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Prepared by
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Chicago 2014 Homeless Youth Summit

The following report is based on input and findings from a 3-day summit hosted by Windy City Times May 2, 3 and 5, 2014 at three Chicago locations: Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, the University of Illinois at Chicago Gender and Sexuality Center, and the Museum of Broadcast Communications.



Youth created the title of the summit, “Dream it, Speak it, Do It!” and the logo was also designed by the youth.

Summit organizers:

- Tracy Baim, Windy City Times publisher, Summit Host
- Kim Hunt, executive director of Affinity Community Services, Summit Director
- Bonn Wade, director of Chicago Houses's TransLife Center, Adult Ally
- Youth organizers: Breezi Connor, Keyshia LayMorris and Trian Alexander

In addition, dozens of youth and adult allies volunteered their time to work on the summit, in advance, during and after. The facilitators for the summit included nonprofit professionals with years of experience working on these issues.

Youth were recruited directly at shelters and through service providers. Adults were reached via social media and traditional media, as well as phone calls and emails. The general public and volunteers were recruited through press releases, media coverage and social media.

The definition of youth was “25 and under.” They were paid \$50 each and received CTA passes, in addition to food and snacks provided. Adults paid \$45 to attend.

The overall summit budget was about \$25,000, and that included all costs for staff, food, beverages, and general supplies.

The summit had several goals, including:

- Looking at the complex causes of homelessness
- Shining a light on existing work being done
- Reporting on the gaps and needs
- Listing short-term and long-term strategies
- Creating action steps

Some top-of-the-line themes from the summit:

- Youth need more than a bed
- Do long-term relationship building
- More transparency and accountability
- Assessment and evaluation of programs and services
- Build visibility for the issue of LGBTQ youth homelessness
- Repurpose existing community assets
- Youth must have a real voice
- Hold ourselves accountable for taking care of our youth
- Everything intersects

The fact that we had more than 300 people who participated, with hundreds of recommendations coming forth from youth and adults, showed us how much there is a need for more collaboration, transparency and coordination of these complex issues.

Summit evaluations showed **4.8 out of 5 for the average rating from attendees.** Many said they would love to see another summit. But without followup and actual implemented solutions, another summit would not be recommended—it could set up youth for additional disappointment that their ideas are not treated seriously.

The foundations and groups assisting Windy City Times with the summit were: The Crossroads Fund, True Colors Fund, Polk Bros Foundation, Alphawood Foundation Chicago, Liz and Eric Lefkowsky, Pierce Family Foundation, Lehman-Stamm Family Fund, Woods Fund of Chicago, Heartland Human Care Services, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Affinity Community Services, Lambda Legal, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago House, Howard Brown Health Center, The Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action, LM Catering French Caterer, Orbitz, and ChicagoPride.com.

Overview

The LGBTQ Youth Homeless Summit was inspired by a weeks-long Windy City Times series, Generation Halsted. In that series, reporters followed youth over the course of many weeks to explore their experience with the system, and what their needs were. While many of the issues impact all homeless youth, there are additional barriers faced by LGBTQ youth. These include being kicked out of their homes, lack of family support, and additional risks within the DCFS system because of unsupportive foster families.

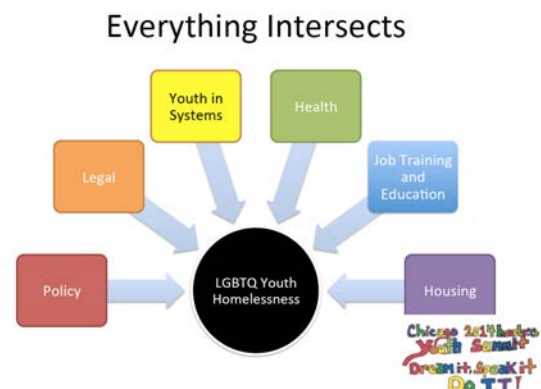


Two statistics drove the focus of the summit: **40% of homeless youth are LGBTQ**, according to numerous national surveys. Also, **78% of LGBTQ youth in the Department of Children & Family Services system are likely to experience homelessness at some point**. And people who experience homelessness as youth are likely to do so when they become adults (in addition to the likelihood of serving time in the prison system for economic crimes). By interrupting this pipeline, taxpayers are saving money while helping people.

The summit was organized into three days. The first day was just for youth. About 70 youth attended, including several with children of their own. The second day was for both youth and adults, with more than 150 in attendance. The third day was a reporting-out day, with about 90 people attending. The complete schedule of the days is in the appendix, along with other relevant documents.

The first two days of the summit were broken down into general plenary sessions and facilitated workshops focused on these areas:

- Housing issues (shelters, DCFS, HUD)
- Public policy (city, county, state, federal)
- Legal issues (emancipation, public safety)
- Education and job training
- Healthcare access, mental health, substance use
- Youth in systems (especially DCFS)



Next Steps

This document will be shared with the public through a free website created for the summit, <http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/>, and then also directly sent to service providers and individuals who have asked to be further engaged on these topics.

But there are some critical next steps to make sure the summit's findings are not just filed away like dozens of past reports on these issues:

— **There is no one agency in Chicago that seeks to fill the gaps on LGBTQ youth homeless issues.** The Chicago Coalition of the Homeless and Chicago Youth Homelessness Task Force do meet regularly, and are made up of service providers, government officials and others. But no agency is the “buck stops here” for LGBTQ homeless youth. Therefore, it may be necessary to create a task force that is just focused on the followups for the summit. It can piggyback the work of the existing coalitions, but because some of the work may not involve those service providers, it may be necessary to have an oversight task force. This can be done in conjunction with other groups, and **Chicago's Plan 2.0** on homelessness.

— There needs to be **more data collection and sharing, and evaluation of existing programs** to make sure they are fulfilling their missions and adapting to the changing needs of the population of LGBTQ and other homeless youth.

— A key finding was that there was **no one mobile-device-friendly way for youth to get current information and resources** for such things as shelters, food, legal help, and more. Key summit volunteer Alison Stanton participated in a hack-a-thon and recruited volunteers to launch a website already, <http://resources.lgbthomelessness.com/>. The next steps will be to make sure current information is available at all times, and that service gaps are analyzed for potential solutions to fill more needs. There may be a lot of great information and services out there, but if youth don't know about it, or volunteers aren't aware how to help, the needs are not being met. This may require funding to remain current, available and promoted.

— There are **many** issues that youth experiencing homelessness face that are about **basic needs—needs that any one individual agency may not serve**. For example, they need to have a safe place to store their belongings; a place to shower and use the bathroom; and in all cases, gender-affirming places to go, so they are not forced into unsafe situations. The creation of public **bathhouses and storage places**, available 24/7 because of the schedules young adults have with work and school, would seem to be a way to deal with a public health and safety issue facing all homeless people, not just LGBTQ youth and young adults.

— **Activism is one key element that came up frequently**, but likely falls outside the mission of many non-profit agencies, who have to worry about foundation and government grants, and therefore can't protest in the streets without risking alienating funders or violating nonprofit guidelines. Therefore, it may be necessary to **create an independent, ACT UP-**

style group to do street actions, mobilize people to do creative media events

(“building” small homes on empty lots as a media day, for example.).

— Also in the ACT UP vein, a **marketing group could work to create a variety of advertising and visibility campaigns**, on CTA buses and trains and elsewhere, around such needs as 1) General education about homeless LGBTQ youth; 2) Specific transgender education; 3) Recruitment of LGBTQ sensitive foster parents; 4) Visibility to actual youth seeking foster parents or host homes; 5) Promotion of various campaigns noted in this summit report, such as recruiting of “village” families for support of youth experiencing homelessness.

— **The youth felt empowered more in the sessions with just youth than in those with adults also giving input.** It’s clear that youth need to have spaces to give input not just to any one agency, but overall to all agencies that serve them.

— **The adults who attended seemed very excited to be able to communicate with people at other agencies, and to be outside of their own grant/job silos.** This opportunity to brainstorm with others passionate about these issues should happen more.

— **There also seem to be many research reports related to these topics that are often conducted in secrecy, or their results are not generally shared with the public.** The group recommended more public dissemination of academic, government and foundation reports on these topics.

— **Most agencies dealing with these topics are constantly scrambling for funding, and competing with each other for funds.** There should be a way to network and help lift all boats in fundraising, bringing new individual donors and foundations to this issue.

— **Lifting all boats financially should also include the youth.** Getting access to supplies (basic hygiene needs plus clothing, school supplies, etc.) in addition to general spending money on gift cards, could create better lives for homeless LGBTQ youth. These debit cards for various corporations can be allocated through existing homeless agencies.

Finally, what is clear from the summit is that there needs to be a **more comprehensive involvement to provide solutions to these desperate needs.** It can’t just be on any one agency or person. There must be engagement from all **nonprofits, from youth, from government, from individual donors and foundations, and from corporations and small businesses**, to create a plan to end the problems leading to youth LGBTQ homelessness, and provide solutions in the meantime for those experiencing homelessness.



LGBTQ HOMELESS REPORT 2014



Housing

Housing sessions were overall the most-attended at the summit, and in those sessions issues related to housing came up that were also addressed in other sessions. But there were a few key take-aways and recommendations. The city is working on increasing capacity for homeless housing needs, and they are doing a specific needs evaluation, so it is difficult to put an exact number to the overall housing needs of LGBTQ youth, age 26 and under. We are starting with an **estimate** here of **1,800 additional beds needed of various levels of support** (this number is an estimate based on summit discussions of recent surveys done) .

Geographic diversity of housing solutions was a **HUGE** concern in the housing sessions —not all new beds should be on the North Side.

HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS

1) 200 emergency shelter beds are needed for 18-26 year-olds.

- Utilize reconciling and welcoming churches for additional emergency shelters
- Fund unique smaller home solutions for emergency shelters

2) 200 apartments are needed, 2-3 bedrooms per unit, scattered across the city of Chicago. Some for units with children of the youth, and self-identified “families.” Goal to service 400-600 or so people. (And goal to add additional units each year.)

— These would be subsidized, in most cases sponsored as free units for a fixed period of time, perhaps 1-2 years.

- Facilitated by an existing housing agency
- Funding to come from various sources:
 - HUD vouchers
 - Community fundraising for “adopting apartments”—a village-like model where LGBTs and allies agree to adopt apartments to be used by agencies for youth. Use online crowd-sourcing tools for fundraising.
 - Foundation funding for apartments
 - Landlords to receive tax credits for apartments
 - Create a government-backed secure program for landlords to have guarantees when they rent to those under age 26

3) 400 new LGBT and LGBT-sensitive foster families need to be recruited for

short- and long-term foster care of 10-18-year-old self-identified as LGBTQ.

This would be both thru DCFS and also independently thru agencies such as UCANN and other contractors to DCFS. Solutions can also be to train existing foster parents to be more welcoming, and give them more resources for support.



This would require a large marketing campaign aimed at new foster parents, but also a campaign involving the youth themselves asking for homes.

A large Chicago-based marketing company would be asked to donate their time to work with youth on the campaign, and then CTA and other venues will be asked to donate advertising space— billboards, TV and radio ads, bus and train ads, etc. Aimed at recruiting families into foster care, but also aimed at having specific youth be adopted.

4) 100 long-term (1-2 years) beds in group home situations perhaps staffed by cultural entrepreneurs who run the homes.

Project Fierce is one example, and giving them and others foreclosed homes for \$1 creates larger pool of beds.

5) 400 more long-term shelter beds for those who are yet not able to live independently.

These are high-cost solutions to immediate need, but the more of the above solutions that are implemented, the fewer long-term beds are needed.

6) 100 beds in more fully serviced facilities, with complete wrap-around services for youth who are most in need of 24-hour services.

This is the highest-cost solution, and one for a longer-term plan. Center on Halsted and Heartland Housing are researching this area. But it is important to note that many youth did not prefer this solution, and would rather have more independent living if they are capable.



7) 100 more partial emancipation shelter beds (there is just one shelter now) for those under 18 years old.

8) Separate from the above, the youth are also seeking 24-hour drop-in locations for respite, recreation, and a break from the stress of unstable housing.

