



Poverty and Homelessness Board

All-Member Meeting

June 17, 2021

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Watch live or later at <https://lanecounty.ompnetwork.org/>

AGENDA

Topic

1. Welcome and Agenda Review, Roll Call 5 minutes
Members give one sentence update related to the position they represent on the board
2. Follow-up from Previous Meeting and Consent Agenda 5 minutes
 - Approve Minutes of April 15, 2021
3. Youth Homelessness 15 minutes
 - Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant overview
 - 15th Night Youth Housing Task Force: Recommendations for 11-17 year olds experiencing homelessness, presentation by Megan Shultz & Mattias Smith
4. Continuum of Care Updates, Amanda Borta 10 minutes
5. Emergency Housing Vouchers MOU, Danielle Bautista 10 minutes
6. Data and Analytics, Lise Stuart, Lane County 10 minutes
7. Committee & Member Updates (also see packet) 15 minutes
 - Membership: Applications for Education Representative, Philanthropy Representative
 - Eviction Moratorium and Rent Assistance Programs (www.lanecountyor.gov/rent)
8. Public Comment 10 minutes
Individuals who plan to offer comment must register and indicate they wish to give public comment in the chat box, with name and contact information
9. Provider Comment
Providers are invited to share comments. Time permitting
10. Wrap Up
Summarize board decisions, assignments, next steps, planning next meeting’s agenda

Next Meetings: July 15 Executive Committee- Strategic Planning Discussion
August 19 All-Member Meeting

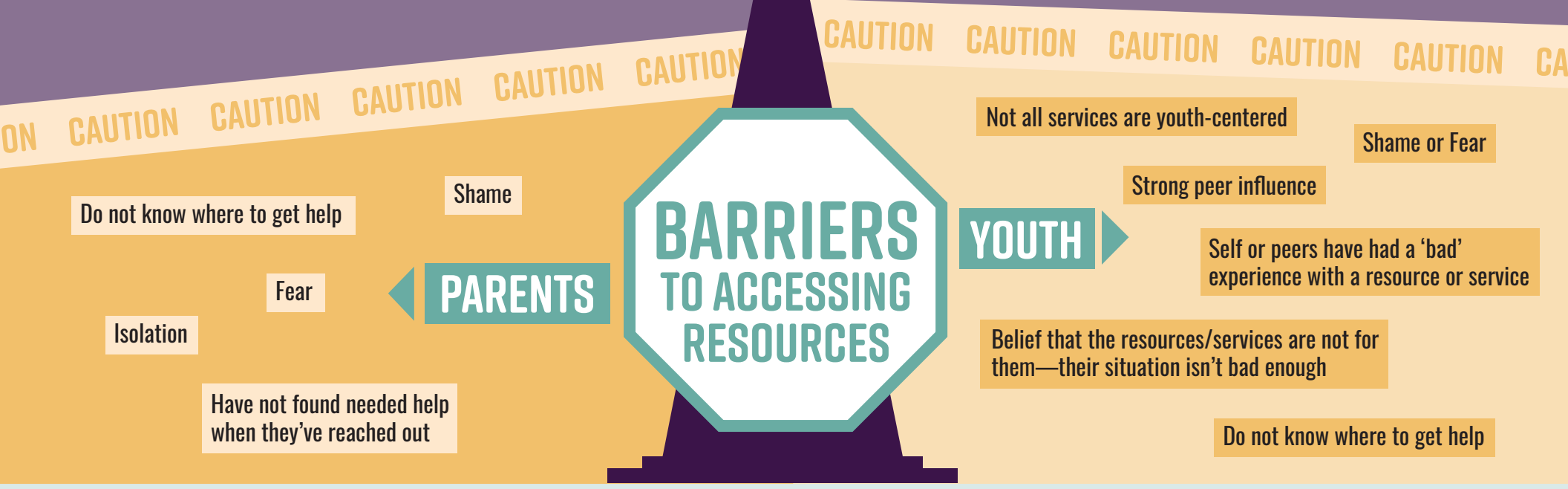
The Poverty and Homeless Board (PHB) is an action oriented group of elected officials, community stakeholders, and individuals who represent low-income and homeless people’s concerns. The purpose of the PHB is to create innovative partnerships and programs that use best practices to reduce poverty and homelessness in Lane County. The PHB will work to generate resources, community and legislative support for housing and services to achieve its goals.

