



Organization Description and Background

The South Los Angeles Homeless Transitional Age Youth and Foster Care Collaborative ("Collaborative"), The Collaborative formed in January 2013 after the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA) lead the Los Angeles County 2013 Homeless Count by a team of South LA Transitional Age Youth (TAY) and Foster Care service providers. This team of visionaries saw a need to encourage better collaboration among other service providers, government, faith institutions, businesses, and residents and to develop homeless TAY prevention and intervention strategies that fit the cultural dynamics of South LA.

The Collaborative addresses the most important trends affecting transitional age youth (TAY), ages 16 -25 in South LA, which has its own unique cultural and demographic differences from most other communities in LA County. Our primary purpose is to: 1) decrease the number of TAY who become homeless or pipeline into gangs and incarceration and 2) create better cultural awareness and culturally relevant services and policies to ensure the successful transition of TAY into adulthood. We assess the landscape of services, support, and recommend policies that will have the greatest impact on TAY in the SPA 6 South LA region. Our areas of focus for systems improvement include mental health, homelessness, foster care, juvenile justice, alcohol and drug abuse, crisis and transitional housing, permanent housing, employment services, and any other services transition age youth use.

Since our formation, our monthly meetings have had a diverse group of participants of over 30 stakeholders, including former foster care youth, who have contributed to policy and program delivery input and recommendations. By the end of March, the group had formed a steering committee of seven South LA TAY service providers, churches and stakeholders and thus South Los Angeles Homeless Transitional Age Youth and Foster Care Collaborative was established.

On May 16, 2013, Holman United Methodius Church hosted the Collaborative first community mobilization awareness effort; The 1st Annual Interfaith TAY Matter Summit to cultivate and formulate interfaith partnerships to prevent and end transition age youth homelessness in South LA. This free breakfast sponsored by a collective effort of collaborative CBO's, churches, foundations and leading the charge were collaborative chair agencies Pathways to Your Future, Sanctuary of Hope, The Right Way Foundation, Holman United Methodius Church, Virtuous Women Ministries, The Positive Results Corp., Living Advantage, Tessie Cleveland Corp., Community Coalition, Toyota, The Wellness Foundation, and the Brotherhood Crusade.

The event attracted over 200 concerned faith base community leaders, churches, community base organizations, foster care youth, DCFS, DMH, LAHSA, other TAY service providers, residents, and businesses. LA City Council President Herb Wesson Jr. opened the summit with

comments of how important this summit was, with Senator Curren Price, Councilmember Mike Feuer, and Mike Gibson, LAPD Chief Robert Green, and Assistant LA County Sheriff Chief Cecil Rhambo.

From that engagement, we generated news coverage about our goals to increase homeless TAY services in South Los Angeles and the need for inclusion of faith and faith-based organizations. Specifically, we would like faith-based entities to consider using their assets or their community development organization to fill the unmet need of crisis housing and services as an integral component of our Continuum of Care.

The Need for Your Investment

In 2011, 3,959 youth in the County of Los Angeles were counted as homeless and 3,593 were TAY between the ages of 18 to 24 years old with 80% being individuals and 20% homeless youth with children. Note: the 2013 TAY homeless count looks even higher. To demonstrate the demand and need for TAY services in South Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Services Authority in a recent State of South LA report revealed: (1) Only 320 beds exist in Los Angeles County's inventory exclusively for this population and these beds are primarily located in Hollywood: (2) South Los Angeles has the 2nd highest concentration of TAY: (3) There is 731 TAY in HMIS from South Los Angeles and (4) There is "0" exclusive TAY emergency or crisis housing available in South Los Angeles.

The Problem: The "Transition Cliff"

Many children with a history of abuse and neglect never reunite with their families or find alternative permanent homes; this population of abused children graduate or "emancipate" from the child welfare system. Children who emancipate from the foster care system face disproportionately higher rates of; Unemployment, Lower Educational Attainment, Incarceration, Dependence on public assistance, - Substance abuse, Non-marital childbirth and other high-risk behavior most recently human sex trafficking.

The lack of a "safety net" for these former foster youth - - now young adults - - means that they truly struggle to "make ends meet" often ultimately becoming a more burdensome and larger cost to society than if a much smaller, up-front investment had simply been made to better prepare and advise them during transition and the years preceding it.

One shocking statistic best explains how the system has failed them: over 70% of all State Penitentiary inmates have spent time in the foster care system according to the May 12, 2006 Select Committee Hearing of the California Legislature.

The public knows little or nothing about the difficulties facing this group of young adults.

