Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Webinar: Best Practices to Support Homeless and Foster Youth on College Campuses

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House-Keeping Items: Hiding the Control Panel

Hide Your Control Panel
House-Keeping Items: Showing the Control Panel

Show Your Control Panel
House-Keeping Items: Asking Questions

- We’ll take questions at the end of the session
- At any time, type your question in the chat box to all (not just the organizer) and click Send
Overview of NAEHCY

The **National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)** is a national grassroots membership association that connects educators, parents, advocates, researchers, and service providers to ensure school enrollment, attendance and overall success for children and youth whose lives have been disrupted by the lack of safe, permanent, and adequate housing.

- Website: [http://www.naehcy.org](http://www.naehcy.org)
- Higher Education Website [http://naehcy.org/educational-resources/higher-ed](http://naehcy.org/educational-resources/higher-ed)
Homeless Children and Youth

Children or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Awaiting foster care placement
Homeless Children and Youth

• Living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
• Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
• Migratory children living in the above circumstances
• Unaccompanied youth living in the above circumstances

Visit [http://center.serve.org/nche/legis/mv-def.php](http://center.serve.org/nche/legis/mv-def.php) for more information
Number of Homeless Children and Youth

2013-14 national numbers

• 1,360,747 homeless children and youth enrolled in public schools
• 8% increase over the previous year
• 100% increase since 2006-07 recession
• 13% of all poor school-age children and youth
• 30% of all extremely poor school-age children and youth
• Over 90,000 unaccompanied homeless youth
Correlation between child welfare involvement and experiences of homelessness

• For school-age youth
  • Foster care placements often are short-term or may be unstable
  • Some students leave foster care placements due to feeling unsafe and/or isolated

• For youth aging out of care
  • Exit the foster care system without sufficient preparation and/or support to be successful living independently
Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Model

“Single Point of Contact” – a supportive college administrator on each campus who is committed to helping homeless youth (and often foster youth) successfully navigate the college-going process on campuses.

Assist students with the following:

- Admissions
- Financial aid
- Academic advising
- Student life
- Community resources

http://naehcy.org/sites/default/files/dl/spoc-tips.docx
SPOC Model

Benefits of having a SPOC on campus

• Allow unaccompanied homeless youth to have support finding campus and community resources
• Reduces the number of times student have to repeat, or relive, situations that led to them becoming homeless
• Having a staff member on campus that is knowledgeable of federal guidance, and state laws impacting higher education access and success for unaccompanied homeless youth

• [http://naehcy.org/sites/default/files/dl/spoc-tips.docx](http://naehcy.org/sites/default/files/dl/spoc-tips.docx)
Statewide Networks

• Convene a meeting with local stakeholders from McKinney-Vento K-12, Higher Education, RHYA/HUD shelter communities as well as other local service providers and advocates
• Allow each to share knowledge about their area of expertise
  • UHY and independent student definitions
  • Financial aid
  • Campus and community resources
• Build an action plan for serving UHY that makes sense for your community
Where Are NAEHCY Networks Located?

Kennesaw State University
Campus Awareness
Resource Empowerment (CARE) Center

Presented By Marcy Stidum
Associate Director for Counseling & Psychological Services
Director for CARE Center
www.kennesaw.edu
The CARE Center
How we help
Supporting Students...

**Food Pantry**
Food supplies are available for **ANY** KSU student experiencing hunger and struggling to buy food.

**Donate**
CARE operates purely on generosity of donations, your gift to the CARE Center provides financial support and fulfills the tangible needs of students.

**Linens & Personal Care**
Items are available to students who have met with a case manager and it’s determined they need additional resources.

**Volunteer**
Help the CARE Center restock and organize the pantry shelves, set up for events, etc.
Go to vksu.kennesaw.edu to sign up!

**Events**
Homelessness Awareness Week
Various events focused on awareness, education and understanding the issues of homelessness, food insecurity and poverty.

**Case Management**
Let our team help you coordinate your care and provide ongoing support such as, linking to housing, employment, financial, educational support services.
Campus Collaborations...

- Admissions
- Financial Aid
- Counseling
- Campus Housing
- Culinary Services
- KSU Bookstore
- Faculty and Staff
- Students
Community Engagement...

- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)
- Fostering Success Michigan
- GA Department of Education (Homeless Liaisons)
- EMBARK
- Atlanta Community Food Bank
- Orange Duffel Bag Initiative
- NSORO Foundation
- Cobb Community Collaborative (Homeless Council)
- Must Ministries (Alive Ministries)
- Ecologie Vintage
- Scallywags Pet Services, LLC
- Life Foundation
Our Impact
A Year in Review
2015
Food bags were distributed to KSU students
84

Students were assessed and/or provided some level of support.
8000 Pounds of food have been provided to KSU students.
Students were housed or prevented from eviction.
$13,506

Donated financial support used to help students obtain housing, meal plans, bus passes, etc.
Students participated in our 8th Annual Homelessness Awareness Week (HAW)
“...thank you for everything you've done for me. You opened up opportunities for me and gave me a hand, when I thought nobody cared.”

