

Metro Youth System Redesign

CSH Central Region conference

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Who will be channeling:

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Minneapolis/Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness

Twin Cities Metro Area Homeless Youth – What We Know

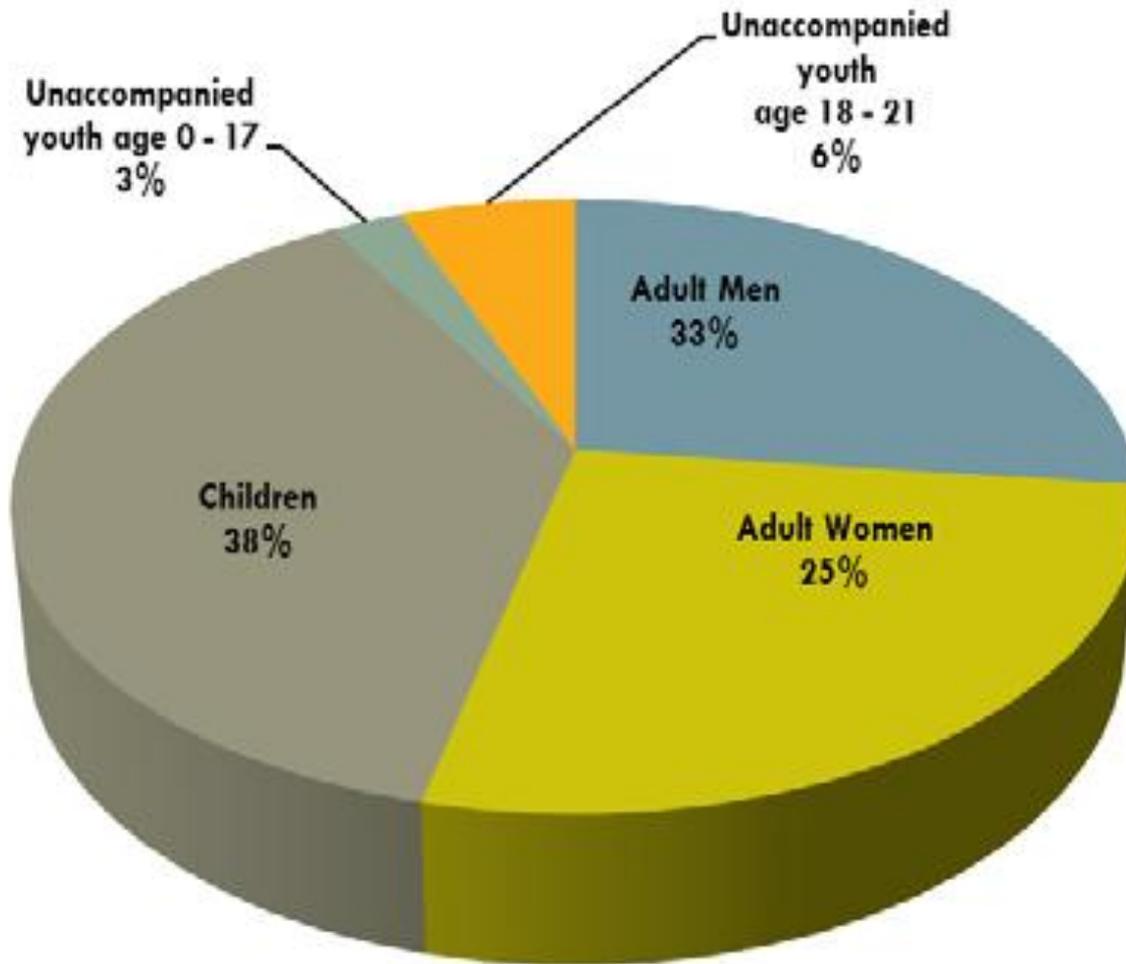
Wilder 2008 Statewide Survey (every 3 years):

- Count: **1,268** youth on their own
 - 227 were age 17 and younger.
 - 1,041 were 18 through 21.
 - 46% increase from 2005.
- On any given night, an estimated **2,500** Minnesota youth experience homelessness. (550 minors, 1950 age 18-21)
- Approximately 60% in the Metro Area.
- Wilder Survey gives us demographic characteristics, experiences with homelessness, risk factors, youth perceptions

Metro Area January 2012 Sheltered Point in Time Results-Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