Everychild Foundation; <http://www.everychildfoundation.org>

John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes <http://www.JohnBurtonFoundation.org>

May 2006

Similar to other Collaborative groups and coalitions in West Los Angeles, Hollywood, and Skid Row, the Collaborative is moving toward formalization of structure and mission. Our Collaborative team has determined that this is a good time to build our internal infrastructure, augment our capacity to inform on policy, and create a South Los Angeles transition age youth resource repository for our long-term sustainability.

Based on input from the Collaborative's stakeholders, we have identified four key things we toned to accomplish for capacity building in year one: 1. collaborative coordination and administration, 2. local and regional planning, 3. vision framework implementation, and fund development. These four objectives will increase our capacity to establish a system-of-care delivery model specific to our homeless TAY population in the South LA Region.

Capacity Building Objectives

The Collaborative has recognized that there are many important segmented program delivery pieces to our system of care. We work to bring those pieces together to develop a holistic picture to address duplication, find gaps, and introduce best practices in TAY service delivery. With that in mind, we acknowledge the need for a sound foundation to support the coordination of the Collaborative, mobilization of the community for regional planning, and fund development for sustainability.

The objectives are as follows:

- Create a sound infrastructure to ensure that the Collaborative's goals and objectives are implemented to assist nonprofit providers and other stakeholders in providing seamless service delivery to this homeless subgroup, thus reducing the deleterious effects of homelessness on our TAY.
- Fund special Collaborative initiatives that engage a broad base of community stakeholders on TAY prevention and intervention policies and actions; and guide the Collaborative's planning and implementation around community asset mapping, peer-learning communities, resource leveraging, and data collection.

The outcomes are as follows: The Collaborative will...

- Have a system of care and social service delivery system dedicated to transition age youth to improve their health, education, social, economic, and personal mobility.
- Have an inventory list of programs and services in SPA 6 from a collection of data from the Department of Children & Family Service, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, Collaborative partners, and other community asset mapping research activities. Additionally, this information will be used for an online resource and referral database.
- Establish a formal structure to advocate, educate, engage in policy recommendations, mobilize the community, and coordinate planning efforts.
- Receive funding from diverse streams to sustain this work.

Methods

The objectives and outcomes will be collaboratively overseen by the chair of the Collaborative and selected committee members.

The Collaborative Chair and committee designees will:

1. Devise and plan the Collaborative's meetings and activities for the year and complete all required filings for nonprofit exempt status.
2. Review and implement the fundraising plan developed by the fundraising consultant. Each will identify their role in fundraising to reach the benchmarks laid out in the fundraising plan. The Chair will be responsible for the execution of the plan and overseeing fundraising deliverables and inviting the fundraising consultant to report accomplishments to the Collaborative.
3. Conduct community asset mapping. The Chair and appointee will work with government and nonprofit entities to identify program resources for transition age youth. They will produce a report and present to the full Collaborative their findings.
4. Create infrastructure. The Chair will provide leadership and fulfill the tasks of administration, general operations, and strategic planning for the long-term viability of the Collaborative.

Evaluation

The Collaborative will use several evaluative methods to determine our success and achievements. Being TAY driven, TAY focus groups and event planning, The Collaborative will evaluate and collect sign-in sheets from meeting attendance as well as minutes and materials distributed at each meeting. With all of the planned convening (Summit, Symposium, or Conference), the Collaborative will collect surveys and feedback from attendees to incorporate in planning and implementation of future Collaborative activities and actions.

Within 12 months of seed funding, the Collaborative will have community asset mapping information and an information portal to distribute widely to our community stakeholder audience for better facilitation of program referrals and identification of program locations within SPA 6. Bi-annually, we will solicit feedback from users on its usefulness and areas of improvement.

With the establishment of an infrastructure to carry out the responsibility of collaborative planning, fundraising, accountability, and oversight, the Collaborative will have completed its nonprofit filings for tax exemption and engaged in strategic planning to develop a 5-year plan with a qualified consultant to hone in on specific goals and deliverables and chart specific benchmarks to achieve.

Finally, the Collaborative will have leverage additional funding to support itself and its work in South Los Angeles.

Future Funding

Our projected budget for the first year is \$156,842. The seed funding capacity building request from your office will help leverage additional funding that will enable us to meet the mission of the collaborative. Our funding strategy, to name a few, includes approaching The California Wellness Foundation, California Community Foundation, Liberty Hill Foundation, corporations, and other foundations.

Conclusion

The Collaborative hopes that the Supervisor will consider our request to establish a strong infrastructure and system of care to create better social, personal, and economic mobility for our Transitional Age Youth.

If you have any further question, I may be contacted at [310-251-6523](tel:310-251-6523) or gerald@ptyf.org.

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Thompson
South LA Homeless TAY and Foster Care Collaborative Chair