behaviors and increase self-awareness, self-efficacy, and personal and social responsibility. In turn, the program aims to reduce risky or destructive behaviors such as substance use, eating disorders, bullying, violence, precocious sexual behavior, and behaviors that can result in HIV infection. Its application has been expanded to include students in detention and treatment, student mentors and mentees, parents, high-risk communities, adults in treatment, college students, and the homeless. SIS is based in social learning and positive psychology, emphasizing values such as resiliency, courage, compassion, and integrity.	Currently homeless youth	Global functioning, communication skills, risky behavior	n/a
Attachment, Regulation, and Competency (ARC)	CEBC	A core components framework designed to support individual/familial/dyadic intervention with youth and families who have experienced complex trauma within a wide range of systems. The framework is organized around the core domains of attachment (e.g., building safe caregiving systems), regulation (e.g., supporting youth regulation across domains), and developmental competency (e.g., supporting factors associated with resilient outcomes).	Currently homeless youth	Global and family functioning	Not able to be rated
Case Management, Outreach, Referral, and Education (CORE)	CEBC	Targets families with children (ages 0-19 years) in transition such as those who are living in homeless shelters, temporary or doubled-up housing situations, or in foster care situations. The purpose is to improve the stability and well-being for children and families by providing a wide range of wrap-around services to improve conditions that place them at social, psychological, and safety concerns. It helps families with: coordination of medical care for their children; identification of resources that will facilitate family function and stability including counseling; support with recovery from substance abuse; and referral and assistance with completing housing applications.	Currently homeless youth	Family functioning and stability	Not able to be rated

Name	Search Website	Summary	Target Populations	Intended Outcome(s)	Overall Evidence Rating
FamilyLive	CEBC	A strengths-based caregiver-focused family therapy intervention that helps caregivers with unresolved trauma histories and significant present day stress improve parenting skills and respond to their children's trauma-affected moods and behaviors. The model places emphasis on specialized engagement strategies that highlight competencies and encourage caregivers to become active participants in the treatment process. The model was developed in response to the needs of families and children exposed to significant adversities including racial and economic marginalization, community violence and traumatic family histories including parental incarceration, domestic violence, and homelessness.	Previously homeless youth	Parenting skills	Not able to be rated
Fostering Success Coach Model	CEBC	The model focuses on providing holistic support for youth and young adults while they pursue and/or enroll in postsecondary education settings. It takes into account the unique challenges of living through adversity and the foster care system. Skills are designed to enhance a child welfare or higher education professional's ability to partner with youth assessing strengths and challenges in targeted seven life domains–education, employment, housing, health, relationships, identity and life skills--by prioritizing level of need and intervening by teaching life skills that strengthen youths' healthy habits as they transition to the emerging adult years.	Currently homeless youth	Global functioning (including housing)	Not able to be rated
Independent Living Program - Lighthouse	CEBC	Designed to provide referrals and case management support to enable older youth to complete their education, gain employment, obtain housing, participate in life-skills training, get mental health counseling and other support services, and move toward becoming responsible and productive members of the community. These youth could be aging out of the child welfare or juvenile justice systems, at risk of homelessness, or unable to return to biological families.	Youth at risk of homelessness	Global functioning (including housing)	Not able to be rated
Massachusetts Adolescent Outreach Program for Youths in Intensive Foster Care (MA Outreach)	CEBC	Assists teenage intensive foster care youths in preparing to live independently and to achieve permanency after exiting care. The goals of the program are to help youths earn high school diplomas, continue education, avoid nonmarital childbirth, avoid high-risk behaviors, avoid incarceration, gain employment, attain self-sufficiency, and avoid homelessness. Other goals include supporting youths' participation in higher education, achieving permanency through a connection to a caring adult, and identifying a support network.	Youth at risk of homelessness	Global functioning (including avoiding homelessness)	Not able to be rated
My First Place	CEBC	Supports youth in their transition from foster care to successful adulthood by promoting choices and strengthening individual and community resources. Consists of a supportive housing program, an academic enrichment program, counseling, youth community center, and collaboration with other organizations.	Currently homeless youth	Global functioning (including housing assistance)	Not able to be rated