OVERCOMING HOMELESSNESS

AGES 11-17

A 35-member youth informed Task Force developed a comprehensive shelter-housing plan for unhoused youth ages 11-17. The result is a plan designed to help guide our community on a new path towards building sustainable resources, to ensure runaway and homeless youth have timely access to shelter-housing programs and support services for themselves and their parents/guardians.

PATHWAYS TO YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



OPTIONS

PREVENTION

GOAL STABILIZE HOME PLACEMENT, IF SAFE

A system of support for youth and their families who are experiencing some type of discord that may lead to a youth wanting to or being asked to leave their home. The goal is to help youth and/or their families access supportive services prior to leaving home by providing timely access to appropriate resources and services.

RESPIRE

GOAL MOVE TO STABLE HOUSING IN 30 DAYS

The plan assumes that students have accessed "prevention services" and are in need of shelter or respite housing. "Prevention" resources continue to be available for these students and their families.

TRANSITIONAL

GOAL STABLE HOUSING, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TO HELP WITH TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

"Prevention" resources continue to be available to youth throughout their continuum of need. There are situations where youth are not able to return home and need longer term housing via community programming.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

HOST HOME PROGRAM

THE HOST HOME PROGRAM is the most cost effective way to serve more youth. A key strategy for meeting the shelter-housing needs of youth in our community is to expand the "traditional" host home model to include homes for:

- Emergency-Respite placement
- Family-Kinship
- LGBTQ Specific
- Pregnant and Parenting Teens
- LatinX

We need the community in general to be committed to assisting both A Family For Every Child and Safe Families to recruit host home families.



PEER SUPPORT SERVICES

It is important that these **PEER SPECIALISTS** have lived experience that is relevant to the issues the youth and/or parent/guardian is navigating.

RECOMMENDATION Youth and Family Support Peer Specialists:

- Embedded in high schools
- Accessible 24/7 via Youth Support Center and Resource Line
- No qualifications or requirements for access to some peer support services
- Provide case management type services

Youth Support and Family Support Specialists may assist their peers with the following types of activities:

- Resource connection
- Mental health and physical health service navigation
- Social/community support connections
- Crisis support

Agencies currently providing these types of services: Looking Glass Community Services, Youth Era, Centro Latino Americano and Direction Service

YOUTH SUPPORT CENTER

YOUTH SUPPORT CENTERS were initially developed for youth and their parents/guardians who are involved with the juvenile justice system and need crisis mitigation and a "warm hand-off" to community resources and services. We are recommending that we broaden the population scope to include all youth and parents/guardians who need this type of support.

The Youth Support Center would include a 24/7 resource phone line that youth and parents/guardians can access by calling or texting. No appointment necessary to access services on site at the Center.

The types of support that would be available are:

- De-escalation
- Crisis mitigation
- Family/guardian reconnection
- Initial needs assessment
- Connection to community services
- Transportation to home or shelter

Agency: White Bird Clinic

INVESTING OUTCOMES

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH IN OREGON

OREGON HAS THE **1ST** HIGHEST RATE* OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN THE U.S.

OREGON HAS THE **2ND** HIGHEST RATE OF UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR **3,700** HIGHEST RATE OF UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH



OREGON'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS IS ONLY

54%

YOUTH WHO DO NOT FINISH HIGH SCHOOL OR A GED ARE

2X

MORE LIKELY TO FACE UNEMPLOYMENT AS ADULTS



FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED IN RHY PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS YOUTH, OREGON SAVES \$4

STUDENT OUTCOMES



The 15th Night was founded on the belief that we live in a caring community that doesn't shy away from complex issues such as youth homelessness. Standing on that belief, we invited service providers, stakeholders, youth and community leaders to come together to tackle the lack of shelter-housing options for youth navigating homelessness by creating a coordinated plan to address it.