9) Finally, if the city colleges of Chicago were to have dorms for students, this would create a critical solution to the desperate situation faced by unstably housed youth who are just trying to get ahead, but can't if they have no place to put down roots while getting their education. Starting point: 200 dorm rooms to serve 400 youth. Push existing universities with housing to open up to city college students.

Another recommendation for the long term is to create “tiny home” communities in areas of Chicago with vacant land. They would be modeled after similar communities in other cities, with central community center areas surrounded beehive-like with small all-inclusive homes.

HOUSING CONNECTED RECOMMENDATIONS

1) More training of all shelter and housing-related staff:

- To treat clients with dignity
- To be sensitive to sexual orientation and gender identity



- 2) Build more long-term relationships with the youth; staff change over frequently.
- 3) Don't tie services to housing because if youth switch locations, they lose services.
- 4) Youth need a safe, long-term place to store their belongings. They can't go to school, go to job interviews, or live on the streets without this. This affects health (medication storage), safety, and well-being. (See Health Section.)
- 5) Shelters and other housing-related service providers should have a transparent process for how they select clients, and how they provide their services. This includes monitoring the CRS (Central Referral System) and the Youth Vulnerability Index that is being created.
- 6) Shelters must have more flexible stop and start times, and more need to be 24/7. Youth often have erratic hours related to evening and night work shifts or classes, and need more flexible shelter spaces.
- 7) Free access to transportation vouchers for youth experiencing homelessness, so that the little money they have does not go to just getting to services.
- 8) Need more resources/tools at the shelters for help: computers, case management, advice, connections, mentors. Also, more recreational and creative outlets.
- 9) Youth want a restorative justice model so that if they are barred from a shelter they have recourse for appeals beyond that one agency.
- 10) Some youth do want LGBTQ specific housing, some do not.
- 11) Need a way to get current and up-to-date shelter and housing information.
- 12) Need more aggressive activism to keep this issue in the news and grab the attention of LGBTQ donors and foundations.
- 13) Educate communities about the fact that studies show that shelters do not decrease property values.
- 14) Youth also asked for more month-to-month house leasing opportunities, which may be easier to sustain for rents.

HOUSING PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Outreach, education and marketing campaign to keep families in-tact. This includes at grammar school level with teachers and parents, through high school. Replicate Family Acceptance Project (Greenchimneys.org model) from NY state. Also find at-risk youth through the schools, GSAs, counselors, etc., to provide resources to keep people together.

2) Work with churches to reach out to other churches to help keep families together.

3) Work with law firms on options to sue parents for abdicating responsibilities, at the very least so children can be emancipated so parents' incomes not used against them for college loans and other needs.

4) Need more consistent funding, so that funders do not just move on to other projects after one has proven successful.

5) Education campaign aimed at landlords and what they legally can and can't do with young adults applying for apartments. Also educate youth on their rights.



See appendix for complete notes from the summit sessions on housing issues.



Public Policy

These sessions tended to have a lot of overlap with other session goals because they involve the public policy related to housing, legal issues, healthcare and more.

Among the highlights of recommendations:

1) Support for increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. And to make the minimum wage the same for youth as it is for adults (it currently is not). Restaurant workers should all make at least minimum wage, regardless of tip situations.

2) There is a need for transparency in all government-supported homeless services, so that youth know how decisions are made, how they can appeal decisions, how agencies are evaluated, and where they are on lists for services, beds, etc.

3) Youth want more sensitivity training for adults, on LGBT and especially gender identity issues. LGBTQ training should be required for state and city licensing of facilities.

4) Youth homeless services should be redlined into government budgets, so they are not subject to budget variances.

5) The income threshold to receive services should be raised.

6) The income threshold to receive food stamps should be raised.

7) Minor drug convictions and economic crimes should be eliminated as a barrier to receiving HUD housing.

8) Allow service providers to serve undocumented minors.

9) Remove adult guardian signature requirement to access services and loans for minors who have been cut off from family support.

10) Give housing developers more credits to create housing for low-income youth and young adults 26 and under.

11) Use developer money given to city to renovate abandoned schools and other buildings to create more low-income housing for youth and adults. Dedicate this funding stream to the city's Plan 2.0 for homelessness.



12) Make it easier for nonprofits to get foreclosed housing from banks to use as shelters and group homes. Perhaps creating cultural centers that are also housing co-ops.

13) Have a system similar to Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae to guarantee leases, not just mortgages, so landlords have more incentive to rent to young adults with no credit history, or bad credit history. [ALSO SEE HOUSING on this]

14) Public transportation (CTA, RTA, etc.) should be made more financially accessible to youth, with free or lower cost vouchers available on a wider basis. [ALSO SEE HOUSING.]

15) The definition of who is considered “youth” should be made consistent across all agencies. Some use 24, some 25, and even 29 in New York City. Recommendation from the group was to expand to at least age 26.

16) Youth are looking for more “best practices” to be implemented on name changes and gender markers on files and identification.

17) Someone’s ability to change their name should not be tied to criminal status, especially for non-felony offenders.

18) Youth asked for the decriminalization of drugs and sex work. These could be as fines vs. involving the criminal justice system. Felony prostitution charge should be eliminated.

19) There is a need for more public funding of substance abuse and treatment centers.



- 20) Make sure that DCFS complies with existing court orders based on ACLU lawsuits.
- 21) Youth are seeking better policies for those who “age out” of case management and are left with few resources during this transition time.
- 22) Youth are seeking a lower age of consent to receive primary care, especially as it relates to gender identity related healthcare. [This is almost set into law: <http://www.chicagohomeless.org/cch-drafts-state-bill-to-allow-unaccompanied-minors-to-consent-to-non-emergency-medical-treatment/> .] They also want health insurance and public health programs (Medicare and Medicaid) to cover gender confirmation surgeries and hormones.
- 23) They would like a change in federal housing law so that full-time students can access subsidized housing programs.
- 24) Remove the impact of receiving food stamps on financial aid eligibility.
- 25) Pass laws to make it easier to have group homes and shelters in all areas of the city.
- 26) Don't allow any programs that are government-funded to include religious pressure as part of their services. Some youth feel they are pressured at religious-based programs/services.
- 27) Youth want all programs to be more open to the wide range of gender expressions, and not to operate so connected to the gender binary of male/female.



28) Define more clearly the role of police in schools, as over-policing inside schools was an issue raised by some youth. People of color feel they are escalated into the police system more quickly for minor infractions in schools, and studies prove this out. They want to end the schools-to-prison pipeline. More restorative and transformative justice measures in schools would help.

29) Change public policy to allow emancipated minors to rent apartments.

30) The city's Vulnerability Index should prioritize youth as part of a way to prevent adult homelessness.

31) More LGBTQ police officers should be hired, and more sensitivity training should happen with police, especially on transgender issues. This needs to be consistent, ongoing and at all levels of the department. This also includes the judicial system, judges, probation officers, etc.

32) All police districts should have a designated LGBTQ liaison who works with vulnerable youth and adults who enter the system. Ideally there would be both civilian and police training in each district. There should also be one full-time dedicated overall police department LGBTQ liaison, as there has been in the past.

33) The policy of being able to lock people up simply because they have no place to live must stop.

34) Detention centers should be abolished as inhumane.

35) Mental healthcare should be re-prioritized in state budgets as a prevention tool for homelessness, violence, and other society ills.

36) Foreclosure laws should be revamped.

37) Youth asked for reparations for the hundreds of years of institutional and government discrimination against African Americans.

38) Change policies to make it easier to file discrimination suits, and make statistics more transparent at local and state level.

39) Support to effectively prevent, interrupt, and transform violence; implement restorative and transformative justice practices and accountability structures.



Legal Issues

The legal area overlapped considerably with public policy. What follows are recommendations from the legal sessions, but see public policy for additional legal-related suggestions.

1) There should be more law firms engaged in youth homeless issues, including with legal groups such as Transformative Justice Law Project, ACLU and Lambda Legal, to help youth. Law schools especially could get involved to provide more help for youth. It might be ideal to create a legal youth task force with lawyers, law students and legal organizations.

Need donated legal services for:

- Expungement,
- Name changes,
- Emancipation,
- Suing harassers,
- Citizenship,
- Navigating anti-discrimination and hate-crimes laws,
- Cleaning up credit,
- Fighting eviction,
- Enforcement of employment protections,
- Intervention on healthcare issues,
- Help disentangle 18+ from guardians/parents so they can get their own benefits,
- Suing to make sure agencies and systems are doing their jobs as licensed/funded.



3) More advocates are needed to help LGBTQ people navigate the legal system, as both survivors and alleged perpetrators of crimes.

4) Expansion of transformative justice models (as opposed to just restorative justice).

5) Institution of more peer juries, especially for crimes by youth.

6) Create LGBTQ community Youth Justice Council so that youth who experience problems at an agency can appeal to a higher entity.

7) Youth need more education on their legal rights.

8) Racism is a massive problem at all levels of the legal system, and more work needs to be done to even the playing field for all youth.

9) Racism and transphobia within the LGBT community should be addressed, too. There is discrimination happening in housing, employment and from the business community.

10) Harassment and stereotyping of trans women “walking while trans” is happening in Chicago, and a legal solution may be needed.

11) Youth asked for no “laws against our bodies” and what they do with them, including sex work, marijuana use, and other personal choices and survival behavior.

12) Perhaps the legal community can facilitate more in-person meetings between police and LGBTQ youth, especially transgender youth. These youth do not feel safe calling the police when they need help. They feel they will be further victimized. Homeless youth experience a high rate of crime, but they have little recourse for help.

13) Youth want more legal resources for undocumented peers.

14) Youth asked to stop deportations of undocumented people.

15) Youth asked for removal of the gender marker on legal documents.

16) In the Cook County Jail, there needs to be more work on housing of transgender inmates. Perhaps a transgender halfway shelter is needed rather than putting them in isolation or protective custody. There is widespread insensitivity among jail workers and probation officers. It is even worse in the Illinois prison system, so much more work needs to be done. If they can’t safely and humanely house transgender inmates, alternative secure housing should be found.

17) There might be a need to provide youth with one-on-one attorneys to sue parents for kicking them out of their home.

18) Youth need a safe space to store legal documents (along with belongings); perhaps the

legal documents can have their own safe place thru a law firm or legal agency. Free document storage for all homeless youth.



Education and Job Training

There is already some work in this area among agencies serving LGBTQ youth, but the youth complained of inconsistency, loss of grant funding resulting in loss of programs and changes in staff, and not enough overall services and resources. Many of these youth said they are eager to get additional education and to get jobs and be self-sufficient.

First, let's summarize the educational recommendations:

1) Any GED (General Educational Development) programs for youth seeking high school degrees should be made available free to LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness. Funding should not be a barrier to education. The cost of the training and tests should be covered. This can vary from \$1-2,000 or more.

2) For those LGBTQ youth who have not been able to stay in traditional schools, for reasons of bullying or just generally not fitting in, there should be funded alternative schools where they can get their degrees. Prologue is one such alternative educational program launching Fall 2014 for LGBTQ students. More are needed across the city.

3) There should be sensitivity training for teachers and counselors in the school system to understand the issues facing homeless youth.



- 4) Youth would like college financial aid to be extended to summer months.
- 5) Improve the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 (federal) to certify applicants as homeless.
- 6) Facilitators are needed to help youth navigate local and federal programs such as FAFSA—federal student aid.
- 7) Youth want comprehensive sex education available in school, plus access to condoms and other health-related items.
- 8) Youth in community colleges are seeking dorms to make it possible for them to do better, and complete, their education. Being homeless is a massive barrier to completing their degrees, whether high school or college.
- 9) There needs to be free public transit for youth experiencing homelessness, to go to school and jobs.
- 10) Youth are also asking for more creative educational opportunities in the arts, similar to the YEPP, About Face and other youth projects.
- 11) Youth expressed interest in ways to learn about LGBTQ history, including Chicago LGBTQ history. Programs like The Legacy Project should be expanded for youth experiencing homelessness.
- 12) Schools should provide in-school support programs for parents who are experiencing homelessness, and also for parents of LGBTQ kids to keep families together.
- 13) The Gay Straight Alliance groups at high schools could be used more fully to work on issues of their peers experiencing homelessness, in schools region-wide, by creating opportunities to network and help build coalitions, activities, lobbying and more. GSAs could help “adopt” those in need through providing opportunities, mentorship, networking. Especially could be done when shared geographic areas work together. (For example, Hyde Park reaching out to help surrounding youth communities.)
- 14) Many youth felt over-policed in schools, especially youth of color and transgender youth. Police in schools, if they are to stay, must be trained on diversity and sensitivity. And the schools-to-prison pipeline must be interrupted.
- 15) The youth asked for more Chicago Public Schools paid staff and youth advocates for LGBTQ students and their families.



