

# Youth At-Risk of Homelessness

## (YARH)

*National Partner Stakeholder Work Group Meeting*

**August 24, 2020**



# Who's here?

## Mathematica

- **Kelsey Chesnut**, stakeholder engagement
- **Megan Shoji**, task lead, stakeholder engagement
- **Morgan Woods**, stakeholder engagement
- **Cay Bradley**, project director
- ★ • **Menbere Shiferaw**, impact study design
- ★ • **Rosalind Keith**, implementation study design lead
- **Missy Thomas**, survey director

## Project officers

- **Mary Mueggenborg**, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation
- **Catherine Heath**, Children's Bureau

## Stakeholders

YARH National Partner Stakeholder Work Group members

# YARH National Partner Stakeholder Work Group

## David Howard

- Covenant House

## Jasmine Hayes

- Capacity Building Center for States

## Johanna Bergan

- Youth Move

## Laura Chadwick

- Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

## Megan Gibbard Kline

- A Way Home America

## Michelle Daly

- SAMHSA, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment

## Anna Gennari

- Foster Youth in Action

## Caroline Crouse

- Dept. Housing and Urban Development

## Catherine Lester

- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative

## Kevin Solarte

- Corporation for Supportive Housing

## Krysta Esquivel

- YMCA of San Diego County

# Today's Goals

# Inform recruitment plans for the YARH-3 summative evaluation



Build the evidence base on promising strategies to prevent homelessness and support youth and young adults involved in the child welfare system



Assess implementation and impacts of Colorado's Pathways to Success (Pathways) program on key outcomes



Continue evaluation activities with Alameda to continue to strengthen the Youth Transitions Partnership (YTP) program





**66%**

of youth had used an overnight shelter or received public housing assistance before enrolling in Pathways.



**56%**

of youth had experienced homelessness because of running away from their family, foster, or group home.



**49%**

of youth spent time in jail or detention before turning 18.



**45%**

of youth had experienced homelessness as a result of violence at home by the time of their enrollment in the pathways program.

**Pathways Serves High-Risk Youth  
Enrolled Youth Report an Average of 4.9  
Risk Factors**

# Icebreaker

*In the chat window, share one effective, cool, promising, or go-to strategy for involving this population in research.*

# Discuss three aspects of our plans

1. Study recruitment script
2. Focus group recruitment
3. Data collection incentives





# Study Recruitment

# Overview of study recruitment plans

## Identify eligible youth

- Youth ages 14-21
- Eligible for Chafee services
- Report at least one risk factor on Pathways screening tool

## Collaborate with Colorado Team

- ✓ Content knowledge
- ✓ Wisdom
- ✓ Partnering opportunities

## Invite youth to participate in the study

- Briefly describe the study and what participation would involve
- Obtain informed consent
- Materials
  - ✓ Recruitment protocol
  - ✓ Study consent form
  - ✓ FAQ resource
  - ✓ Recruitment script

## Supporting Youth to be Successful in Life (SYSIL)

# Recruitment script

- **Lights, camera, role play!**
- **General introduction to gauge interest**
- **As you listen to the script, think about the following:**
  - Will the script **engage** youth?
  - Is the language in the script **accessible** to this population and age group? Will the script **effectively inform** youth about what activities they would be asked to be involved in as part of the study?
  - Does the script need to provide **more detail**? Less detail?
  - Is the script **inclusive** of a range of experiences and situations?
  - Is the script **coercive** in any way?

\*We'll discuss incentives later in the meeting

# Let's discuss! Feedback on the script



- **What could be improved?**

- Will the script **engage** youth?
- Is the language in the script **accessible** to this population and age group? Will the script **effectively inform** youth about what activities they would be asked to be involved in as part of the study?
- Does the script need to provide **more detail**? Less detail?
- Is the script **inclusive** of a range of experiences and situations?
- Is the script **coercive** in any way?

- **What effective strategies have you seen for engaging young adults with child welfare histories when inviting them to participate in a study?**

# Focus Group Recruitment



# Purpose of the focus groups

## Youth offered Pathways services (intervention group)

- What were youths' perceptions of the Pathways model? How did they describe their experience with it?
- What factors helped youth engage in Pathways, or kept them from engaging in it?

## Youth offered comparison services (comparison group)

- How were services available to youth in the comparison group (Chafee services) distinct from services available to youth in the intervention group (Pathways services)?

# Focus group recruitment strategy

- Coordinate with county to identify most effective approach to recruit youth with varying levels of program engagement
- Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and enter the code 83 32 03

*From your experience working with this population, what strategies would you suggest we use to recruit youth with varying levels of service engagement?*

# Your ideas for strategies for focus group recruitment strategies: Menti poll results





# Focus group recruitment plans

- 1. Have Pathways graduates recruit and conduct the focus groups in intervention counties**
  - What are some potential challenges or obstacles to that approach?
- 2. Invite 8-10 youth per county to achieve focus group of 4 youth, and offer participation incentive**
  - Does that assumption sound right to you? Do you think response rates might be lower than we expect?

# Virtual focus group plans

- **Use a virtual focus group discussion board**
  - Preprogrammed questions
  - Moderator can respond publicly or privately
  - Can leave open for 1 to 5 days with different questions each day
  - Provide anonymity to respondents

***Based on your experience and knowledge of this population, what are the advantages and key challenges to conducting virtual focus groups?***

# Data Collection Incentives



# Incentives for surveys and focus groups

- Framed as a thank you for completion of the survey

- **Planned incentives for survey participation**

- **Baseline:** \$35 gift card and dry/travel bag
- **6 month follow-up:** \$40 gift card
- **12 month follow-up:** \$50 gift card
- **24 month follow-up:** \$75 gift card

- **Planned incentives for focus group participation**

- \$40 per youth (approximately 4 youth per site)

# Incentives for surveys and focus groups

- Go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and enter the code 96 37 39
  1. *What percentage of the total \$200 budget for incentives (per youth) should we assign to each survey?*
  2. *Any other thoughts/comments you want to share?*

# Your thoughts on survey incentives: Menti poll results



# Wrap-Up

# Next steps

- **You: Share any additional thoughts in writing by the end of the week**
  - Email to Kelsey Chesnut: [KChesnut@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:KChesnut@mathematica-mpr.com)
- **Mathematica: Use feedback to inform recruitment plans**
  - Summarize feedback and potential implications for our plans
  - Share with federal partners and incorporate into evaluation design
- **Next opportunity to contribute**
  - Stakeholder work group meetings on initial findings and reporting (summer/fall 2022 and winter 2023)
  - Potential invitations for ad hoc opportunities



Any questions



# For additional information or questions

- **Kelsey Chesnut, Mathematica (Stakeholder workgroup questions)**  
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- **Cay Bradley, Mathematica (general YARH questions)**  
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- **Mary Mueggenborg, Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation**  
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