We know:

- What youth say they need because we asked them
- What shelter-housing programming is currently available
- How many beds/units were available pre-COVID
- Where the "gaps" are and which agency/agencies can fill them

What we don't know:

- All the answers
- The average cost per youth for the various programs
- The gap between public funding and the actual cost of service
- The usage rate for the various programs

What we also know:

- 791 kids in Eugene/Springfield are navigating homelessness and cannot wait for us to answer every single question
- We have enough answers to move forward
- The agencies listed in the report know their costs and funding gaps
- We must all move to action now

After reading the 15th Night Youth Housing-Shelter plan, we need you to:

- **Prioritize and reinvest** in our community's existing programs
- **Allocate resources** to launch the new recommended services
- **Advocate within your circle of influence** for others to join you in supporting these recommendations

If you have questions, need contact information for our partner agencies, or have ideas to share, please contact Megan Shultz, 15th Night Community Coordinator at info@15thnight.org

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15th Night Youth Shelter-Housing Plan 11-17 age group

Shar's Story - What Did Happen

"My entire life has been a struggle. Having a roof over my head and food to eat has never been a given. My mom and I fight a lot. One night we got into it about something stupid and she kicked me out. I had nowhere to go. I ended up staying in some pretty sketchy places and doing some things I was not proud of. I felt hopeless, like 'what's the point in trying?'" Shar, 2020

In October 2020, the 15th Night convened a 35-member Task Force, supported by a Core Leadership Team, to develop a comprehensive shelter-housing plan for youth ages 11-24. The result is a plan designed to help guide our community on a new path towards building sustainable resources to ensure runaway and homeless youth have timely access to shelter-housing programs and support services for themselves and their parents/guardians. **The planning process revealed that the 11-17 and 18-24 age groups needed separate plans. We are still working on the 18-24 age group plan.*

Ages 11-17 Shelter Housing Plan Prevention/Shelter Diversion Emergency Shelter/Respite Housing Transitional Housing

Compelling Data

Data was collected for 2019 from multiple sources. School data was collected for the 2018-2019 school year.

Eugene 4J, Bethel and Springfield School Districts

1,778 K-12 students experienced homelessness; of those, 522 students were unaccompanied, with no supervising adult in their lives.

Department of Human Services District 5 - Lane County

7.8 youth per month were categorized as runaway. In 2020, that number rose to 10.9 youth per month.

Eugene and Springfield Police Departments

261 youth were reported as runaways. All runaway youth are considered homeless, as the act of running away makes them homeless, even if only temporarily.

By combining the above data sets, the annualized estimate is 791 unaccompanied youth experience homelessness and housing instability in Eugene/Springfield.

Comparing the number of youth in need to the number of shelter beds (12) and other housing type beds (39), the need for more shelter options is convincing and undeniable. [\(see Shelter-Housing Options Graphic on page 15\).](#)

Challenges that may lead to youth homelessness:

*no significance to order

- Family discord
- Values and beliefs not aligned
 - Gender identity
 - Sexual orientation
 - Religious beliefs
- Abuse, neglect, and safety issues
- Exiting from foster care
- Financial instability
- Family chronic homelessness
- Poverty
- Student and/or guardian mental health challenges
- Student and/or guardian substance abuse
- Lack of awareness of resources

While the Task Force's plan is focused on shelter-housing programming and supportive services for youth, parents/guardians of adolescents are also included because it is our belief that if the adults in their lives have access to critical supportive services, fewer youth will need shelter-housing programming.

Youth Barriers to Accessing Resources and Services

- Do not know where to go to get help
- Shame
- Fear
- Belief that the resources/services are not for them - their situation isn't bad enough
- Strong peer influence
- Self or peers have had a "bad" experience with a resource or service
- Not all services are youth centered
- Waitlists, insufficient access to resources
- Need a resource to get a resource. E.g. need a cell phone to connect with an employer.

Parent/Guardian Barriers to Accessing Resources and Services

- Do not know where to go to get help
- Shame
- Fear
- Isolation
- Have not found help needed when they've reached out
- Insufficient access to resources

PREVENTION/SHELTER DIVERSION

[\(see graphic on page 16\)](#)

We recommend the creation of a system of support for youth and their parents/guardians who are experiencing discord that may escalate to a youth wanting to, or being told to, leave their home. The goal is to help youth and/or their parents/guardians obtain timely access to supportive services in hopes of avoiding homelessness.

The shelter-housing plan includes school and community-based resource pathways for youth and/or parents/guardians to connect to resources and services prior to the youth needing emergency shelter/respice housing.

RECOMMENDATION

Peer Support: Youth and Family Support Specialists:

- Embedded in high schools
- Accessible 24/7 via Youth Support Center and Resource Line
- No qualifications or requirements for access to some peer support services
- Provide case management type services

Agencies currently providing these types of services:

Looking Glass Community Services, Youth Era, Centro Latino Americano and Direction Service

Peer Support Services, including the two subcategories of Youth Support and Family Support Specialists, a type of Traditional Health Worker are an essential component to the youth (ages 11-17) shelter-housing plan. A peer's ability to relate, build trust/rapport, and assist others as they navigate systems, challenges, and barriers are key to helping support someone through this part of their life's journey. These types of peer-delivered services should be available throughout a continuum from low barrier access to billable case management services in all three of the shelter-housing plan's focus areas: prevention/shelter diversion, emergency shelter/ respice housing, and transitional housing. Some certified peer support specialists offer medicaid billable services.