16) Look at groups such as the Point Foundation who provide scholarships to high-achieving youth, and see if there can be a model for scholarships targeting LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness.

17) Youth expressed interest in more one-on-one tutoring and mentoring opportunities.

In the Job Training area, **one participant in the summit is working with Trans Works and other people interested in transgender job training to host a job fair and training for transgender youth experiencing homelessness.**

Other recommendations on job training, where the goal is to **“Be Undeniable!”**:

1) The companies that **rank 100% and near 100% on the Human Rights Campaign Corporate Equality Index must be fully engaged in helping homeless LGBTQ youth and adults.** It is relatively easy to get a 100% on the index, but by pushing for more and greater engagement in the areas of LGBTQ needs, these companies can better serve their communities and customers.

2) Major corporations in Chicago, while they may not be able to give paid internships to youth that do not match the skills they need, could be encouraged, through tax incentives, to fund paid internships at LGBTQ nonprofits, and to also fund training programs in their areas. Also, “bring an LGBTQ youth to work days” could be organized in groups.

3) Small LGBTQ-owned businesses, and those who serve a large LGBTQ clientele, should also be encouraged to create paid internship programs.

4) Youth who have experienced homelessness often have major entrepreneurial skills, just learning how to survive on the streets and navigate a complex system. These skills should be harnessed and developed through entrepreneurial internships, trainings, micro loans and grants.

5) There need to be more varieties of clothing items donated to youth to use for job interviews. Some clothing and beauty supplies are donated, but not enough, and not clothing that is attractive enough. There must be a way to get clothing and beauty companies to donate more and current supplies as tax deductions.

6) An educational marketing campaign aimed at employees could promote the hiring of LGBTQ and especially gender-nonconforming and transgender people, by using well-known Chicagoans and their experiences in working and hiring.

7) Engage with Pride at Work and other unions about training opportunities for LGBTQ workers, including internships through the unions.



8) Explore existing job policies at local, county and state level to see where there can be improvements.

9) Look at existing job training programs, especially those funded by government and foundation grants, to make sure they are inclusive of the special issues faced by LGBTQs, and those who are experiencing homelessness.

10) Expanded job readiness and entrepreneurial training opportunities and job placement. Have long-term metrics for transparent reporting.

11) Identify and create child care resources for those LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness who want to work, and those who want to get an education. [The youth summit had several LGBTQ youth attendees who have children.]

12) Focus on the development of individual plans for youth, based on their unique skillsets and experiences.

13) Increase entrepreneurial investment funding of LGBTQ businesses, tied to providing paid positions for youth experiencing homelessness.

14) Many youth complained that the job training is often out-dated and not set to specific skills that will be useful on the jobs they are applying for.

15) A big barrier for youth living in shelters or other restricted housing is the hours they operate. Many are nighttime-only with sign-ins or lotteries in the evening hours. Many jobs that youth can get are afternoon, evening or overnight shifts. Or they have to leave very early in the morning but the shelter does not allow for this. All of the shelters need to address this issue of hours and access.

16) Youth want help with resumé writing, mock interviews.

17) Youth asked for more “out-of-the-box” type jobs, i.e. urban farming, arts and culture, and interesting new-economy work.

18) Youth want help building what may be called "soft skills" of interacting with others on



the job, getting along with coworkers, etc.

19) Youth also wanted more vocational training.

Barriers to success that must be solved:

1) Banks and policymakers need to help create a solution for youth who do not have a permanent address so that they can have checking accounts and not be gouged when being paid through debit cards, or cashing payroll checks at high-interest locations. Perhaps there can be a credit union created for low-level checking accounts for youth, with a cap of \$2,000 in these accounts to minimize potential fraud. Funds above would go to savings accounts only accessible in person.

Youth have very few opportunities to establish credit, and there needs to be a policy solution to this so they can open checking and savings accounts, and get low-cap credit cards with limits such as \$1,000 that show they can get and maintain credit.

As part of this, they do need a secure place to have items mailed, and keep their legal documents, checkbooks, etc. Perhaps a solution can be had through the post office through locked boxes, or other locations such as UPS stores, etc., where the community can underwrite the expense so the homeless have secure and easy access to their important financial materials.

2) Youth also need to be able to have a phone number and access to the Internet to apply for jobs, respond to emails, etc. Smart phones can be part of the solution. Again, working with HRC 100 corporations, there should be a way to supply basic phone access for homeless LGBTQ youth, through their phones, and more geographically spread out computer access (libraries and the Center on Halsted are certainly part of this solution).

3) Youth need financial literacy training and support on an ongoing basis.

4) An important issue facing homeless youth in applying for jobs is their feeling ostracized and dehumanized during the application process. By having more stable housing, this can help their confidence and ability to even get a job.

5) Expungement of criminal records for crimes of survival (drug use, sex work) was an important factor for youth in seeking jobs.

6) Bad credit is now often a barrier to getting a good job. When they have any credit at all, youth often have bad credit. A vicious cycle for education, housing and employment.

7) As stated in the legal and policy areas, youth need help getting legal documents in line with their own gender identity/presentation.

8) Again and again, the topic of “where do I store my stuff” came up as an issue effecting their entire lives. They can’t bring all their “stuff” to a job interview. And of course they need safe and clean access to showers and bathrooms on a consistent basis, throughout the city.



Healthcare

Much of these sessions focused on the detrimental impact of being homeless on healthcare. This includes not being able to get to medical appointments, not having a safe place to store medications and thus adhere to regimens, only having to access care through emergency rooms, having inconsistent providers, and more.

Here are some of the recommendations:

1) As mentioned, in order to keep to their medication schedules, youth need a safe place for their medications to be stored.

2) Many agencies serving this population are out there requesting donations of some of the same basic needs: clothing, socks, underwear, toiletries, deodorant, toothbrushes and tooth paste. There should be a massive approach to major corporations to get all of the supplies donated on an annual basis. This can also include debit cards to be used by youth to buy their own supplies.

3) Vision care: An agency such as HBHC could coordinate a “I See You(th)!” Campaign where adults and other youth donate their used eye ware to HBHC, and then area eye clinics, eye schools and optometrists donate vouchers to be used by youth to get exams and fill prescriptions. People can drop eye ware at Brown Elephant shops during twice-yearly campaigns, and then vouchers given out with a pair of glasses at clinics. Expand Medicaid to cover vision care for those under 26.



4) Dental care is also a great need, with some youth not remembering the last time they went to a dentist. This can cause health problems, and also be a barrier in social interaction and job interviews. We need more vouchers for dental care from dentists, but also a larger ongoing relationship for dental care from dental schools. The community could also help by covering basic costs of cleanings. Expand Medicaid to cover dental care for those under 26.

5) Many people urged support of the Affordable Care Act, and expansion of coverage to all transgender health needs. But also many said ACA did not go far enough, and they wanted a single-payer health insurance system through the government. Youth also wanted fewer barriers to access County Care to get enrolled in coverage.

6) There needs to be a larger focus on HIV prevention, and then access to medication for those who test positive. More testing programs also needed. AIDS and LGBTQ health services should be available in several geographic areas, not just North Side.

7) Youth wanted more access to mental health services and psychiatric care.

8) Youth wanted more access to substance abuse counseling. They also strongly asked for harm-reduction models that are successful elsewhere to be used in Chicago. One adult said: “Provide programs that meet youth where they are and have flexibility.”

9) As mentioned above, youth need geographically diverse access points for showers and bathrooms, and storage. This creates a better situation for all Chicagoans, with less spread of disease, bed bugs, and better hygiene. A bathhouse situation like existed in many cities in 1800s and early 1990s is recommended. Fully staffed, 24/7. More free and accessible and clean public



bathrooms needed throughout the city. Other cities do this with paid, self-cleaning bathrooms. The homeless could be given vouchers to use these. People complain about the personal hygiene of the homeless, but the homeless have few resources.

10) Youth access for more athletic opportunities, for healthy living, plus self-defense courses (Thousand Waves has done this).

11) Youth asked for more dances. In the past there have been monthly or even more frequent young adult dances.

12) Youth asked for summertime access to healthcare between school semesters, when they otherwise have no access to nurses and counselors in the schools.

13) Childcare options are needed if a parent needs to go into the hospital or ER.

14) Both mainstream and LGBTQ health clinics and hospitals need better training on all aspects of LGBTQ and especially transgender healthcare. They also need to be more “trauma informed” in their care.

15) Youth asked for more transgender services at Howard Brown Health Center.

16) Youth asked for a peer-based syringe exchange at HBHC.

17) Youth want a streamlined informed-consent process for hormones for people 18 and below and 18 and up, especially those from families who are not supportive of their situation.

18) Youth asked for more mobile and pop-up type health services for LGBTQ and especially transgender youth, so that they are in more diverse areas of the city.

19) Nurses and counselors in K-12 schools need to be culturally competent caregivers.

20) College campuses also need more education about LGBTQ healthcare.

21) The Human Rights Campaign evaluates hospitals on LGBTQ issues. There should be a bigger dig-down on this information and use this for making sure they are inclusive of LGBTQ



care, including homeless LGBTQ youth.

22) The field guide of the LGBT Council of the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Certification should be more fully promoted so people are aware of its information—including people who work in these hospitals.

23) Youth asked for access to healthy food. This is not just donated food with quick expiration dates, but also thru vouchers to places such as Trader Joe's and Whole Foods.

24) Also, the expansion of HIV food facilities (Vital Bridges) to include homeless youth would offer an expansion of places where healthy food could be made available in several areas of the city, while also expanding those who support and donate to those facilities.

25) There should be a place each night of the week that has emergency food available. Using the new mobile-friendly website, these locations can be listed for youth. If 90 or so churches in various parts of the city each took one day a month to provide food, then that can be promoted.

26) There should be a campaign around de-shaming use of the Link-card for food support. Many clerks treat customers worse when they use, or judge them for using them for healthy foods and Whole Foods.

27) Youth could be hired to work in the new warehouse-based urban farms, to learn skills and also healthy living and eating habits.

28) Use the Park Districts, YMCA and YWCA, and Boys/Girls Clubs facilities to create “pop-up” LGBTQ safe spaces for youth throughout the city to know there is a specific program aimed at them that day and time. The youth asked for more swimming classes, too.

29) Youth want all clinics to have walk-in services because many can't schedule based on their housing and living instability.

30) Testing for HIV and other STIs should be seen as a prevention tool and should be a sliding scale fee, not with a hard cost. Youth will not be able to afford a hard cost. They also want testing and treatment in the same facility.

31) Lack of housing is a healthcare issue. Doctors soon should be able to write a prescription for housing where someone's health suffers without a consistent place to live.

32) Youth want long-term stable relationships with adults and “life coaches” who can help them navigate their lives. This will help their mental and physical health, they said.

33) A fund should be established to pay for drugs that are not covered by County Care or ACA.



34) Many said that spirituality is a key to complete healthcare. They want spirituality in their lives, but not judgmental religious leaders. Religious groups can really play a key support role in their lives.

35) Social outlets for youth can also be very beneficial. One said: “Being social, helps me cope and move beyond my



depression. Spending time with others helps me to feel better.”

36) Creative outlets such as theater, art and writing also add to mental and physical health. They need more of these opportunities.

37) Youth also want to meet more adult role models that can help them model being healthy and physically active. We have a lot of pro athletes in Chicago, and great amateur athletes and gyms, we should be able to work to get gym memberships, and other activities for youth. This includes outings to events.

38) Youth asked for more peer-to-peer counseling, too. For example, advice from HIV-positive peers, transgender peers, etc., those who are like them and made it through their problems.

39) Sleep deprivation goes with being homeless. Whether it is difficult arrangements at shelters, to trying to sleep on the streets or public transit, homeless youth experience major sleep disruptions that impact their mental and physical health.

