

**Department of Human Services**  
**Child Welfare Report to the Legislature on Runaway and Homeless Youth**  
**Oregon Revised Statute 417.799**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is submitting this report to the Legislature as required by ORS 417.799 Runaway and Homeless Youth, a result of House Bill 2232 enacted in the 2015 Legislative Session. This report provides a status of the system of services and supports for Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) developed by DHS, and information about the committee appointed to advise and provide expertise to DHS related to the needs of Runaway and Homeless Youth in Oregon.

**Program Updates**

The department has engaged several approaches to develop the system in Oregon for Runaway and Homeless Youth:

- A. Learning Opportunities
- B. Service Updates
- C. Homeless Youth Advisory Council
- D. Additional Outreach

DHS management has seen much turnover in the past year. A new DHS Director, as well as a new Child Welfare Director, came on board and have been working diligently on learning processes and programs, as well as establishing focuses and goals. Additionally, a new Child Welfare Deputy Director was brought on in August 2018 and a new interim Foster Care Manager (who was also the manager of the DHS RHY Program) came on board in June 2018. There is an expectation for a new Foster Care Manager to be hired in late-2018. DHS has been having internal discussions to bring all new management up to speed on the RHY Program. A position paper was created that included DHS' history with the RHY program, the challenges of the program being staffed at current levels within Child Welfare, and input from national field experts. In an effort to create a state Office of Homeless and Runaway Youth responsible and accountable for meeting the needs of runaway and homeless youth, DHS has also

had discussions about the future of the RHY program and how and where to gain greater traction and visibility.

### **A. Learning Opportunities:**

In November 2017, DHS supported individuals associated with three private Oregon RHY providers to participate in the West Coast Convening (WCC), a series of day and a half sessions involving government and program staff from the states of Oregon, Washington, and California. In addition, members of the Multnomah County Homeless Youth Continuum, of which there are also participants on Oregon's Homeless Youth Advisory Council (HYAC), were in attendance. This semi-annual gathering took place in Seattle in November 2017, and was held to discuss issues around serving homeless youth with a focus on the West Coast commonalities among the states.

November 2017 West Coast Convening presentations included:

- Seattle: What is unique? What is working? What is challenging?
- Building guidelines for youth voice and ethical storytelling
- Coordinated Entry Systems and Housing Research Updates
- How to use research for advocacy and navigating the new federal landscape
- Being Intentional with Organizational Diversity and Inclusion within WCC

The next WCC will be in November 2018 in Sacramento, CA.

In March 2018, DHS attended the National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness in Los Angeles, put on by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH). Presentations included:

- Working Together to End Homelessness It Takes a System
- Creating Change at the State and Local Levels
- Child Welfare Agencies investing in Housing Solutions
- Faith Communities as Partners in Sheltering and Housing Families
- A New Model for Transitional Housing: Crisis Housing with Housing-Focused Services

- Host Homes: Getting the Community Involved
- Best Practices in Youth Rapid Re-Housing
- Partnering with Child Welfare to End Youth Homelessness
- Engaging Local Cross-Sector Leadership

In August 2018, DHS was invited to be a panelist in two sessions at the National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness in Washington DC, put on by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH). These sessions included:

- Going Back Home: Safe and Supportive Family Reunification for Homeless Youth
- What Have We Learned? Lessons from Six Years of 100-Day Challenges

In addition to being a panelist, DHS was able to attend additional sessions, which included:

- Ending Homelessness through Employment: Practical Tools for Advancing State-Level Policy and Action
- How Child Welfare Agencies Can Prevent and End Homelessness
- The Role of Community Action Agencies in Ending Homelessness
- Coordinating with TANF to End Family Homelessness
- You're Hired! Ending Homelessness through Employment
- Creative Strategies to End Rural Homelessness

DHS continues to manage the Oregon Programs serving Runaway and Homeless Youth Listserv to advertise future trainings, funding opportunities, and other information pertinent to this population. Some training opportunities that were attended by Listserv members and shared on the Listserv include:

- Rapid Re-Housing for Youth Learning Community Webinar
- Resilience in Action: A Strength-based Approach to Working with Young People
- Trauma Informed CSEC Training
- SchoolHouse Connections Webinars