Youth and Family Support Specialists are people who have personal experience navigating complex systems such as health care, foster care, juvenile justice, education, housing, etc) and use that lived experience to support other youth or parents/guardians.

Youth Support and Family Support Specialists may assist their peers with the following types of activities:

- Resource connection
- Mental health and physical health service navigation
- Social/community support connections
- Crisis support

RECOMMENDATION

- Launch 24/7 Youth Support Center
- Maintain 24/7 Resource phone line with text messaging capabilities

Agency: White Bird Clinic

Youth Support Centers were initially developed for youth and their parents/guardians who are involved with the juvenile justice system and need crisis mitigation and a “warm hand-off” to community resources and services. We are recommending that we broaden the population scope to include all youth and parents/guardians who need this type of support.

The Youth Support Center would include a 24/7 resource phone line that youth and parents/guardians can access by calling or texting. No appointment necessary to access services on site at the Center.

The types of support that would be available are:

- De-escalation
- Crisis mitigation
- Family/guardian reconnection
- Initial needs assessment
- Connection to community services
- Transportation to home or shelter

In addition, upon filing a run-away report, parents/guardians would be given contact information for the 24/7 Resource Line and Youth Support Center.

On-call Youth and Family Support Specialists would be accessible through the Youth Support Center and 24/7 Resource Line.

RECOMMENDATION

- Launch and maintain school-based Rapid Access Network (RAN) systems to include all area high schools.
- Maintain community-based RAN to ensure unaccompanied youth identified by the schools as navigating homelessness without a parent/guardian is connected to community resources and services.

Agency: 15th Night

In 2016, the Rapid Access Network (RAN) technology was developed by our local tech community for the 15th Night to help peers, school staff, community advocates, and service providers connect unaccompanied youth to a network of 40+ agencies providing 65+ services and resources in real-time via text message and email. In 2017, the first school-based RAN was launched at South Eugene High School. School-based RANs connect **all students** to school-based resources and services.

EMERGENCY SHELTER-RESPITE HOUSING

[\(see graphic on page 17\)](#)

These types of shelter-housing programs are temporary placements while other housing options are secured via a return home, to other safe adults/family members who can provide housing, or community-based residential placement or transitional housing.

RECOMMENDATION

Expansion of the Host Home Program to include:

- Emergency-respite homes
- Kinship homes
- Homes that meet the specific needs of:
 - LBGTQ identifying youth
 - Pregnant and parenting teens
 - BIPOC youth

Host Homes are an integral component of the shelter-housing plan. Host Homes are individuals and/or families that volunteer to “host” a youth for a specified amount of time. Host Home volunteers are screened, trained, and supported via a certified Host Home program. The most cost effective way to serve more youth is through the expansion of the Host Home program. It is critical that there is community-wide support to help recruit for the Host Home program.

Agency: A Family for Every Child

RECOMMENDATION

- Launch Year-round Low Barrier Shelter

This type of shelter is open year round for emergency one-night stays. There is no criteria for needing this type of shelter. The goal is safety and connection to other services and resources that can help the youth address longer term needs.

Agency: Youth Era (44 W)

- Maintain Emergency Shelter

Station 7 is the only emergency shelter in our community with a total of 12 beds pre-COVID. Youth can stay up to 30 days. There is a priority on family reunification and case management services are provided.

Agency: Looking Glass Community Services (Station 7)

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

[\(see graphic on page 18\)](#)

There are situations when youth are not able to return home and need longer term housing via community programming.