40) The racism and classism these youth face with and outside of the LGBTQ community impacts their mental health. These large-scale public verbal attacks, plus the micro aggressions on a day-to-day basis, very much effect their ability to be healthy, contributing members to society in the short and long term.

41) People in the shelters are needed to help youth navigate all of the various healthcare systems, including insurance. One said: “We need counselors/social workers who are ‘real’ with a

heart ... less of the interns who are overly objective and stick to the bullet pointed agenda.”

42) On the healthy food front, homeless LGBTQ youth would love to have food trucks that offer only healthy alternatives, “mobile farmer’s markets,” and come to more areas of the city. The youth would be allowed to use their EBT cards, or could get vouchers good only at these trucks, and the website can list when and where they are coming. The food trucks could employ the youth (like on East Coast), and also get tax breaks for the food they are donating.

43) Youth who do have diabetes and other health challenges need additional medical and healthy-eating support.

44) Youth said the lack of a South Side trauma center is an issue and represents another level of how Chicago is really a divided city in terms of public and private resources.

45) Youth said they do not like how they see agencies competing with each other for grants, and that turns them off to using agencies. They witness this thru staff changes, and how they use services between different agencies.

46) There needs to be far more in-depth training of medical professionals in school and out of school—but especially with so many medical training hospitals in Chicago, there could be a lot more interaction with the homeless population and doctors in training. One attendee said: “LGBTQIA people can tell them about how to conduct a medical interview or procedure in a way that makes the patient comfortable.”

47) Providers should share educational resource (toolkits, etc.) so resources are not wasted re-inventing the wheel.

48) Find a way for youth who are/have been homeless, to rise into positions of power and help others who have been in that position.

49) Provide nonjudgmental, culturally competent, strengths-based questions and treatment of sex workers.

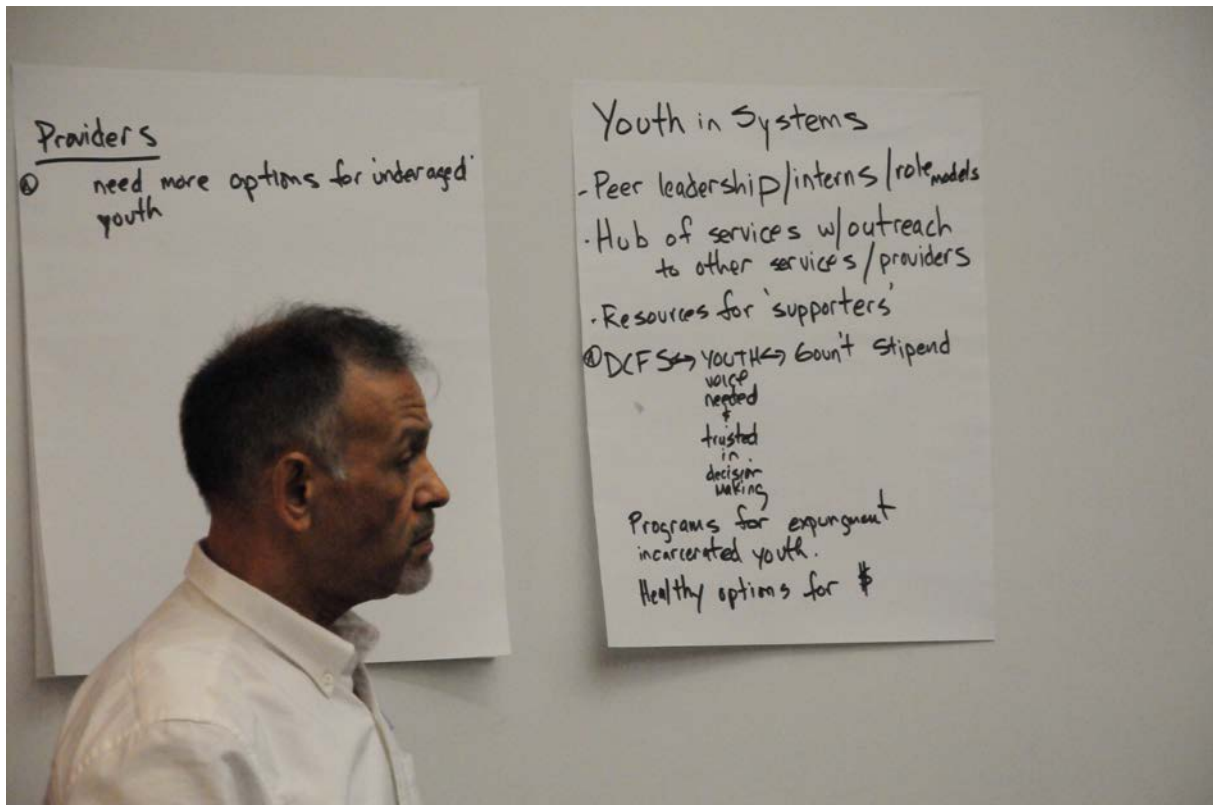
Sometimes youth express themselves different than adults. This should not be seen as a negative. As one adult said: “Young people are resilient, and the way they celebrate their identity should be pointed out.” Another said “Know my name!”



Youth in Systems

This youth in systems track of discussions focused a lot on the state of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, which had representatives at the summit, and also the prison system. Some of these issues were addressed in the public policy and legal areas, as well as housing (foster care issues), but below are additional recommendations.

- 1) DCFS must actively recruit more LGBT and allied parents.
- 2) DCFS must train existing foster parents on LGBT issues. There also needs to be ongoing support and monitoring.
- 3) DCFS should have an LGBTQ Youth Advisory Council that has transparency and real input on their policies.
- 4) DCFS LGBTQ youth should be allowed to participate in public efforts to recruit adoptive homes (marketing).
- 5) DCFS foster parent recruiters must be all culturally competent when interviewing prospective foster parents.
- 6) DCFS staff who work with youth must also be culturally competent on LGBT issues.
- 7) DCFS should provide youth in care with access to queer and trans youth spaces and services. For instance, if an LGBTQ youth in DCFS care wants to receive culturally competent healthcare at HBHC they should be allowed to go there to receive their healthcare.
- 8) The DCFS LGBTQ liaison should be full-time with additional staff and resources.



Also, there should be transparency into the work being done.

9) The DCFS Hotline should provide accountability and transparency to their responses.

10) DCFS received a public grant to study LGBTQ homelessness in their systems, and that report and its process should be more transparent to the public.

11) DCFS should switch to a continuum of phasing people out of care rather than an abrupt drop off of care at a specific age. See the St. Louis model.

12) There needs to be an independent evaluation of DCFS's work to develop better strategies for success.

13) CCBYS (Comprehensive Crisis Based Youth Services), more transparency for this, and also an understanding that reunification is not always the best for LGBTQ youth.

14) Guardian ad litem (GALs) need LGBTQ training on an ongoing basis. There also needs to be an expedited process for DCFS to get documents to the GALs.

15) If youth want their own benefits, allow disentanglement from their parents.

16) The UCAN model of recruiting LGBT parents to foster kids is cost effective and should be funded to capacity as a way to avoid more money needed for shelters.

On the juvenile and adult prison systems:

1) All schools should avoid when at all possible engaging justice through the criminal legal system. Transformative, restorative, and peer-led justice models preferred.

2) Evaluate and monitor Cook County Jail's policy on transgender prisoners, and adjust where needed. Transgender workers also feel at risk.

3) The Illinois prison system needs policies and training on LGBTQ and especially transgender and gender-nonconforming prisoners as well as workers.

4) Adopt alternative models for non-violent juvenile crimes.

5) Detangle DCFS and the juvenile justice system and make it more transparent.

6) More programs for expungement of incarcerated youth are needed. In general, many attendees called for the dismantling of the prison industrial complex for almost all crimes, especially those based on economic survival. Spending more than \$60-80,000 a year on prisoners, including those just awaiting trial in Cook County Jail, makes no sense, when those funds could help prevent crime and save lives.



Videos from Summit

VIDEOS from Closing Day:

1. Windy City Times Youth Summit: Tracy and Casey On Homeless Film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZTPMUKKzN8>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/6ZTPMUKKzN8"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

2. Windy City Times Youth Summit: YEPP Performs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHrfx43Zb_Y

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/GHrfx43Zb_Y"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

3. Windy City Times Youth Summit: Imani Rupert, Youth in Systems

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_gGyj12pI8

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/W_gGyj12pI8"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

4. Windy City Times Youth Summit: Luis Roman, Health

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzINF3ttBOo>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/hzINF3ttBOo"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

5 Windy City Times Youth Summit: Lara Brooks, Housing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnXzZxCH6Ls>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/cnXzZxCH6Ls"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

6 Windy City Times: Angelica Ross, Job Training & Education

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csw_WX0ygVE

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/csw_WX0ygVE"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

7 Windy City Times Youth Summit: Owen Daniel McCarter, Legal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFOzAD4G2es>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/CFOzAD4G2es"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

8 Windy City Times Youth Summit: Nicole Sutton, Public Policy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNxHB_nyt1E

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/KNxHB_nyt1E"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

9 Windy City Times Youth Summit Final Day: Breezi Connor, LZ Granderson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4P3MeQ7NXWE>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/4P3MeQ7NXWE"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

10 Windy City Times Youth Summit: Tracy Baim Closing Remarks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pobDfTIP1C0>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/pobDfTIP1C0"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

VIDEOS from Youth Day:

Windy City Times Youth Summit: Keyshia Laymorris and Jamie Frazier

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vprVFzZvdFU>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/vprVFzZvdFU"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Windy City Times Youth Summit: Monica James presentation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9yzorwnOYI>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/D9yzorwnOYI"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Windy City Times Youth Summit: Shawne Hinkle interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwuBjXVPMnU>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/fwuBjXVPMnU"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Windy City Times Youth Summit: Shaunquel Baker interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7LsHqWCP6U>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/w7LsHqWCP6U"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Windy City Times Youth Summit: Keyshia Laymorris

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzPOH1baEA8>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/PzPOH1baEA8"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Windy City Times Youth Summit: Robert Vacha interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUPZhDcAxGI>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/aUPZhDcAxGI"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Windy City Times Youth Summit: Monica James interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XT-H8mi6bVk>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/XT-H8mi6bVk"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Windy City Times Youth Summit: David Cal interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrupPfBztQQ>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/BrupPfBztQQ"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Windy City Times Youth Summit: Breezi Connor interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cu1Eb1qcA5U>

<iframe width="540" height="304" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/cu1Eb1qcA5U" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Photos from Summit

Hundreds of photos can be viewed at these links:

<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/LGBTQ-youth-summit-looks-at-homelessness/47280.html>

<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/photospreadthumbs.php?APUB=wct&ADATE=2014-05-05&AGALLERY=CHIYOUTHSUMMIT5-3-14@UICSatChosen>

<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/photospreadthumbs.php?APUB=wct&ADATE=2014-05-05&AGALLERY=CHI.YOUTHSUMMITMUNOFBRD5-5-14MonHaIBaimChosen>