- Federal Policy
- FAFSA for unaccompanied youth
- Scholarships for youth who have experienced homelessness
- Oregon Housing & Community Services Outreach Schedule
- Chapin Hall Voices of Youth Count study
- Learning Together to Prevent Homelessness for Youth and Young Adults with Child Welfare Involvement
- EFFC Developmentally Appropriate Housing Options for Young Adults
- Avoiding Homelessness for Youth Aging out of Care: The Wisconsin PATHS to Success Mode
- Portland Metro Opportunity Youth Job Fair

DHS continues to increase its involvement in training presentations and information sessions, as well as membership in local and statewide stakeholder groups. Some of these include:

- August 2017 – Runaway and Homeless Youth Mapping (Marion County)
- September 2017 – Runaway and Homeless Youth Mapping - #1 (Marion County)
- October 2017 – Runaway and Homeless Youth Mapping - #2 (Marion County)
- October 2017 – 100 Day Youth Homelessness Challenge - System Design Leader Session (Marion County)
- November 2017 – Oregon Housing & Community Services housing integration
- November 2017 – United Community Action Network (Roseburg)
- November 2017 – Oregon Housing & Community Services Community Outreach
- December 2017 – Marion County Community Services
- December 2017 – Emergency Housing Network
- December 2017 – April 2018 – 100-Day Challenge for Youth Homelessness (Marion County)
- January 2018 – District 3 Community Development
- February 2018 – Marion County 100-Day Challenge Community Celebration
- February 2018 – Willamette University
- March 2018 - United Way-Mid-Willamette Valley Board of Directors

- March 2018 – Hosea Youth Services / St. Vincent de Paul
- April 2018 – 100 Day Youth Homelessness Challenge – Sustainability Workshop (Gulfport, MS)
- May 2018 – What’s Next Workshop with United Way-Mid-Willamette Valley
- Bi-Monthly – Homeless Youth Oversight Committee (Multnomah County)

## **B. Service Updates**

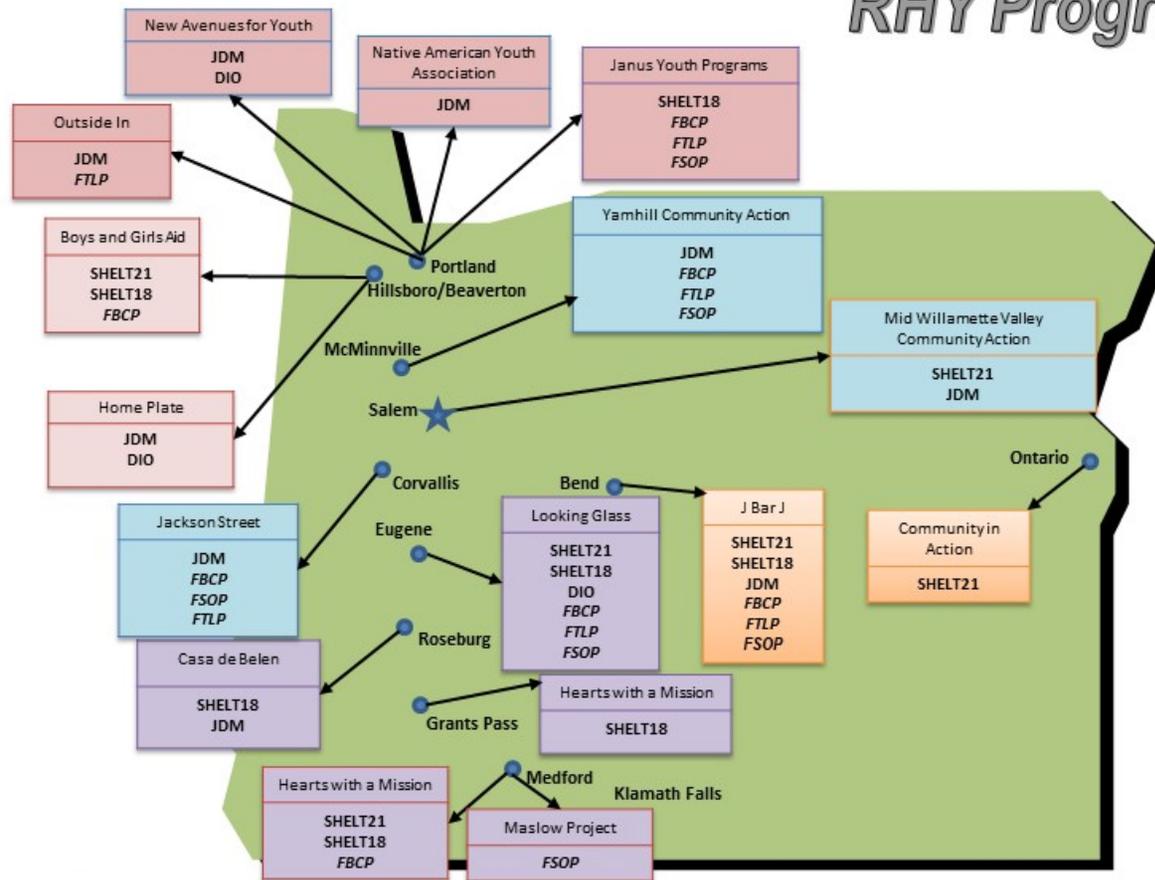
Following the 2017 Legislative Session and the determination that the RHY budget was going to remain at its current funding level, the HYAC had discussions about utilization for 2017-2019. The HYAC recommended that DHS continue to contract with the providers currently serving Runaway and Homeless Youth under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. Beginning on July 1, 2017, contract amendments were executed to continue services through June 30, 2019. The following Runaway and Homeless Services continue to be provided through 25 contracts with 14 different providers:

- Overnight Shelter Services (serving unaccompanied minors 18 years old and under)
- Overnight Shelter Services (serving youth and young adults up to age 21)
- Drop in Day Facility and Outreach Services (serving unaccompanied minors 18 years old and under)
- Job Development / Mentoring

Though relatively unchanged from 2017, the following map shows where State funded programs are located, as well as where Federally-funded SSBG Basic Center, Transitional Living, and Street Outreach Programs exist throughout the state. Federally funded programs shifted in 2017 and 2018, as the grant cycles for Basic Center, Street Outreach, and Basic Center came to a close and new grantees were selected, or are in the process of being selected.

In August and September 2018, DHS visited each of the current grantees to discuss the grants, programmatic updates, and receive input on current and future operations.

# RHY Programs



**Legend:**

- SHEL21 = Shelter – Under 21
- SHEL18 = Shelter – Under 18
- JDM = Job Development/Mentoring
- DIO = Drop In & Outreach
- FBCP = Federally Funded Basic Center Program
- FTLP = Federally Funded Transitional Living Program
- FSOP = Federally Funded Street Outreach Program

Updated 11/2017

Back in January 2017, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced \$33 million in funding for a Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP) – of which 10 communities across the country, committed to ending youth homelessness, would be funded. 130 communities submitted applications, including at least three from Oregon. ROCC submitted an application, which necessitated creating collaboration between eight ROCC counties, as well as with DHS RHY. This partnership continued through the Fall of 2017, when DHS participated on Marion County’s Runaway and Homeless Mapping Project through the Marion County Commissioners Office. State and local stakeholders, including county community health, county juvenile departments, Marion County Sheriff’s Office, RHY providers, the ROCC, and various other service providers were in attendance. Meetings occurred in August and October 2017 and sub-process maps for mental health, school enrollment, and employment, among others, were created. This work falls in line with the RHY Strategic Plan work toward the creation of a local collaborative that is responsive to Runaway and Homeless Youth needs in each community.

Though entities from Oregon were not selected for the YHDP, a national partner - A Way Home America - in coordination with HUD, announced that 4 unfunded applicants from rural sites would receive Training and Technical Assistance through the Rapid Results Institute in the form of a 100-Day Challenge to End Youth Homelessness. The ROCC, and primarily Marion County, was lucky to be chosen as one of the recipients. A 100-Day Challenge is “a project designed to stimulate intense collaboration, innovation, and execution, all in pursuit of a wildly ambitious 100-day goal. In youth homelessness, these 100-day goals will involve ending the experiences of homelessness for a large number of young people in each community. With only 100 days to make things happen, everyone from community leaders to front-line workers are challenged to do their work differently, change systems, and innovate their way to their desired goal. The compressed time frame, high visibility, and support from coaches, peers, and federal leaders creates rapid progress.”

Planning for this “100-Day Challenge” began on October 19, 2017 at a System Leaders convening, where it was decided that the priority issues would be the creation of an overnight minor shelter (unaccompanied, non-system engaged youth ages 12-17), as well as the strengthening and improving coordination of local preventive services by testing innovative ways to address the immediate challenges that unaccompanied youth face, strengthen approaches to reunification, and streamline and increase effectiveness of outreach to youth - using strengths-based and youth-focused approaches.