RECOMMENDATION

- Expansion of Host Homes to include:
 - Family-kinship homes
 - Homes that meet the specific needs of:
 - LGBTQ identifying youth
 - Pregnant and parenting teens
 - BIPOC youth

Agency: A Family for Every Child

- Continued Support for
 - SVdP Youth House Female Identifying
 - Looking Glass Transitional and Rapid-Rehousing Programs
 - Hope Ranch
- Support for New or Expanded Programming
 - SVdP Youth House Male Identifying

Recommendations Overview

PREVENTION/SHELTER DIVERSION

RECOMMENDATION

Peer Support: Youth and Family Support Specialists:

- Embedded in high schools
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Agencies currently providing these types of services: Looking Glass Community Services, Youth Era, Centro Latino Americano and Direction Service

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Agency: White Bird Clinic

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Agency: 15th Night

EMERGENCY SHELTER-RESPITE HOUSING

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Agency: A Family for Every Child

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Agency: Youth Era (44 W)

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Agency: Looking Glass Community Services (Station 7)

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

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- Expansion of Host Homes to include:
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Agency: A Family for Every Child

- Continued Support for
 - SVdP Youth House Female Identifying
 - Looking Glass Transitional and Rapid-Rehousing Programs
 - Hope Ranch
- Support for New or Expanded Programming
 - SVdP Youth House Male Identifying

Other Notable Issues and Recommendations

- **Livable wages are necessary for service providers** in order to attract and retain highly skilled staff. Staff retention is key to building the trust and relationships needed to help youth achieve successful outcomes.
- Use of a **“common assessment”** form to be used by all agencies as well as **shared language and definitions** among community partners.
- Further discussions on community-wide utilization of the County's **HMIS** data system.
- The lack of **youth detox** tethers youth to the streets and chronic homelessness, and is a barrier to accessing shelter housing. A workgroup should be convened to better understand the need and find a solution to bring youth detox programming to our community.
- Local law enforcement agencies need to update their runaway reporting protocol and form to help parents connect to crisis services.
- Further exploration of how best to **support parents of adolescents**; identify resource-service needs and preferred modes of access; and find solutions to address barriers to access.
- Remove barriers for runaway **DHS involved youth** who are trying to access community-based shelter-housing resources.
- **Raise youth awareness of resources and services**; continue to identify and address barriers to access.
- Create access to low or no cost **cell phones** because many resources are accessed via phone, text, or the internet.

Shar's Story - What Can Happen

*"My entire life has been a struggle. Having a roof over my head and food to eat has never been a given. My mom and I fight a lot. One night we got into it about something stupid and she kicked me out. I went to the **Youth Support Center** that I heard about at my school. The staff made me feel safe and listened to me. They called my mom and she said I could stay that night at the **Host Home**. The next day afterschool, my mom and I met back at the Youth Support Center. We were introduced to Ashley, a **Youth Support Specialist** and Lisa, a **Family Support Specialist**. Eventually, my mom and I started family counseling and we were connected to other resources in the community. There is a lot to be hopeful for now." Shar, 2020*

The 15th Night Youth Housing Planning Task Force is advocating for a stable funding base for our community's existing, planned, and proposed prevention/shelter diversion, emergency shelter and transitional housing services.

This plan was vetted by youth currently experiencing homelessness, developed by a 35-member stakeholder Task Force, and guided by a Core Leadership Team.

Plan development included:

- Identifying and defining types of shelter and housing
- Mapping existing shelter/housing resources based on age, gender identification, and pre-COVID capacity. (see attachment #1 - Housing Type Graphic)
- Identifying and mitigating possible pathways to youth homelessness
- Addressing barriers to accessing resources and services

Task Force Members

Mattias Smith	15th Night Youth Action Council
Jenna Laver	15th Night Youth Action Council Facilitator
Jan Ferguson	A Family For Every Child
Donna Butera	Bethel School District
Julia Hernandez	Centro Latino Americano
Michelle Cady	Cornerstone Community Housing
Brittany Raine	CORE
Ross Kanaga	Dev NW
Chris Pence	Dev NW
Brandyn Rice	DHS
Chuck Nyby	DHS
Melissa Erickson	DHS
Tricia Merrick	DHS
Aimee Walsh	Direction Service
Shellye Rosso	DYS
Julia Johnson	Eugene 4J
Tauna Nelson	Eugene 4J
Kari Skinner	Eugene 4J
Beth Sheehan	Eugene Mission

Rev. Adam Briddell
Mary Augustine
Chris Almaise
Emily Yates
Diana Janz
Brad Bills
Amanda Hampton
Iris Bicksler
Jacqueline McCall
Dana Petersen
Amanda Dellinger
Matthew Rasmussen
Deborah Dailey
Josh Hedgecock
Michael Y.
Stacey Yates
Kirsten London