Project Connect	CEBC	Works with high-risk families who are affected by parental substance abuse and are involved in the child welfare system. The program works to connect families with, and help them to manage, the larger systems in their lives (i.e., schools; courts; child welfare systems; treatment programs for substance abuse, mental health issues, medical problems, and domestic violence; homeless shelters; Social Security; AFDC etc.). Offers home-based counseling, substance abuse monitoring, nursing, and referrals for other services. Also offers home-based parent education, parenting groups, and an ongoing support group for mothers in recovery.	Currently homeless youth	Global parental functioning (including housing permanency)	Promising
Sanctuary Model	CEBC	A blueprint for clinical and organizational change which, at its core, promotes safety and recovery from adversity through the active creation of a trauma-informed community. A recognition that trauma is pervasive in the experience of human beings forms the basis for the Sanctuary Model's focus not only on the people who seek services, but equally on the people and systems who provide those services. Sanctuary has been used in organizations that provide residential treatment for youth, juvenile justice programs, homeless and domestic violence shelters as well as a range of community-based, school-based and mental health programs.	Currently homeless youth	Global functioning with emphasis on mental health	Promising

Name	Search Website	Summary	Target Populations	Intended Outcome(s)	Overall Evidence Rating
Threshold Mothers Project Transitional Living Program (TLP)	CEBC	Provides comprehensive services for 17-23 year-old pregnant/parenting young women with mental health challenges referred by child welfare, juvenile justice, or homelessness. Includes 24-hour staffed residences where young mothers and their children live together, and receive support and guidance. Additionally, residents receive case management, individual and group therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) skills training, psychiatry, parent education, supported employment and education services, and access to the early learning center.	Currently homeless youth	Global functioning (including housing)	Not able to be rated
Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Model	CEBC	Developed for working with youth and young adults (14-29 years old) with emotional/behavioral difficulties (EBD) to: a) engage them in their own futures planning process; b) provide them with developmentally appropriate, nonstigmatizing, culturally competent, trauma-informed, and appealing services and supports; and c) involve the young people, their families, and other informal key players, as relevant, in a process that prepares and facilitates their movement toward greater self-sufficiency and successful achievement of their goals. Helps with transition domains, such as: employment/career, educational opportunities, living situation, personal effectiveness/well-being, and community-life functioning.	Currently homeless youth	Global functioning (including living situation)	Promising
Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy for Adolescents (TARGET-A)	CEBC	An educational and therapeutic intervention designed to prevent and treat traumatic stress disorders (including PTSD, severe anxiety disorders, depression, and dissociative disorders), co-occurring addictive, personality, or psychotic disorders, and adjustment disorders related to other types of stressors. Teaches a seven-step sequence of skills, the FREEDOM Steps, designed to enable participants to recognize, understand, and gain control of stress reactions by enhancing their strengths/abilities for mental focusing, mindfulness, emotion regulation, executive function, and interpersonal engagement/interaction.	Currently homeless youth	Global functioning with emphasis on mental health	Promising
Larkin Extended Aftercare for Supported Emancipation (LEASE)	CEBC	A scattered-site residential program for youth ages 18-24 who have emancipated from the foster care system. Youth are housed in apartments and receive a range of supportive services including counseling, employment training, education counseling, and case management. Most participants attend college on a part-time or full-time basis. Youth work with their Case Manager to develop an individual plan to meet their unique needs. For all participants, an emphasis is placed on developing the life skills needed for independent living such as household organization and money management.	Youth at risk of homelessness	Global functioning	Not able to be rated
Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum	CEBC	14-module life skill curriculum. The curriculum can be used in its entirety or as individual 45-minute modules. It includes the companion film, 1-800-RUNAWAY. Goals of the program are to build life skills, increase knowledge about runaway resources and prevention, educate about alternatives to running away, and to encourage youth to access and seek help from trusted community members.	Youth at risk of homelessness	Global functioning with emphasis on knowledge of runaway resources, runaway prevention	Not able to be rated
youthSpark Voices	CEBC	A direct service program that partners with the local juvenile court to provide critical intervention services to youth deemed high-risk for trafficking involvement or who do not self-identify as a trafficking victims even though exploitation is present. At a high level, the program works to increase their school attendance, decrease runaway attempts and risky behaviors, and, more importantly, build important skills that put the girls on a positive track of personal growth and self-sufficiency.	Youth at risk of homelessness	Global functioning with emphasis on **runaway prevention**, school attendance, risky behaviors	Not able to be rated