Appendix

Summit Schedule



Saturday, May 3: UIC, Behavioral Sciences Building, 1007 West Harrison		
8:30 – 9:15	Check In & Breakfast	Gender & Sexuality Center, Rooms 181 & 183
9:15 – 10:40	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FACES Performance by Youth Empowerment Performance Project Opening Remarks, Triana Alexander & Kim L. Hunt, Affinity Community Services Better Together: Building and Strengthening Youth-Adult Partnerships, Erica Phillips & Joy Messinger, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health 	Room 250
10:50 – 11:40	BLOCK 1	
	- Housing Session Team: Sabastino Aviles, Lara Brooks, Emmanuel Garcia, Steve Huesing	Room 133
	- Health Session Team: Dawn DeWald, LZ Granderson, Luis Roman, Kris Rosentel	Room 137
	- Job Training & Education Session Team: Ebonie Davis, Alexis Pegus, Angelica Ross	Room 161
	- Youth in Systems Session Team: Vidal Cruz, Channyn Parker, Imani Rupert, Xia Xiang	Room 165
	- Public Policy Session Team: Lisa Kouba, Joy Messinger, Jason Stodolka, Jamari White	Room 185
	- Legal Session Team: Antonia Clifford, LZ "Isiah" Granderson, Owen Daniel McCarter	Room 187
11:50 – 12:20	Keynote Speaker – Jama Shelton, Forty to None Project Director, <i>True Colors Fund</i>	Room 250
12:30 – 1:00	Lunch & Networking	Food Court
1:10 – 2:00	BLOCK 2	
	- Housing Session Team: Sabastino Aviles, Lara Brooks, Emmanuel Garcia, Steve Huesing	Room 133
	- Health Session Team: Dawn DeWald, LZ Granderson, Luis Roman, Kris Rosentel	Room 137
	- Job Training & Education Session Team: Ebonie Davis, Alexis Pegus, Angelica Ross	Room 161
	- Youth in Systems Session Team: Vidal Cruz, Channyn Parker, Imani Rupert, Xia Xiang	Room 165
	- Public Policy Session Team: Lisa Kouba, Joy Messinger, Jason Stodolka, Jamari White	Room 185
	- Legal Session Team: Antonia Clifford, LZ "Isiah" Granderson, Owen Daniel McCarter	Room 187
2:10 – 3:00	BLOCK 3	
	- Housing Session Team: Sabastino Aviles, Lara Brooks, Emmanuel Garcia, Steve Huesing	Room 133
	- Health Session Team: Dawn DeWald, LZ Granderson, Luis Roman, Kris Rosentel	Room 137
	- Job Training & Education Session Team: Ebonie Davis,	Room 161



SCHEDULE (as of 4/29/14) Chicago LGBTQ Homeless Youth Summit 2014 May 2, 3, and 5

Friday, May 2: Lurie Children's Hospital – 225 East Chicago Ave.		
1:30 – 2:30	Check in & Snacks	Combined Room
2:30 – 3:00	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening Remarks, Keyshia Laymorris, Chicago House Healing Words, Rev. Jamie Frazier, The Lighthouse Church of Chicago FACES Performance by Youth Empowerment Performance Project 	Combined Room
3:10 – 4:00	BLOCK 1	
	- Housing Session Team: Sabastino Aviles, Emmanuel Garcia, Steve Huesing, Marcia Lipetz	Room 11-150
	- Health Session Team: Dawn DeWald, LZ Granderson, Luis Roman	Room 11-152
	- Public Policy Session Team: Jason Stodolka, Nicole Sutton, Jamari White	Room 11-160
	- Legal Session Team: Antonia Clifford, Owen Daniel McCarter	Room 11-142
4:10 – 5:00	BLOCK 2	
	- Health Session Team: Dawn DeWald, LZ Granderson, Luis Roman	Room 11-150
	- Job Training & Education Session Team: Ebonie Davis, Angelica Ross	Room 11-152
	- Legal Session Team: Antonia Clifford, LZ "Isiah" Granderson, Owen Daniel McCarter	Room 11-160
	- Youth in Systems Session Team: Vidal Cruz, Channyn Parker, Imani Rupert, Xia Xiang	Room 11-142
5:15 – 6:15	Dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction, Precious Davis, Center on Halsted Keynote Speaker, Monica James, Chicago House 	Combined Room
6:30 – 7:15	BLOCK 3	
	- Housing Session Team: Sabastino Aviles, Emmanuel Garcia, Steve Huesing, Marcia Lipetz	Combined Room
	- Job Training & Education Session Team: Ebonie Davis, Angelica Ross	Combined Room
	- Public Policy Session Team: Jason Stodolka, Nicole Sutton, Jamari White	Combined Room
	- Youth in Systems Session Team: Vidal Cruz, Channyn Parker, Imani Rupert, Xia Xiang	Room 11-142
7:30 – 8:00	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarizing the Day, Breezy Connor & Bonn Wade, Chicago House, TransLife Center Check Out 	Combined Room



	Alexis Pegus, Angelica Ross - Youth in Systems Session Team: Vidal Cruz, Channyn Parker, Imani Rupert, Xia Xiang	Room 165
	- Public Policy Session Team: Lisa Kouba, Joy Messinger, Jason Stodolka, Jamari White	Room 185
	- Legal Session Team: Antonia Clifford, LZ "Isiah" Granderson, Owen Daniel McCarter	Room 187
3:10 – 4:00	Panel Discussion <i>Changing Course in Serving Homeless LGBTQ Youth: Funding, Infrastructure, and Cultural Competency</i> Moderator: Nicole Sutton , former Project Director of REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry Panelists: James Cunningham , Housing & Urban Development, Juliana Harms , Illinois Dept. of Children & Family Services, Rep. Greg Harris , 13 th Dist., Chair, Appropriations-Human Services Committee, John Pfeiffer , Chicago Dept. of Family Support Services	Room 250
4:00 – 4:15	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report Back & Next Steps, Triana Alexander & Kim L. Hunt, Affinity Community Services 	Room 250
Monday, May 5: Museum of Broadcast Communications, 360 N. State Street		
7:45 – 8:30	Check in & Breakfast	
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Movie trailer, <i>The Homestretch</i> Opening Remarks, Tracy Baim, <i>Windy City Times</i> 	
	Report Backs, Moderated by LZ Granderson	
8:45 – 9:10	Public Policy – Presenter Nicole Sutton	
9:10 – 9:35	Legal – Presenter Owen Daniel McCarter	
9:35 – 10:00	Youth in Systems – Presenter Imani Rupert	
10:00 – 10:25	Housing – Presenter Lara Brooks	
10:25 – 10:50	Health – Presenter Luis Roman	
10:50 – 11:15	Job Training & Education – Presenter Angelica Ross	
11:15 – 12:00	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FACES Performance by Performance, Youth Empowerment Performance Project Youth Summit Closing Poem, Breezy Connor, Chicago House, TransLife Center Call to Action, Tracy Baim, <i>Windy City Times</i> 	

2nd Floor Meeting Room

Resource List

The summit listed several reports, studies and articles for research. All links below, and also here:

<http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/resources/>

Windy City Times – Generation Halsted Report (2012)

http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/WindyCityTimes_GenerationHalsted_2012.pdf

Chicago's Plan 2.0, Semi-Annual Progress Report, February 2014

http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Plan-2.0_Progress_Report_2.14.pdf

Chicago LGBT Needs Assessment

http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/CCT_LGBTNeedsAssessment_0712.pdf

Identifying and Serving LGBTQ Youth: Case Studies of Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Grantees

http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Homeless-Youth-HHC-report-rpt_LGBTQ_RHY.pdf

Ensuring Access to Mentoring Programs for LGBTQ Youth

<http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Access-to-Youth-Mentoring-Programs.pdf>

MODEL SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

<http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Safe-Schools-and-Suicide-report-2014.pdf>

The State of Trans* and Intersex Organizing

<http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Trans-and-Intersex-organizing-copy.pdf>

A Practitioner's Resource Guide: Helping Families to Support Their LGBT Children

Structural stigma and all-cause mortality in sexual minority populations

<http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/SAMSHA-PEP14-LGBTKIDS.pdf>

MOVING UP, FIGHTING BACK: PATH TO LGBTQ YOUTH LIBERATION. NATIONAL REPORT 2013

http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/FierceSummitMoveUpFightBackReport_Final.pdf

National Center on Family Homelessness 2010 "America's Youngest Outcasts" report

http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/NCFH_AmericaOutcast2010_web.pdf

LGBT Families of Color Facts At a Glance

<http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/lgbt-families-of-color-facts-at-a-glance-2.pdf>

LGBT African-Americans and African-America Same-Sex Couples

<http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Census-AFAMER-Oct-2013.pdf>

Schools-to-Prison — Civil Rights Data Collection on School Discipline— Report from U.S. Dept. of Education

<http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/CRDC+School+Discipline+Snapshot.pdf>

Standing with LGBT Prisoners

http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/JailPrisons_Resource_FINAL.pdf

California May Get Foster Care Alternative for Homeless Teens [Huffington Post]

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/20/california-homeless-youth-bill_n_4827214.html

ACLU of IL Press Release - Plan Advanced to Improve Conditions in Illinois' Juvenile Justice Facilities

<http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/ACLU-IL-PR-DJJ.pdf>

U.S. Dept. of Education Questions about Title IV and Sexual Violence, Transgender Students

<http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/TitleIXTransSTudents-201404-title-ix.pdf>

Another highly recommended report:

Segregation in the Chicago Metropolitan Area –

Some Immediate Measures to Reverse this Impediment to Fair Housing

<http://www.jmls.edu/fairhousing/pdf/2013-chicago-segregation-study.pdf>

Also here: <http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Chicago-Segregation-Study.pdf>

A Report by The John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Support Center

May 1, 2013, Prepared for The Illinois Department of Human Rights Under a Grant From The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

The conclusions and recommendations in this report are not to be attributed to its funders, the Illinois Department of Human Rights and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Federal legislative proposals

Amend the Fair Housing Act to include “source of income” as a protected class and define source of income to include housing choice (section 8) voucher holders.

Amend the Fair Housing Act to provide *limited* protection to ex-offenders and persons with arrest records.

Amend the Fair Housing Act to provide protection to immigrants and persons who are not proficient in English, and to require that housing providers and lenders accord immigrants and persons who are not proficient in English reasonable accommodations in rules, practices, or services when such accommodations may be necessary to afford such persons equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling because of their immigration status or lack of proficiency in English.

Amend the Fair Housing Act to provide protection on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Although protected under Illinois law, and for HUD-subsidized housing, these bases are not protected under the Fair Housing Act.

Amend the Fair Housing Act to provide a private right of action to enforce the duty to affirmatively further fair housing.

Amend the Fair Housing Act to impose a duty to affirmatively market their properties on owners of multi-family buildings of four units or more, condominium associations and other homeowner associations, and real estate brokers and management companies. The duty to affirmatively market their mortgage loans and other financial products should also be expanded to all entities that engage in the business of financing housing. Congress should direct that HUD exercise its rule-making powers to promulgate guidelines for private housing providers on how to comply with this affirmative duty.

State and local legislative proposals

Amend the Illinois Human Rights Act and local ordinances to include “source of income” as a protected class and define source of income to include housing choice voucher (section 8) holders. The City of Chicago provides protection for housing choice voucher holders. Cook County and the Village of Oak Park made this a priority in their Analyses of Impediments, and Cook County has now enacted this protection.

Amend the Illinois Affordable Planning and Appeal Act to require that all local plans specify procedures and substantive standards to demonstrate how they will affirmatively further fair housing.

Amend the Illinois Human Rights Act and local ordinances to provide *limited* protection to ex-offenders and persons with arrest records.

Amend the Illinois Human Rights Act and local ordinances to provide protection to immigrants and to persons who are not proficient in English. Also, to require that housing providers and lenders accord immigrants and persons who are not proficient in English reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, or services, when such accommodations may be necessary to afford such persons equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling because of their immigration status or lack of proficiency in English.

Expand the protections in 225 ILCS 429/120 and 815 ILCS 505/2N to require that when real estate transactions are conducted through an interpreter, documents be translated into that language as well.

Amend the Illinois Human Rights Act and local ordinances to define marital status to make it explicit that it applies to cohabitation by unmarried couples of both the opposite and of the same sex.

Amend the Illinois Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act, 210 ILCS 9/1 to make it consistent with the Fair Housing Act and the Illinois Human Rights Act. Make violation of the Fair Housing Act or the Illinois Human Rights Act a ground for suspending or revoking a license and require consideration of reasonable accommodations in determining residency requirements in assisted living and shared housing developments.

Amend the Life Care Facilities Act, 210 ILCS 40/1, and the Nursing Home Care Act, 210 ILCS 45/1, to make compliance with the Fair Housing Act and the Illinois Human Rights Act explicit.

Enact legislation in Illinois that requires all recipients of state and local government funding for housing to show that they are affirmatively furthering fair housing.