First United Methodist Church
Food for Lane County
HIV Alliance
Homes for Good
Hope Ranch
Hosea Youth Services
Looking Glass Community Services
Pacific Source Community Health Plans
Oregon Health Authority
Sheltercare
Square One Villages
State of Oregon
St Vincent de Paul
St Vincent de Paul
St Vincent de Paul
St Vincent de Paul
Youth Era

Leadership Core Team

Susie Andrist
Peter Chavaness
Noreen Dunnells
Sarai Johnson
Jon Ruiz
Mattias Smith
Brenda Wilson

Community Advocate
Division Manager, City of Eugene
CEO United Way of Lane County
Joint Housing and Shelter Strategist
Retired City Manager, City of Eugene
15th Night Youth Action Council Member
Executive Director, Lane Council of Government

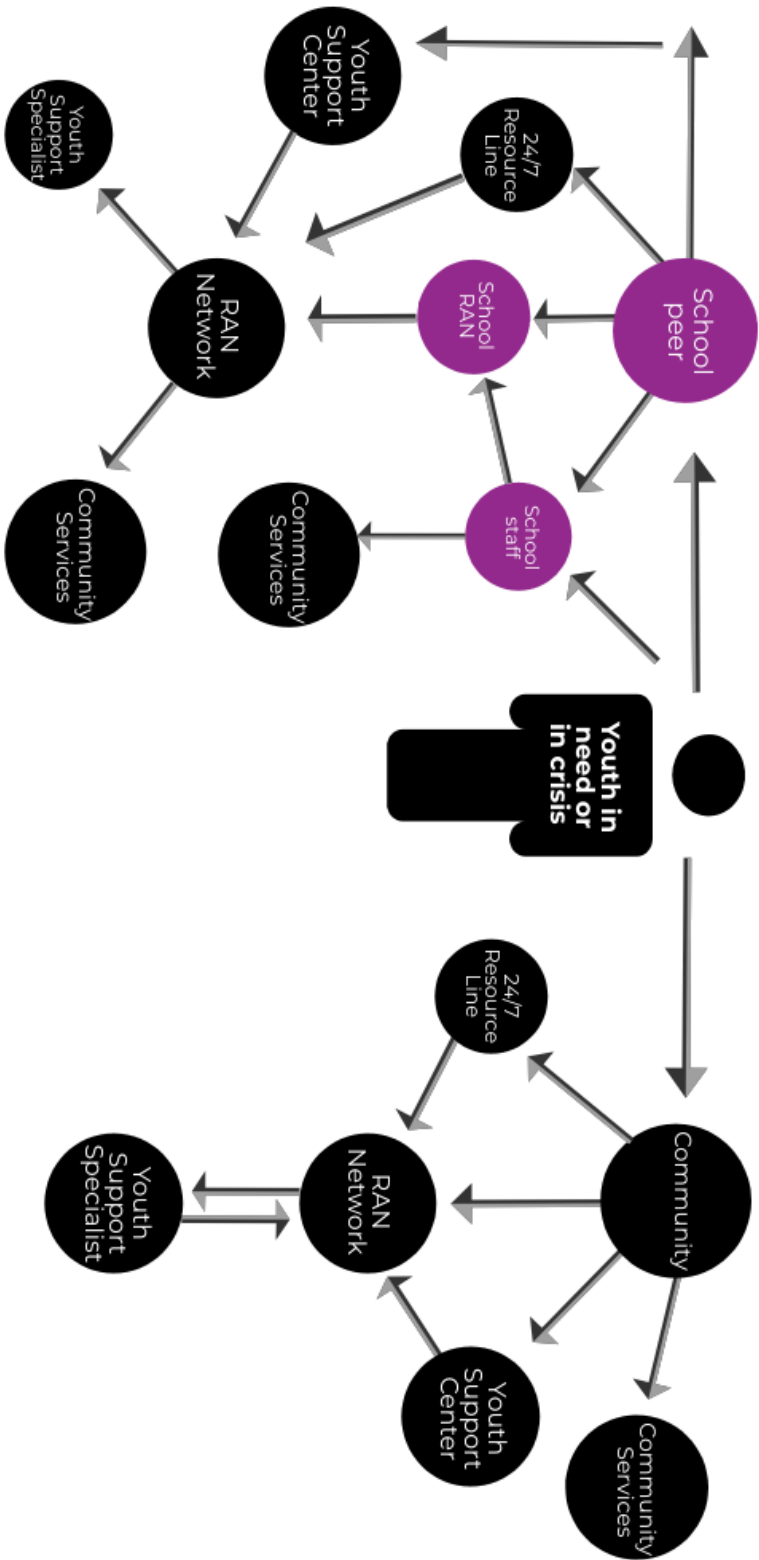
Shelter & Housing Options for **Youth 11-17 years old**