A Launch Workgroup occurred November 29-30, 2017 in Portland and DHS was selected as the project lead. Other team members were from:

- Lived Experience Youth
- Continuum of Care
- Community Action Agency
- McKinney Vento Liaison
- Police Department
- Housing Authority
- Child Welfare
- Service Providers (x3)

The 100-Day Challenge ended on in April 2018 and the 100-Day Challenge team presented at the national Sustainability Workshop report-out in Gulf Shores, MS from April 3– 4, 2018. Great successes were achieved and collaboration within the community occurred much more rapidly than the county has seen in the past. This intentional work has showcased how dedicated time commitments, and the development and implementation of local plans can lead to positive progress. Over this timeframe, some notable tasks were accomplished:

- 93 minor youth found safe and stable places to be
- Creation of a local Youth Action Board
- Creation of a “By Name List” to better track and serve youth in the community
- Creation of an “Immediate Needs Mobile Station” via a partnership with Salem Police Department and Salem Housing Authority. This 24/7 station is stocked with immediate needs items (tents, backpacks, undergarments, sleeping bags, food boxes, coats, etc) and is able to be accessed when youth are in crisis and need items immediately.
- Creation and strengthening of partnerships between local government, private providers, non-profits, and lived-experience youth.
- Played a significant role in raising over \$400,000 towards a youth shelter (opening late 2018).

### C. Homeless Youth Advisory Council (HYAC)

The Homeless Youth Advisory Council is charged with advising DHS regarding policies and procedures that address statewide planning for delivery of services to Runaway and Homeless Youth and their families. Since the last report, the HYAC has met 3 times - September 2017, January 2018, May 2018, and is slated for its next convening in October 2018.

HYAC meetings are scheduled to continue throughout the remainder of 2018 and all of 2019. Current membership of the HYAC is as follows:

Representative	System Representation
Janet Arenz	Oregon Alliance for Children’s Programs
Dona Bolt	Department of Education – Homeless Youth
Jamie Broadbent	DHS – Supervisor: Commercially Sexually Exploited Children
Caitlin Campbell	Multnomah County – Homeless Youth Continuum
Kevin Lamson	Hearts with a Mission
Christin Pickel	Oregon Youth Authority
Matt Rasmussen	DHS – RHY Program Coordinator
Anya Sekino	Youth Development Division ODE
Vera Stoulil	Boys and Girls Aid & Oregon Alliance for Children’s Programs
Chelsea Bunch	Oregon Housing and Community Services
Jo Zimmer	Rural Oregon Continuum of Care

Over the past year, a handful of representatives have decided to step away from HYAC membership and attendance. DHS will be looking to fill slots from: Law Enforcement, Mental Health/Addictions, LGBTQ Advocate, RHY Provider, and adding a representative from DHS-Self Sufficiency. Additionally, there is a desire to create a youth advisory board in the next year.

### HYAC Meeting Agenda Highlights:

#### August 2017:

- Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) / Oregon Housing Stability Council (OHSC)
  - Starting Housing Plan Outreach as their new strategic plan launches
    - HYAC should encourage partners to attend and be given specific talking points
- Rural Oregon Continuum of Care (COC)
  - Approved for Technical Assistance through A Way Home America (one of 5 areas nationwide)
  - RHY workgroup in October 2017
  - Submitted Housing and Urban Development (HUD) COC funding
    - 3 Projects for unsheltered youth
  - HUD gave emergency funds and plan will be to improve technology in rural areas and build a training plan
  - Also receiving Technical Assistance from Federal Government on Coordinated Entry
- Youth Development Council
  - Director retired and hiring new individual
    - Questions remain as to what direction a new director will have
  - Community Investment Grants were ratified
- DHS Updates
  - New DHS and Child Welfare directors announced
  - New shelter in Lake Oswego due to child placement needs
  - CSEC Training to all statewide DHS staff
  - Collaboration with Education Northwest as part of Youth Development Council grants
  - DHS hired former foster youth as DHS Foster Care Policy and Community Liaison

