

**HOMELESS YOUTH**  
Capacity Building Project

**Promising Partnerships:  
Public Child Welfare Agencies and  
Homeless Youth Service Providers**

**December 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Presented by the  
John Burton Foundation**

**Call-in phone number for live audio: 916-233-3088**

**Access code: 151-791-657**

# HOMELESS YOUTH

## Capacity Building Project

- Joint project of the John Burton Foundation and California Coalition for Youth
- Seeks to reduce homelessness among transition age youth, ages 16-24 in California by:
  - organizing homeless youth providers to advocate for better policies, and
  - expanding the organizational capacity of nonprofit providers serving homeless youth through technical assistance and training

# Webinar Technical Details

- Call-in phone number for live audio: 916-233-3088
- Access code: 151-791-657
- To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel on your screen, type your question, and click “Send”
- Presentation materials and audio will be posted at [www.cahomelessyouth.org](http://www.cahomelessyouth.org)



# Outline of Presentation & Today's Presenters

- **Findings and resources from a national study**
  - Andrew Moore, National League of Cities
- **Findings from Policy Brief**
  - Simone Tureck, John Burton Foundation
- **Case studies of current partnerships**
  - Peter LaVallee, Redwood Community Action Agency
  - Lisa Spinass, Humboldt County Child Welfare
  - Genny Price, Huckleberry Youth Programs
- **Steps to begin collaboration**
- **Question and Answer**
  - Nika St. Claire, Alameda Family Services, Dream Catcher

# National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families

- Developing tools and examples for re-engaging disconnected youth through cross-system collaboration since 2004
- Case study research suggests that successful cross-system collaboration depends upon:
  - mayoral leadership;
  - an effective coordinating body;
  - structures for mutual accountability; and
  - data sharing, and the use of data to identify results
- Consider approaching city leaders as allies in efforts to bring together youth-serving systems, or to give prominence to causes

# NLC Advice and Assistance Available

- NLC advice and assistance is available to cities and those seeking to work with cities
- Resources include:

NLC Institute for Youth, Education, and Families' Disconnected Youth program area:

[http://www.nlc.org/IYEF/youthdevelopment/disconnected\\_youth/index.aspx](http://www.nlc.org/IYEF/youthdevelopment/disconnected_youth/index.aspx)

City Strategies to Support Homeless Youth Audioconference Transcript:

[http://www.nlc.org/ASSETS/D79FF771663D427BA11142667759E389/IYEF\\_audio\\_youth\\_homelessness11-09.pdf](http://www.nlc.org/ASSETS/D79FF771663D427BA11142667759E389/IYEF_audio_youth_homelessness11-09.pdf)

Municipal Action Guide to Help Cities Support Foster Youth Transitions:

[http://www.nlc.org/ASSETS/6548970283A04EAC8EA64FDC003202FB/IYEF\\_Foster\\_Youth\\_MAG\\_8-09.pdf](http://www.nlc.org/ASSETS/6548970283A04EAC8EA64FDC003202FB/IYEF_Foster_Youth_MAG_8-09.pdf)

# About the Policy Brief

## ***Promising Partnerships:***

- highlights existing partnerships between public child welfare agencies and homeless youth-serving organizations;
- draws on current and emerging opportunities for collaboration;
- emphasizes the need for increased collaboration between these two sectors to better serve our youth
- Provides three case studies

# Key Findings

- Considerable overlap between runaway and homeless youth and foster/former foster youth:
  - **28%** runaway youth who enter shelters cite abuse or neglect as a critical issue
  - California foster youth on runaway status grew from **466** in **1999** to **1,116** in **2009**
  - Foster youth comprise less than **0.3%** of the state's population, but **40%** of persons living in homeless shelters are former foster youth

# Key Findings, *Con't*

- Housing and supportive services for these two populations are funded through different and separate funding streams
- This fragmentation of services inhibits our ability to serve these populations efficiently and effectively

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Download *Promising Partnerships* at  
<http://www.cahomelessyouth.org>

# Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) Youth Services Bureau (YSB)

- Founded in 1984
- **Our House Crisis Shelter** – short-term and emergency shelter (up to 21 days) for youth ages 12-17; serves both foster and non-system youth
- **The Launch Pad** – transitional living program for homeless and runaway youth ages 16-20; serves both foster and non-system youth