Discussion Topics

The following were the outlines of each of the six discussion topics

Health

Self care and wellness are an essential part of daily life. Discussion will include, but not be limited to, how to provide better access to health services, better meet the needs of LGBTQAI youth in medical facilities, and improve use of existing resources. Some keywords: Substance Abuse, Medicaid, Affordable Care Act, Mental Health, HIV and STIs, Access to Dietary Needs, Mentoring, Trauma

Housing

This session is geared toward discussions on housing for homeless youth, which includes but is not limited to topics regarding transitional housing, subsidized housing, shelter network, unstable housing and more. Some keywords: Zoning, LGBT Foster Parenting, Couch Surfing, Cultural Competency, Policies Sensitive to LGBTQAI Youth, Proof of Address

Job Training & Education

Education is often disrupted for youth who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness. In addition to GED and other traditional education programs, more programs are needed to provide hands on training, job readiness, and opportunities to earn income. Some keywords: Flexible Financial Aid, Entrepreneurialism, Vocational Training, Apprenticeships, Continuing Education, Affirming Schools

Legal

LGBTQ youth who experience unstable housing face many legal hurdles that include knowing their rights and navigating the legal system. Some keywords: Emancipation, Access to Legal Counsel, Name and Gender Changes, Lawsuits Against Parents

Public Policy

There are city, county, state, and federal policies that determine how service, protections, and opportunities are provided to homeless youth, including youth who identify as LGBTQAI. Additionally, there are departmental and other service provider policies that impact LGBTQAI homeless youth. Some keywords: Emancipation, Age-Specific Services, Zoning Policies that Impact Housing Programs, Protective Legislation

Youth in the Systems

Child welfare, juvenile justice, criminal justice and other systems are heavily populated by youth who have experienced housing instability. While often well intended, sometimes these systems have policies that negatively impact LGBTQAI homeless youth. Some keywords: Mentoring, Cultural Competency, DCFS Placement, School to Prison Pipeline, Mental Health, Trauma, Foster Parenting, Training, Systems of Care

Housing sessions notes

BELOW first a summary of the summit input on Housing issues, from youth and adults, followed by the raw notes from working sessions on housing issues. There are many additional ideas below that can and should be adopted.

- Themes
 - Long-term relationships lead to long-term housing stability
 - Housing outcomes are most successful when an intersecting and collaborative system of supports is accessible and high-quality
 - Options and new models
 - Improved data, meaningful program evaluation, and system transparency
 - Shelter safety and training
- Diversity of Models Available Across Chicago
 - Current housing options: Shelter for Youth, Low Threshold, Low-Demand, Adult Shelters, Interim Housing Model, Transitional Living Program, Permanent Housing with Short-Term Supports, Scattered Site Apartments, Age Appropriate Stable Housing, Safe Haven Programs
- Expanding current models
 - Host Home Program
 - Increasing scattered site apartments
 - Youth housing programs with flexible lengths of stay and meaningful supports—especially for LGBTQ youth with disabilities, survivors of trauma, and pregnant and/or parenting young people
 - Shelters to have 24/7 hours available for those who go to school or work at night.
- The need for additional models to further diversity options
 - Ideas include:
 - Individuals or families subsidize apartments for young people for a period of time
 - Small, intentional housing collectives with supports
 - 24-hour drop-in center
 - Increasing affordable housing units and allocating percentage to young people
 - College dorms (City College housing)
- The need for additional models to further diversity options
 - Emergency LGBTQ foster parent network
 - Expand access to the City's program to offer properties for \$1 for collective living options
 - Allocate units of housing for young people with low-income trust funds
 - Give tax credits to landlords to invent rental to young people
 - Expand sanctuary housing/networks for undocumented, LGBTQ youth
- Recommendations

- Housing options must be geographically diverse and connected to resources and robust supportive services located within the community
- NOTE: housing options must be located separately but in reasonable proximity to wraparound services and programs to ensure long-term connections when/if housing realities change
- Housing Model Recommendations
 - Policy: Increase housing program accessibility by expanding definitions of households to include chosen family members, partners, significant others, and siblings
 - Increase beds available for a young person's self-identified family (partner, children, siblings, etc.)
 - Partial Emancipation for those under 18
- Central Referral System & Vulnerability Index
 - Waiting List Transparency
 - System-wide education and information about CRS and its design, including connection to vulnerability index
 - Idea: Accelerate youth who are aging out of the system
- Shelters
 - More data
 - Expand hours
 - Trainings
 - Showers
 - Safety
 - Real Time Bed Availability
 - 311 Transport
 - Gender affirming
- Housing Programs need...
 - Access to affordable, reduced-cost transit
 - Art and creative outlets
 - Access to beauty supplies, self-care supplies, and quality clothing and basic needs
 - Support to effectively prevent, interrupt, and transform violence; implement restorative justice practices and accountability structures

PREVENTION

- Funders – Invest Long-Term. Please stop moving onto the next best thing.
- Outreach and Education to do Early Family Intervention
 - Have therapists and crisis workers work with family to do supports before being kicked out.
 - Replicate Family Acceptance Project (Greenchimneys.org model) from NY state
 - Find at risk youth through schools, churches, social services (i.e. CCBYS), general awareness
 - Provide LGBTQ education
 - Creating a marketing campaign designed to keep families together; stop homophobic and transphobic parents

from kicking kids out; provide resources to keep together; and finally, negatively incent those parents who kick kids out.

NOTES FROM ACTUAL SESSIONS:

Housing Session 1 [Day?]

Barriers

- Low Income
- Discrimination
 - Age
 - Identity
 - Race
 - Gender
 - Substance Abuse
 - Background (Crimes)
 - HIV Status
 - Credit
- Restrictions to current Housing
 - i.e.: Mental Health, age
 - Look at Policies
- 18-24 concerned—what about after care, check ins, etc

Break Barriers

- Transitional Goal Setting Mentorship
- Share Stories
 - Zine Mini Magazines, media
- Interview Coaching
- If you are homeless, safe place for belongings
- Informed /educated landlords
- Affordable Housing
- Education on leasing agreements
 - Rights
 - Regulations
 - Rules
 - Partners
 - Children's rights
- Safety
- Youth Homeless Transition Coaching/mentorship
- More focus on Youth
 - I.e: Center on Halsted
- Advocate more for homeless youth
- Age and “having experience” discrimination for jobs

Housing Day 1, Session 2

Ideal:

- More available
- More locations
- More than one Transgender option
- In nice areas
- Safe areas
- Affordability
- More access to funding
- Not enough to help out of shelters
- We hear “transitional housing” but nothing comes of it
- Need a lot more guidance to help through temporary shelter
- Not everyone wants to be in Section 8 housing
- 3 months at most shelters is not long enough (1-2 years recommended)
- Some facilities only allow doctor's care for issues like substance abuse
- Safety for kids

- C.R.S can't know where they are on the list, therefore can't plan
- Shelters should have a summit
- Standards improved for housing grants
 - Minimum services to provide based on identity
- Gain accountability for grants, how is money being sent
- People showing up in our residence “shelter” and we don't know who they are, but we can't get a roll of toilet paper; build safety and trust
- No computers to apply for jobs
- Stuff (new) being locked up “downstairs” and not being distributed
- Resources
 - Job Placement
 - Screening for skills
- 7 hours mandatory stay in shelter; need things to do.
 - Breathing exercises
 - Arts & Crafts
- No equality or tolerance training of staff in shelters
- People giving donations should see how their money is being spent
- Won't tell what shelters personal information is being sent to
- Homeless prevention made a priority
- Need more than just shelter; clothes for school, or interviews
- A place to navigate through system
- Overall bad information, wrong numbers
- Giving information from 2011
- Willing to attend more sessions like this to share information
- Bad shelter LGBTQ guidelines, rules, policies
- Where is the homeless shelter “PC” like in jails
- Trans Life Center full, does not have enough beds
- Shelters competing for same grants, so not working together

Housing Next Session

- Improving housing situation with DCFS for youth under 18
- Emergency housing and transitional programs: change partial emancipation policy to be able to accept younger folks
- Youth want to live in a home, not a shelter or institution
- LGBTQ-specific housing or not? Mixed views
 - Sometimes want to be around LGBTQ, not other times
 - Violence goes up because you see them all the time
 - Need more things to focus on— job, education, etc.
- Research residential housing—project (trauma)-based housing
 - Create their own agreements
 - Have one person to check in
 - Youth able to focus on what they want to focus on
- Sanctuary model
 - Heal
 - Congregate living—different when you

- grow up
- Home—an apartment, not having someone looking through your stuff
 - Saying if someone can stay overnight
- Program restrictions for subsidies and study college dorm for homeless youth
 - Both for community college and UIC and other 4-year colleges
 - particularly for LGBT youth
- DCFS- wards of the state, causes problems
- Keeping dorms open during breaks for those who have no place to go home to
- Programs need to be comprehensive: jobs, education. Caring for youth

Overcoming Barriers

- Property managers don't have education and have an attitude that creates barriers
 - Sometimes they need to put a face on
- Screen out closet homophobes – for staff
- 24/7 emergency space
- Models – Ali Forney in New York City
- Support services integrated

Housing 3 Next Session

What does adequate, transformative housing look like to you?

- Barrier-riden in policy w/ budget
 - Able to be evaluated increase
 - not a hope, not a prayer
- Tolerance but not acceptance
 - Staff attitudes—how people are treated
- Adequate training for everyone in the space
- Diversity of models – not just transitional
 - Based in the community, engaging property owners—having a stake in the housing/ development of young people
- Lack of options for youth 21-24 w/ no disabilities
- More options for youth under 18
- CCBYS- not appropriate – home not accepting youth will end up homeless, not respected
- Wrap-around services attached
-
- Inflexible hours – restrictions for working youth discrimination
 - Transportation
 - Number of housing units decrease
 - Lack of knowledge of options
 - Where can resources be found?
- Awareness of what landlords can and cannot ask
- Programs in which you can have others staying with you –
 - Couples not allowed/ no room available
 - Unfair
 - Cost effective to have people share
 - Priority for students
- Resource angel
 - Communication updates (costume offered)
- Share info between shelters
 - Fandango for shelters
- Website or App with real time information – space
 - Multi-city
 - Food
- Lease to own in live w/ community center

- Putting down roots
- Use vacant land—urban
- Acknowledge that homelessness is CRISIS
- Fight climate of resistance: people blame homeless people—change the conversation
 - 1/6 of complaints are not heard
 - Go to hearings, light a fire under
- “homeless youth” – re-shift language:
 - Youth experiencing housing instability
 - Cost effective \$81,000 for 10 young people in community foster care alternative
 - Capacity, need more
 - Bring back instructional ways
 - Open doors: housing retention
- Home hosting
 - Re-think resources: people with extra room- sharing housing
 - Under core: long term relationships still in young person's life
- May not be able to exist in non-profit setting: grow outside of non-profit
 - Or NGO w/ shared values
- Anchor youth to adults: powerful personal response to struggle
- Sharing what works
 - Funding shifts, leadership at orgs/funders change
 - Then set up to compete: staff and clients suffer from changes
- How do we have these programs that we can support as community without govt. programs and grant-making apparatus
- Taxes should be used for housing programs
- Bureaucratic interests get in the way
 - Limited funds
 - Cop out to not fund programs
- Church funding
 - Move away from thinking that anyone that needs something is a cheater—that is name calling
- Shelter turned down by multiple communities (“These Bad Kids”)
 - Public education w/ television ads, CTA bus ads
 - Change the conversation
 - Applies to all neighborhoods in the city
 - Bring homelessness to public attention
- Histories of radical organizing – demonstrations
 - Demand the opening of places dedicated to youth housing
 - Channeling trauma into action
 - Sleep-ins
- There is no evidence that says that property values go down with shelters—educate folks
- ACT UP-style organization – separate from funders so that we can stand up
 - Independently funded
 - Shame the government and funders to do more
 - Create media actions
 - Awareness projects: low cost for public awareness

- Direct Action!
 - Dreaming is important
 - Continue online community- building
- How to support two people- long term
 - Not social service
 - Commit
 - Fund a studio for the next 5 years
- 20 people adopt an apt. – then social service provides support.
-

Public Policy

Complete summary and notes from public policy related sessions.