Lane County

Types of Shelter & Housing	Existing Programs	New Programs
<p>Prevention / Shelter Diversion Emergency housing/shelter Stay typically 1-60 days</p>	<p>Youth Support Specialists Family Support Specialists (Looking Glass, Youth ERA, Centro, Direction Service) Whitebird 24/7 Resource Line 15th Night RAN Systems</p>	<p><i>24/7 Youth Support Center (Whitebird)</i></p>
<p>Emergency Shelter Emergency housing/shelter Stay typically 1-60 days</p>	<p>Looking Glass Station 7 (12 beds)</p>	<p><i>A Family For Every Child Host Homes (5)</i></p>
<p>Low barrier shelter Shelter that allows folks to "come as they are".</p>		<p><i>Youth ERA at 44 W (16 beds)</i></p>
<p>Warming Center Nighttime shelter during extremely cold weather</p>	<p>SVdP Youth Egan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens when temperatures drop below 30 degrees • Max age 21 	
<p>Transitional Housing Temporary housing with the intention of transitioning residents into permanent, affordable housing. Free and often paired with case management services</p>	<p>SVdP Girl's House* (13 units) Looking Glass* (6 units, ages 16-21) Hope Ranch*</p>	<p><i>A Family For Every Child Host Homes (15)</i></p>
<p>Rapid Rehousing Provides short term rental assistance and services. Leases managed by landlord.</p>	<p>Looking Glass* (20 units, ages 16-21)</p>	

* denotes additional criteria to
access shelter

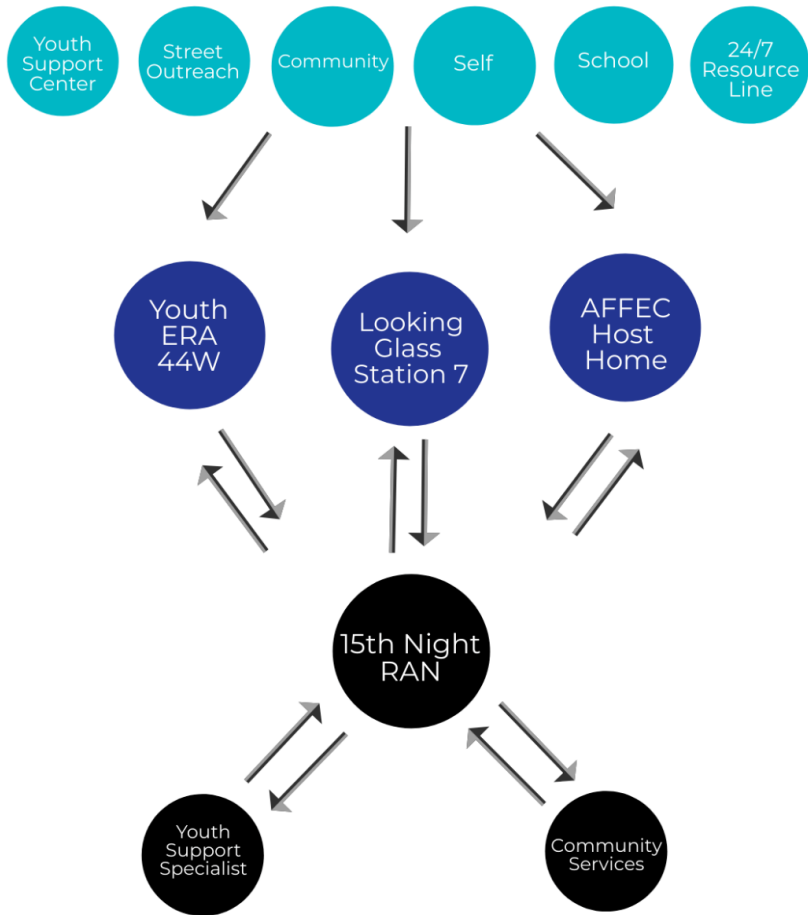
PREVENTION / SHELTER DIVERSION



Emergency Shelter / Respite Housing



Prevention/Shelter Diversion services accessed



Transitional Housing