# The Partnership Between Humboldt County CWS and RCAA-YSB

- CWS is responsible for long-term case management and permanency
- YSB provides short-term intensive support
- On a day-to-day basis, YSB and CWS have significant contact
  - Child welfare workers are frequently in the shelter, and both groups participate in Team Decision-Making Meetings
  - Administrative staff and directors interact at commission meetings and through partnering on federal grants

# Benefits of the Partnership in Humboldt County

- Partnership occurred in response to foster youth appearing at the shelter
- Humboldt County CWS began to see YSB as a key element in the system of care for foster youth
- This public/private partnership improved service outcomes and reduced system cost

# Benefits of the Partnership in Humboldt County, *Con't*

- Humboldt County CWS recognizes “Our House” as a critical community resource for some of the youth on their caseload as well as for youth at risk of entering the foster care system
- CWS uses “Our House” as a short-term placement for “floaters”, for youth in between placements, and for runaway foster youth at risk of juvenile hall
- “Launch Pad” is a resource for youth close to or already emancipated – YSB holds two beds for system-youth

# Huckleberry Youth Programs

- Founded in 1967
- **Huckleberry House:** 24-hour crisis and emergency shelter in SF for youth ages 11-17
- **Huckleberry Counseling Program:** SF and Marin
- **Huckleberry Transition Age Youth Services:** Outreach and mental health education for youth ages 16-24 in Marin County

# The Partnership Between San Francisco F&CS and Huckleberry

- Strong historical relationship with CPS
- Formal liaison provided in the 1990's
- In most cases CPS was unable to remove the child from the home, but recognized that the child and/or family was in need of services, and would rely on Huckleberry to provide them
- Currently, their partnership is informal

# Benefits of the Partnership in San Francisco & Marin Counties

- Informal partnership; Huckleberry does not house foster youth in their shelter
- Huckleberry has an 88% reunification rate
- If a youth staying in the shelter is taken into CPS custody, Huckleberry and SF F&CS maintain access to Huckleberry Counseling Program after placement
- Huckleberry's Transition Age Youth Services in Marin County are a point of contact for multi-service network for transition aged youth

# Summary:

## Benefits of Collaboration

### To the Provider:

- Providers can contract with CWS to provide services for foster youth while still serving non-system youth
- CPS steps in when a provider's youth has a substantiated child welfare case
- CWS can be an advocacy partner for providers

### To the County CWS Agency:

- Homeless youth provider's services help prevent placement of youth in foster care (through differential response)
- Providers are a resource for runaway foster youth
- Providers are often a point of entry into foster care for substantiated cases
- Providers can be a resource for emancipated / former foster youth facing homelessness or other obstacles in transitioning into independent adulthood

# Step 1: Establish a relationship

- Become educated about the child welfare community
- Make contact with the director or another individual to discuss opportunities for collaboration
- Request a liaison, single point-of-contact, or staff person to be assigned to your agency
- Co-plan cases, participate in TDMs, contract with your county to provide services

# Step 2: Conduct Training

- Have social workers from Child Welfare present in your shelter/drop-in center/etc. and communicating with staff
- Collaborate around service delivery (i.e. if provider has relationship with a family whose children are entering care, work with social worker as a team to address the family)
- Directors and managers participate in coalitions, committees, and projects that involve the Child Welfare community

## Step 3: Make Referrals

- Utilize shelter and drop-in center staff as mediators between child welfare workers and their clients
- Don't cut ties: if a productive relationship has developed, continue to send a youth to a clinician he/she was seeing while at a shelter after the youth moves to a long-term placement
- Be advocates for one another in the community and with the government

# Step 4: Pursue Funding

- Shelters establish reimbursement rates to be used as short-term and emergency placements
- Be strategic, not careless when serving mixed-populations (non-system and system youth)
- Opt into THP-Plus if you serve eligible populations
- Future planning: become an AB 12 placement

# **HOMELESS YOUTH**

## Capacity Building Project

## **Questions or comments?**

**Enter questions on your screen now by clicking the “Questions” panel, typing your question, and clicking “Send.”**

**Or direct later questions or comments to:**

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**[www.cahomelessyouth.org](http://www.cahomelessyouth.org)**

# Upcoming Trainings



## Regional Training

- **Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am – 2:30pm:**

*Relationships Matter: How Your Organization Can Address Attachment Patterns Amongst Homeless and Foster Youth*

**Location:** The California Endowment's Center for Healthy Communities, Downtown Los Angeles

## Web Seminar

- **January 2011:** *The ABC's of Courting Individual and Major Donors*

**Don't Forget to Fill Out Our Survey!!!**