- Training, Evaluation, and Transparency
 - LGBTQ training, evaluation, and transparency for all facilities and programs dedicated to providing services for homeless youth.
- Budget - Youth homelessness funding redlined into government budgets.
- Increase Access
 - Raise the income threshold for support services, including food stamps
 - Eliminate drug convictions as a disqualifier for HUD housing
 - Allow service providers to serve undocumented minors
 - Remove adult guardian signature requirements to access services as a minor.
 - Expand the number of partial emancipation shelters
- Affordable Housing
 - Have a higher threshold for affordable housing. Developers use credits to build more housing for youth (not shelters). Tie this money to the renovation of foreclosed housing, closed schools, etc. Dedicate this funding stream to achieve benchmarks established in Plan 2.0.
 - Have banks release foreclosed properties for community efforts to address housing instability.
 - Have a system that provides a government guarantee to leases. (like Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae do for mortgages)
- Minimum Wage
 - Increase the minimum wage to \$15/ hour.
 - Youth minimum wage should be the same as the adult minimum wage.
 - Restaurant workers should make minimum wage, not below.
- Transportation - Reduced CTA and RTA Fares
- Definitions
 - Make definition of “youth” consistent across agencies
 - Expand definition to 25 or 26
 - Definition of homeless does not take into account vulnerabilities
 - Let people define who their families are.
- Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming

- Look for and implement best practices in the area of name changes and gender markers
 - Name change process should have nothing to do with criminal status
- Increase Education and Communication of Available Resources
- Increase education and communication around accessing emergency housing funds.
- Decriminalize
 - Decriminalization of drugs
 - Additional substance abuse treatment funding
 - Decriminalize sex work
- Follow-up on Work Already Done
 - Monitor the effect of the new youth vulnerability index
 - Make sure DCFS complies with court requirements from ACLU’s lawsuit.
- Aging Out
 - Need policies developed and improved to help youth transitioning out of care including DCFS care and transitional housing programs
- Health Care
 - Universal Health Care
 - Lower the age of consent for primary care.
 - Improve access to mental health care
- College and Financial Aid
 - Use college dormitory spaces to house homeless youth.
 - Make financial aid available for summer months to avoid summer-based homelessness for students.
 - Change federal housing law so full-time students can access subsidized housing programs.
 - Remove the impact of receiving food stamps on financial aid eligibility.
 - Change College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 (federal) to allow other service providers to certify applicants as homeless.
 - Need facilitators within youth systems to navigate FAFSA and other college processes including loans and scholarships.

Policy (Block 1)

Define Public Policy

- contracts
- rules
- laws procedures
- people w/ power + money call shots

How to solve LGBTQ Homelessness

- start in shelters w/ an Action plan ? give resource not just a place to sleep overnight
- shelters need to accept more children for community + provide services; need Family counseling; family

Reunification, etc

How can we prevent a person becoming homeless?

- Hard to know who's gonna be homeless
- Need to make us feel comfortable to talk about it.
- Before an eviction, intervene ? note illegal for a landlord to evict someone who's at risk of homeless \
- Crisis Intervention thru LGBTQ Services

Have after school programs for our population

“Center On Halsted sucks”
— no programs; no benefits

Broadway Youth Center is better, but the community isn't supportive; it closes at 3pm

The Purple People on Monday Night Ministry ? The Van-Tuesday

- Wednesday nothing
- Night Ministry – Thursday
- Policy in Center on Halsted seems Random
- Not a “Holistic” place for this population to go
- Need meaningful, funded, realistic, preventive
- No services on Weekends

Services need to be 24/7

No services past 24 yrs old
ie. Drop-ins, youth shelters

Institutions

- schools, child welfare. Etc. Don't safe zone for LGBTQ specific has too many straight people
- Most programs are religious based + feel “attacked” not helped

Institutions

- Need to provide open minded, safe spaces in schools w/ other LGBT
- Teachers, school personal LGBTQ sensitivity Training ==(^ Need) Would have a better understanding of overpopulation

Is LGBTQ Homelessness soon as a Big Issue? (Policy wise)

- Not usually
- except Broadway Youth Center
- They understand
- Information needs to be spread out ? Outreach!to the LGBTQ Community
- Need more Drop- In Centers

What do we need to make our suggestions happen?

- Money-Funding
- People to speak up!
- More coordination of advocacy
- Need All communities to support us
- Need Experienced People to run programs w/ similar experiences

What systems have supported LGBTQ Youth?

- Teen living programs
- La Casa Norte (now open to females)
- Broadway Youth Center (BYC), but needs more space +

support

(Scribed by Bridgette Glidmean, DCFS)

Policy – Block 2 Day 2

- * problem: Policy profiling
- * P: gender binary service provision
- * P: programs often see sexual identity as frivolous
 - S: Get rid of license requirement for some shelters/ partial emancipation shelters
- Balance Safety/ Security & Youth Empowerment
- P: Be more vocal in asking for help – community awareness
- S: Services Directory
- S: Media/ News Station Community Services & Public Announcement Space
- P: Resources in Gay Community redirected to youth homelessness
- Time is ripe to update policy for homeless youth
- S: Change/ update HIV confidentiality & notification procedures – cross-client notification
- S: Security plans for LGBTQ youth in schools – Make serving all at risk students a priority in community school planning
- S: Get cops out of school
- S: Define police standards for dealing with youth in schools – more sensitivity, more restorative justice vs. inclination to jump to arrest
- S: Money to small local orgs. To address these issues
 - prevention
 - programming

S: Spread resources across city

S: Banks release foreclosed properties for community efforts to address housing instability
+ Banks give money to housing programs

S: Tie in Homelessness w/ other youth issues
Queer Kids are Our Kids

S: Clustered Interests/ Coalitions w/ movements that might have common objectives
—Tie homelessness policy to counter– violence policy
—Sex-ed / reproductive Justice

S: Policy – Making process must include youth voices
—Lower barriers for the inclusion of youth voices

S: Prevention Policies / Early Intervention

S: Sexuality/ Gender resources available for families

Safe Streets

We want to do this work & incl. The voices & experiences of youth but need the \$. Funders often want to fund “wins” but not the youth leadership development work it takes to get there.

Policy Session- Block 1 – Day 2

Broad Topic Areas

- Schools
- Definitions of “Homelessness”
- Def. Of “Housing”
- Def. Of youth- age restrictions

- Transitional Services
- Gendering of Policies
- Police/ System Treatment
- Voter Restriction/ Suppression
- Undocumented

Schools

Problem: People who don't know the law (admin, teachers)
 P: Funding
 P: Youth aren't aware of rights
 Solution: Create common curriculum to address knowledge gaps
 * S: Protection for LGBTQ education
 * S: Schools provide support to parents/ comm. Members
 * S: Attention to LGBT youth ed. Achievement/ performance

* P: McKinney-Vento

Def. of Homelessness/ Housing

P: x # of days
 P: Focus on Chronic Homeless (min. of 2 years, etc)
 P: "Double Up" - not considered
 P: Undocumented
 *S: Housing Must be recognized as a human right
 *S: Developer Affordable Housing Credits
 — \$ Money for Housing programs/ shelter space, etc.
 P: Under 18 cannot hold lease
 — Emancipation
 S: Raise Min. Wage

P: Homeless as a stigma
 P: Housing Discrimination

Def. of Youth

P: Intergovernmental disagreement on age definitions
 P: No Funds for young people aging out
 S: Extend Definition of youth 24 y.o. / 25 y.o./ 29 y.o.
 S: Move to NYC
 * — Youth Homeless funding red-lined into city budget
 * ? Higher aff. housing requirements for developers
 — Funding streams
 *S: Vulnerability Index- prioritize youth/ recognize unique
 wordship for youth
 S: Referral System for all youth services (Detroit)

Systems

Trans* Youth / Gendered Policies

? Shelters can be gender specific & not open to not safe for trans* youth
 ? LGBTQ training should be required for licensing/ certification
 — %L Both sexual identity and gender identity
 ? Medical change required to be considered trans* by IL law

Be in the policy-making conversation

Youth- led initiatives

P: Parental approval needed even if youth don't feel safe

Public Policy (Session 2) [Typer Note: Day 1?]

- Social Decorum – how society says you're supposed to act
- Criteria
- Rules of Society
- Way you dress
- Laws are the formal enactment at Public Policy

End LGBTQ Homelessness by:

- having housing opportunities in Different communities
- Minimum wage? Lining Wage
- Enhance Programs that include harm reduction
- Services across the board Inclusive Services
- Meet young people where they are
- Should raise the age of the youth shelters
- Need more Beds

Prevention Policies

- Advocacy
- Outreach
- Parents/ Families to be educated, involved
- Counseling Groups
- Supportive Services
- Policies that hold parents accountable
- Educate Communities
- LGBTQ competency + sensitivity services
- Other options besides DCFS cause some youth don't want to be in systems

Solutions

- Provide affordable housing to LGBTQ youth
- policies for housing
- Reduce Barriers ie: if in school
- Still need housing
- Shouldn't have to have an illness/ disability to get housing
- Better Public education + identifying when youth might be homeless
- Re-Do Public Education
- Legalization of street drugs + less youth will go to jail
- If pregnant or parenting should get housing? separate housing for women + children
- Separate rooms
- Need more places like Cornerstone, that keep families together
- More grants for contractors to build youth housing
- Think out-of-the-box
- Want long term housing for LGBTQ youth- 30 or more days
- Won't move people like Monica to work w/ youth
- Universal Healthcare
- more month-month units that give young people more flexibility
- more security if they knew they stable housing
- housing should fit youth's situation

Legal Issues

Summary and notes from all sessions:

- Police
 - Hire LGBTQ police officers, especially transgender officers
 - Provide consistent, on-going training at all levels of the police department
 - Add a dedicated full-time city police LGBTQ liaison

- Get advocates to assist with cases at each station and that go with youth to the police
 - Documentation for crimes and police Actions
- LGBTQ Training Throughout the Justice System including Judges and Probation Officers
- Need donated legal services for: Expungement, Name changes, Emancipation, Suing harassers, Citizenship, Navigating anti-discrimination and hate crimes laws, Cleaning up credit, Fighting eviction, Enforcement of employment protections, Intervention on health care issues, Help disentangle 18+ so they can get their own benefits
- Expand Transformative Justice - Build on existing models in schools
- Additional Judicial Items
 - Review Juvenile v Adult Sentencing
 - Institute peer juries
 - Create Youth Justice Council for appeals
 - Educate youth on their legal rights

LEGAL – SESSION 1 (Friday)

What's up with the legal system and youth?

- Experience is different by race
- Confusing
- Denying employment, etc. because LGBT
- A**holes
- Violence
- Corruption
- Police, judges, aldermen
- Some things shouldn't be crimes! (trespassing, sex work, homelessness)
- They have the authority and power
- Supposed to work for us, but works against us
- Gay parties get shut down
- Discrimination
- Laws not doing what they're supposed to
- Cops exchange sex
- Harassment + stereotyping

What should legal systems do?

- Help with what people need
- No laws against our bodies (e.g., sex work) CDP needs to understand context. Agency over bodies.
- Changing what is considered a crime
- No cops or different cops entirely
- We know what's wrong
- Help LGBT youth who are kicked out
- Handle our own business (in our hands)
- Document it! (anti-violence project)
- CPD sit down with youth
- Laws weren't written for us
- Make laws accountable to us
- Have a "queer contact" if someone gets in trouble (w/ police)

Legal issues facing LGBTQ homeless youth

1. Able to feel safe calling the police
2. Criminalizing youth people and people of color
 - a. Blaming for crimes not committed
3. Housing options
4. DCFS
5. The Crib (lottery system)

6. Public transit
7. Police station
8. Credit check (no cosigner)
9. Lack of affordable housing
10. Legal services – where?
11. Name change or marker change procedures
12. Employment discrimination
13. Binary legal system
14. Immigration status
 - a. Lack of resources for undocumented youth
 - b. Illegal to offer services
15. Housing restrictions for people on probation
16. Systematic and geographic lack of resources

Legal Asks

- Youth deciding where they're placed
- Partnerships
- Extending time of access to resources
- Options for homes (collaborative group homes)
- Aggressive legal challenges
- Policy change for resources
- Allowing people to access resources without punishment
- Taking gender marker off legal documents
- Demedicalizing
- Immediate housing (24 hour accessible housing)
- Recreational use of marijuana
- Decriminalizing sex work
- Report to community what is learned
- City ID
- Stopping deportations

LEGAL – SESSION 2 (Friday)

What's up with the legal system and LGBTQ youth?