“I cannot thank you enough for all the help you gave me in Fall. My life was a complete wreck and you helped save me...Thank you so much for all you have done.”
Office of Urban and Off Campus Services (aka U-ACCESS)

Division of Student Affairs
University of Massachusetts Boston

Presented By Shirley Fan-Chan
Director of U-ACCESS
www.umb.edu/uaccess
CHALLENGES FOR HOMELESS UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH & DISCONNECTED YOUNG ADULT

- Academic underperformance
- Housing
- Medical/dental/mental health needs
- Legal and immigration concerns
- Employment
- Basic needs assistance such as food insecurity and personal hygiene

Office of U-ACCESS
The mission of U-ACCESS is to empower and support students who are experiencing complex personal and social issues that may derail their academic success.

To improve students’ academic persistence and degree completion by providing emergency assistance and multi-disciplinary intervention that maximizes the use of campus and community resources.

Students will successfully complete their degrees at UMass Boston, minimize the cycle of poverty and educational attrition, and improve their life choices and opportunities.
Why We need services like U-ACCESS

Post-secondary students are always being overlooked with their challenges and obstacles by social services.

Ensure student succeed academically on campus.

Ensure student succeed in life off campus.
Who use U-ACCESS services

Student status:
- Majority are freshmen at UMass Boston
- Over 80% received FASFA

Work status:
- Over 50% work part time
- Pay by hourly wage average or lower $10/hour

Living situation:
- 21% were either homeless or living at a homeless shelter
- 32% were couch surfing
Nearly a quarter of students reported some form of food insecurity.

Approximately 5% of respondents either could not or did not know whether they could continue sleeping in their current place for 2 weeks.

Nearly 5% reported being homeless since starting college.
Affects on School Attendance and Performance

Attendance

Over 80% of respondents indicated that food insecurity negatively affected their class performance.

About 4% of respondents had to forego registering for one or more semesters due to food insecurity and/or housing instability.

Performance

Over 55% indicated that food insecurity compromised their ability to attend classes.

About 5% risked failing a class due to food insecurity and/or housing instability.
Affects on School Attendance and Performance

Nearly 50% of respondents indicated that housing insecurity compromised their ability to attend classes.

Over 80% of respondents indicated that food insecurity negatively affected their class performance.

80% of respondents indicated that housing insecurity negatively affected their class performance.

Over 55% indicated that food insecurity compromised their ability to attend classes.

Office of U-ACCESS
What do we do – Bridge to Graduation and Beyond
External and Internal Partnership

U-ACCESS Office

Domestic Violence Services
Youth Service Agencies
State or Local Municipal Office
Community Advocacy Programs
Community Resources
On Campus Services
Academic Programs

Office of U-ACCESS
Massachusetts Homeless Post-Secondary Student Network

A statewide network to support homeless youth access to post-secondary education
Key Architects

Joan Meschino
Executive Director

Shirley Fan-Chan
Director of U-ACCESS

Office of U-ACCESS
Background

- Massachusetts Homeless Students Achieve Academic Success
  - McKinney Vento Act in Massachusetts
    - Access
    - Support Services
    - Transportation
  - System-Involved Youth (Foster Care)
    - Tuition waivers
    - Housing vouchers
    - Maintenance payments
    - Mass Health

- Students graduate and seek to matriculate to post-secondary education institutions
Indicators

• Emerging homeless student population in post-secondary education institutions
• Encounter challenges not faced by housed peers
• Insufficient financial aid
• Housing instability and food insecurity
• Lack support services
• Spectrum of support in high school ends abruptly upon graduation
• Little, if any, transition from secondary schools to post-secondary institutions
MA Network’s Purpose

Policy Goal:

To develop evidence-based, systemic strategies that prepare and support homeless youth in transition from secondary education to succeed within post-secondary education institutions.

MA Network’s Theory of Change
MA Network’s Action Plan

✓ Establish the MA Network
✓ Convene stakeholders broadly
✓ Raise awareness of issues
✓ Engage key stakeholders and subject matter experts
  ❑ Explore demographics and research barriers
  ❑ Develop systemic solutions
  ❑ Advocate for strategies to eliminate barriers and support students for success
Single Point of Contact

- SPOC assists homeless youth during matriculation and throughout their post-secondary career, helping students access a broad range of services both on and off campus. Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

  ➢ Coordinate communication and timely referrals among appropriate resources.

  ➢ Establish food, clothing, and school supply banks on campus if possible.

  ➢ Provide a list of campus and community-based resources. Find or create housing options for homeless students when dormitories close.
Post-secondary Education Subcommittee

Public state institutions:

• 21 state universities and community colleges
• 18 SPOC

Private institutions:

• First kick-off meeting January 22 2016
• Four private institutions in Greater Boston areas
Questions

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