County	# of 17 and Younger	# of Dependent Children w/ 17 and Younger	# of 18-21	# of Dependent Children w/ 18-21	Total #
Anoka	0	0	5	0	5
Dakota	2	0	8	8	8
Hennepin	23	5	192	2	222
Ramsey	29	8	60	7	105
Scott-Carver	2	3	4	0	9
Washington	12	0	34	2	48
Total:	68	16	303	19	397

Statewide Sheltered PIT Count



Current Homeless Youth “System”

- **FIVE PILLARS TO SERVICES** (RHY Act – Federal and State)
 - Street outreach
 - Drop-in center
 - Emergency shelter
 - Transitional living programs
 - Supportive youth housing programs
- Inadequate services and bed spaces – serve a fraction

Current MN Homeless Youth “System”

STRENGTHS:

- Robust, talented, and creative group of providers.
- Innovative programming with positive outcomes
- Coordination between agencies – cross-referrals
- Multiple services – wide spectrum not found in other cities

CHALLENGES

- Multiple data tracking systems - difficult to measure impact on system.
- Traditional grant-making strategies reinforce competition vs. collaboration and program vs. system-level planning.
- Services not well dispersed geographically – primarily in two major cities.
- Tracking multiple outcomes and measuring in different ways.
- Funding is not coordinated. Funders looking for different outcomes and measures.
- Decreasing funding (STATE and Philanthropy)

What is the Metro Youth Systems Redesign (MYSR) project?

A project to:

- Establish metro-wide collaboration and agreement among service providers and funders around common outcomes and data,
- Improve services through best practices and communication, funding coordination, and
- Develop/promote a regional approach to serving runaway and homeless youth in the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area.

Vision and Mission

VISION:

All youth in the Twin Cities Metro Area have a safe and stable place to call home.

MISSION: Align systems and direct resources to ensure all youth in the Twin Cities Metro Area have a safe and stable place to call home.

Who is MYSR?

- MYSRC (Metro Youth Systems Redesign Council)
- Providers and Funders
- Project Manager

Youth:

A key value of MYSR is to include at all levels of the project the voices and perspectives of youth.

Scary Funders!



How did MYSR get started?

LOSS OF FUNDING!

- In 2010, a major funder of homeless youth programs announced it would be terminating its financial support for homeless youth services.

THREE-YEAR PHASE-OUT

RESOURCES FOR “REDESIGN”

Step 1: Buy-In

Provider Incentives:

- One set of outcomes to report to funders
- Better overall outcomes for youth
- Potential for greater investment and less competition

Funder Incentives (public and private):

- Better idea of whether or not investment is effective
- Find out where the gaps are and where investment most needed
- Investments leveraging greater systems changes

Step 2: Common Outcomes

- The MYSRC established an Outcomes Action Group (OAG) made up of non-profit providers, government agencies, philanthropic organizations, schools, faith communities, and youth.
- 168 people provided input into the shared outcomes through 6 meetings and 5 focus groups with youth.
- 74 youth participated in either the focus groups or the OAG meetings.

System-level Outcomes and Indicators for Twin Cities Homeless Youth Services

1: Youth will have a safe and stable place to call home that meets their needs

- Youth obtain housing that meets their needs
- Youth remain housed
- Youth homelessness is prevented

2: Youth have hope

- Youth can communicate at least one success in life
- Youth report being more hopeful
- Youth are able to identify at least one positive goal for the future
- Youth have expanded choices that increase hope

3: Youth have the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to live stable and healthy lives

- Youth make progress toward their educational goals
- Youth have adequate income to support their basic needs
- Youth develop life skills

4: Youth have positive connections

- Youth will be able to identify at least one positive adult relationship that can be called upon
- Youth will be able to identify at least one positive peer relationship that can be called upon
- Youth will express a belonging to at least one group, club, community, or team

5: Youth are safe & have a sense of well-being

- Youth make safer decisions
- Youth have a sense of self worth
- Youth are not exploited, threatened or abused
- Youth have basic necessities
- Youth are connected to health care