#### January 2018:

- 100-Day Challenge – Marion County
  - Progress

- Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) / Oregon Housing Stability Council (OHSC)
  - Overview of 2017 Strategic Goals
  - Themes from Oregon Statewide Housing Plan community outreach sessions
- Oregon Alliance of Children’s Programs (OACP) data project workgroup
- Cost Allocation analysis
  - Office of Business Intelligence
- HYAC Unified Voice
  - Creation of new document

May 2018:

- 100-Day Challenge – Marion County
  - Progress
- Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS)
  - Housing Integrator information
  - 5-Year Strategic Processes
  - Future Focus Group planning
- DHS Updates
  - New Young Adult housing opportunities
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) updates
- 211 App
  - Statistics, contract renewal and future planning
- Newly released national documents for review
  - [Missed Opportunities: LGBTQ Youth Homelessness in America](#) by Chapin Hall
  - [Assessing Whether Your Community Has Achieved the Gold of Ending Youth Homelessness](#) by USICH
- Homeless Youth Advisory Council – Policy Brief
  - Unanimously voted by those in attendance to seek out graphic designer to create RHY/HYAC specific document

- Content brainstorm session

The next HYAC is scheduled to take place in October 2018.

In October 2017, Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) released their Oregon Statewide Housing Plan and had over 20 community outreach sessions across the state, which sought input and suggestions. DHS and an HYAC small subgroup convened in October 2017 to determine the best course of action for ensuring that youth homelessness was a theme in these discussions. The subgroup put out a call to RHY providers and community partners to participate in these sessions, and created a template and talking points that could be utilized to kickstart conversation.

At the request of the HYAC, DHS has been working with its Office of Business Intelligence (OBI) to create a cost allocation formula for 1) better determining what Oregon's RHY budget should be, by taking into account true costs to create and run RHY programs, and 2) better understanding how much financial investment local areas should be committed to achieve the full continuum of RHY services. DHS compiled specific state and county-wide demographics, predictive homeless data, and multiple sources of homeless youth counts. The result was a formula that yielded an estimated allocation of between \$10-12 million to serve between 6100 and 8100 homeless youth and young adults. This information was passed along to DHS management for consideration during budget planning for the 2019-2021 biennium.

In June 2017, a RHY Program Evaluation Workgroup was created to review and re-evaluate the current data collection protocol for State and/or Federally funded RHY providers in Oregon, utilizing existing outcomes and indicators as a starting point for creating a simple and effective strategy and logic model for measuring impact across agencies. Having a streamlined understanding of the desired outcomes of youth and young adults, as well as a consistent reporting directive, should lead to a better evaluation of services. Boys & Girls Aid Society, a Portland RHY contractor, provided their Director of Research and Evaluation to organize and lead this process. As a starting point, programs associated with the Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs met in mid-late 2017 to review the existing data collection framework and the indicators proposed by the HYAC. A document was created that outlines indicators in the areas of Permanency, Safe & Stable Housing, Well-Being, and Employment/Education

for youth and young adults served by Short Term Shelters and TLP programs. Street Outreach data points to be reported were also simplified. This information has been modeled since that time and will be utilized to inform reporting in subsequent grant periods.

#### **D. Additional Outreach**

DHS has continued its contract with 211Info. This partnership began in September 2015 and resulted in Professional Information and Referral Specialists from 211Info developing, launching, and maintaining a mobile app that includes resource lists and GPS-enabled maps for shelter, medical care, and food for youth who may be homeless or in need of basic services. Recently, a decision was made to continue the contract with 211Info to maintain and update the app through June 30, 2019. There are approximately 1200-1300 contacts by app each month. Updates on the design (mapping, search, and customization) continue to be improved and 211Info's database continues to grow. It has been noted in recent reports that searching terms appear to be lessening for specific RHY youth services, and are instead increasing in areas such as electric service payment assistance, rent payment assistance, and rental listings. If this trend continues, DHS will be determining if modifications to the contract need to be made or if it may be more valuable for the contract to reside elsewhere.

In late 2016, A Way Home America formed a collaboration between states doing work with runaway and homeless youth. DHS staff attended their first collaborative meeting on March 2, 2017 and connections were started with the states of Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Connecticut, as well as non-profits (Center for Social Innovation, True Colors Fund, Raikes Foundation) and funding entities (Melville Charitable Trust, Funders Together to End Homelessness). These meetings were put on hold in 2017, but discussions recently resumed and the collaboration met again in August 2018.

Additional information may be provided upon request.

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