Step 3: Measuring Outcomes

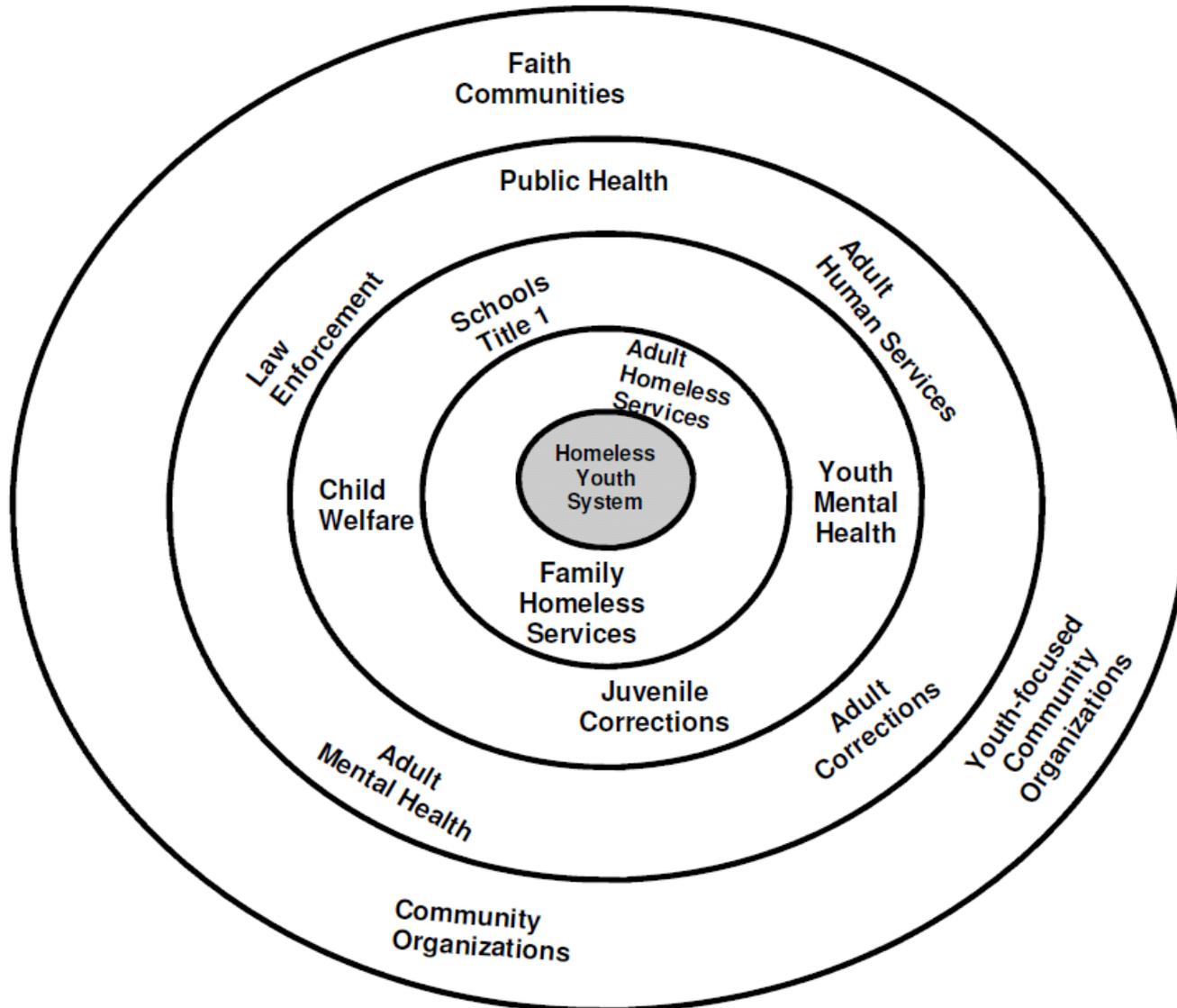
- The MYSRC established the Data Action Group (DAG) made up of data and evaluation experts.
- The goal of the DAG is to establish agreed upon measures and indicators for common outcomes.
- MYSRC will then develop Outcomes Manual and a Memorandum of Understanding with funders.
- Most challenging phase to date!
 - Existing data systems are primarily compliance-oriented
 - Rapidly changing environment

Step 4: Engage and align with existing services and mainstream systems to improve response for vulnerable youth

- What mainstream systems need to be engaged and how?
- We won't solve this with youth homeless system alone.
- Some mainstream systems are engaged in individual programs, but we need them to see housing stability as one of their key outcomes for youth.

Step 5: Continuous Learning and Adjusting

Homeless Youth System & Overlapping Systems



Challenges and Successes

Challenges:

- Definitions.
- Are these systems-level outcomes?
- Complexity thinking without paralyzing the effort.
- How will outcomes be applied to different types of programs and sub-populations?
- Time – too fast and too slow.

Successes:

- More of a sense of “we” (rather than funders vs providers).
- Less competitive.
- More providers and funders thinking systemically rather than just programmatically.
- Increased focus on homeless youth.
- Some additional resources leveraged.