- Jail
- Name change
- Disrespect
- Shaming, being called wrong name
- Protective custody/Isolation
- Being place with wrong gender
- Transphobic + homophobic
- Probation officers
- Discrimination in how its enforced
- If you have nowhere to go, they can lock you up.
- Some individuals are respectful
- Lakeview residents call the cops on everything
- Get arrested for self defense

Legal issues facing LGBTQ youth

- Harassed (ex: from police, adults) – from people with power
- Gender markers – policies, forms
- Parents who kick youth out (law suits) – holding parents accountable for hate crimes
- Discrimination in employment
- Access to healthcare
- Seeking asylum
- Foster youth pushed to other systems
- Foster homes are not well trained
- Funding issues

Legal Issues

- LGBTQ advocate in police stations
 - RVA model
- Policies
 - Legislation that houses LGBTQ ex how
- Transitional models for housing
 - No institutional housing
 - Use older homes and schools that are abandoned
- Decriminalize LGBTQ homelessness
 - Sentencing structure should be changed
 - Decriminalizing drugs
- Explain restorative justice
 - Discuss problems to help understand people
- Transformative justice (getting at root of the problem)
- Youth justice council
- Expungement
- Public aid specifically for youth
- Emergency
- Paid internships at nonprofits
- Employment training
- Access to education
- Addressing quick relief
- Educating on legal rights

What do we want from legal system for LGBTQ homelessness?

- Put LGBTQs with LGBTQs
- Jobs w/o having to worry about a record/charges
- Government debit card for homeless youth/month (\$500+)
- Steamworks for youth
- Own space for youth
- Pay for transition + health care
- Advocates to go to policy with youth
- More youth centers + housing (e.g., closed school buildings)
- Storage (stuff and legal docs)
- Free CTA

LEGAL SESSION – SATURDAY 1ST SESSION

Dreams

1. Legal citizenship status
2. Attorney access
3. Change policy in IL Dept of Justice
4. Change sentencing procedures
5. Support for all families who have LGBTQ members
6. Early education/training
7. Change child labor law (Allow 16 year olds to work at least for minimum wage.)
8. Arrests and incarceration changes
9. Detention center abolition
10. Questioning why people commit crimes
11. Decriminalization
12. Creation of society that is appalled at anyone under 18 being homeless
13. Restorative justice – healing process on both sides
14. Mental healthcare for all policy
15. Get rid of foreclosure laws
16. Getting rid of stereotyping at all levels (Individual, family, systems, policies)

17. Curriculum inclusion of LGBTQ topics at state level
18. Cross-cultural discussions of “isms”
19. Funding arts programming
20. Training and professional development
21. Making systems accountable for failures
22. Safe spaces for everyone
23. Free transportation
24. Youth leadership
25. Granting people power (youth)

Not sure what the question was

- LGBT liaison or separate legal system
- Don't isolate LGBTQ and protective custody isn't protective
- Self determination
- \$ from government
- Safe housing
- Hormones
- Preventing violence in our families
- Healthcare
- Resources to help us come out and understand ourselves, it's a process!
- Bring the family in to understand!

Legal successes

1. Recognizing need for LGBTQ services (DCFS)
2. CPS advocates for LGBTQ
 - a. Transportation, credit recovery, alternative school network
3. Jail and prison system (Cook County Jail)

LEGAL ISSUES – SATURDAY 2ND SESSION

Prevention

1. Having someone in police stations to specifically serve LGBTQ youth
 - a. Training police? Policy makers
 - b. Aggressive push (stations and sergeants level) - Alternatives
2. Dismantle harmful systems
 - a. DCFS, policy makers
3. Provide housing
4. Families supporting limitless
5. Law firms providing resources (\$ and people)
6. Reparations
7. Being more open (DCFS recruiting same sex couples)
8. Humanizing
9. Creation of LGBTQ role models in media
10. Addressing racism and poverty
11. Financial punishment (parents who aren't supportive)
 - a. Judges
12. Address root causes of homophobia and transphobia
 - a. Religion

Not sure about question

- Inconsistent enforcement
- Abuse of the law
- Laws against
- Laws against blood donation if MSM
- Hard to file discrimination suites, etc.

Success in Legal Issues

- Removal of felony prostitution
- Schools being more supportive to LGBTQ youth (CPS)

Education and Job Training

Summary and complete session notes follow:

- Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming
 - Expand know your rights training.
 - Do an education and marketing campaign on building awareness and education regarding hiring transgender people.
 - Work with Pride at Work to bring awareness to their awareness building project.
 - Explore existing policies to see where there can be improvements. (city, county, state laws)
 - Ask LGBTQ social enterprises to provide transitional employment for youth.
 - Create internships funded through HRC 100 in six-week tracts.
- Job Readiness
 - Expand job readiness/entrepreneurial training with opportunities for job placement. (See Inspirational Corporation)
 - Put job training and job placement programs in place with long term metrics reporting.
 - Identify and/or create childcare resources.
- Education
 - Expand GED programs in the LGBTQ community (BYC model)
 - Focus on development of individual plans
 - Include support services for FAFSA and college application completion.
 - Match this to groups that provide scholarships (Point Foundation, etc.)
 - Provide community support for an alternative education program launching this fall.
- Get Entrepreneurial
 - Create entrepreneurial venture capitalism fund for LGBT business owners.
- Address Barriers
 - Permanent Address
 - Phone Number
 - Work with banks to
 - provide alternatives to currency exchanges, debit card payments, etc.
 - provide financial literacy training

Job Training- Sessions and Day unknown

#1 Issue for LGBTQ Homeless Youth – Employment

1. Ostracized/ De-humanizing (being a member of the community)
2. Resources (Information, Ally group, etc)
3. Skill Set (Street Survival vs. Workforce)
4. Dual Role of a provider (Results based authority figure vs. A valuable resource for youth)
5. Financial Literacy
6. College dorm for homeless youth
7. Transitional Jobs

How Important is Job Training?

- Outdated learning/ relevant?

What does youth need?

- Housing that opens earlier (prep, pull-together)
- Resources (Phone, Internet, etc)
- Financial support/ stability
- Tutoring (on-site?)

Barriers

- Resume
- Gender Presentation
- Mock Interviews
- Lack of Diversity
- Education/ Training
- Experience
- Bad Credit
- Drug Testing
- Background Conviction
- Out of the box jobs
- Discrimination
- Identity Documents
- Physical Ability
- Mental Ability

Barriers/ Solutions

- Job training and education as a prevention to Homelessness
- Relationship building
 - o Employers, internships to build soft skills, human resources)
- Mentorship
- Understanding the response to the response
- LGBT Business Owners
- How to save money on a debit card
 - o Financial Literacy
- Long term solutions
- Making queer policies public
- Money for programming needs to follow the kids
- LGBTQ is not monolithic

Barriers to Employment

- Experience
- Storage
- Interview Skills
- Conviction/ Backgrounds
- Age
- Physical Presentation
- Company Policies
- Workplace Culture
- Clothing/Showers
- Sustainability (Break down)

- Transportation
- Medication Adherence
- Mental/ Physical Ability

“Never judge someone, unless you’ve walked a miles in their shoes” - mama

Working- thru- the Barriers

- Be Pro-Active
- Research/ Websites, Youtube
- Know Your Rights (Law)
- Knowing Company Policy
- Be Undeniable!

Healthcare

The summary and full notes from healthcare sessions follows:

Youth need safe spaces to shower and go to the bathroom. Impacts health.

- County Care - Remove barriers to enrollment and Get youth enrolled
- Access
 - Provide summer-time access to health care including counselors
 - Identify or create child care options when someone has to go to the ER
- Transgender Health
 - Cover the complete array of transgender medical needs in state coverage.
 - LGBTQ health care institutions need to have ALL staff be culturally competent and increase privacy and confidentiality.
 - Support for health care facilities to provide medically appropriate subsidized hormones and supportive supplies.
 - Howard Brown Health Center
 - Add peer-based syringe exchange.
 - Streamline informed consent process for hormones for people 18 and up.
 - Add mobile and pop-up clinics for transgender health needs.
- Education
 - Communicate what health programs are available to homeless youth.
 - Train medical staff. Make sure they are trauma-informed.
 - On college campuses we need more culturally competent medical care, including psychiatric.
 - Train nurses in K-12 schools to be culturally competent care givers.
 - Provide culturally competent and better resourced health education in CPS.
- Hospitals
 - Use HRC evaluation of hospitals as a starting place for monitoring and deeper evaluation.
 - Cultural competency training for all hospital staff. Build it into hospital accreditation.

- Promote the field guide of the LGBT Council of the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Certification
- Work with Adler School of Psychology to publicize their database.
 - Cross-reference with JCAHC list.
- Healthy Food
 - Campaign around de-shaming Link cards.
 - Heartland Alliance merged with Vital Bridges. Expand Vital Bridges to homeless youth.
 - Dispense healthy food to youth at existing institutions on a daily basis.
 - Build infrastructure of regional welcoming churches that share the “burden” of feeding LGBTQ homeless youth.
 - Create job training programs for agriculture in old warehouses through indoor organic farms. This creates jobs and food.
- Physical Fitness
 - Create Body Positive Recreational Spaces
 - access to food, laundry, showers, bathrooms, storage, etc. outside of social services to avoid stigma
 - Provide sports, dance, self-defense, and other programming
 - Create pop-up spaces within Chicago Park District facilities and gyms in school buildings.
- Medical Coverage
 - Expand
 - Medicaid expansion to cover full dental and vision needs.
 - Expand definition of youth for dental and vision care coverage.
 - Work on prevention
 - Emergency fund to cover dental and vision co-pays and other non-covered expenses.
 - Activate multiple clinics to provide dental and vision care throughout the year.
 - Create LGBT community glasses frame donation program.
- HIV & STI Testing and Treatment
 - Everything needs to be walk-in.
 - Expand the number of LGBTI and HIV/AIDS and STI clinics throughout the city. That would include testing and treatment in the same facility.
 - Sliding scale for STI testing and treatment at Howard Brown. (focus on prevention)
 - Adherence to drug regimen depends on housing and a safe place to store drugs, so investigate how to integrate these services.

- Collect statistics on transgender individuals in this area
 - Provide non-judgmental, culturally competent, strengths-based questions and treatment of sex workers.
- Mental Health
 - Youth are asking for mental health care.
 - Access to “life coaches” and adults who care about youth. These need to be long term relationships.
 - Pay attention to spiritual health.
 - Impact of sleep deprivation on all aspects of health.
 - Expand access to psychiatry and counseling for LGBTQ homeless youth.
 - Bring harm reduction substance abuse programs to Chicago. Provide programs that meet youth where they are and have flexibility.
 - Support to pay for medications that are not covered by County Care.

Health- Session 2 [Tyler Note: Day 1]

What does health mean?

- Being- as a whole (mental, physical, spiritual)
- self-preservation
- how to rise above and cope
- state of well being
- allowing yourself to vulnerable- as a form of positive power, not weakness

emotional release in a safe space

balancing your inner thoughts with outer reality

know yourself and your hurdles (Learn + understand)

Depression/ Anxiety/ Stress

Psychosomatic

wholeness + oneness

things on your mind, affect your body.

Find a positive channel for energy

- dance
- recreation
- writing
- talking

Being social, helps me cope and move beyond my depression.

Spending time with others helps me to feel better.

Kind friendly outlook might help others just as much as self.

What helps me?

Writing helps me express my thoughts, feelings, desires, etc.

DREAM IT: What does Chicago need?

After school literacy/ writing club/ spoken word nights

Depression + Choices

Negative

—Substance abuse

negative people

—poor relationship choices | who have personal goals + positive

Positive

- Stay away from

- be social with people

| - religion

helped me

It would help to have more religious communities that are LGBT- welcome

Know that you carry your spirituality with you

Rock climbing walls

activities for youth, that are worth not going to the streets for
More vocational

less liquor stores, more art centers

I have to travel far to get to orgs. + centers that serve me.

Branch locations/ satellites needed.

Job opportunities that don't discriminate LGBT appearances,

Centers that offer HIV+ STI screenings, counseling, education.

Acting classes + performance spaces and mentors to encourage dream occupations

EDU re-entry

Role models for healthy lifestyles (physical, sexual, mental).

Otherwise we learn only by experience

Mentor about self worth and dignity and how to present yourself professionally

More mentors.

Good/positive members are often very busy. We

need more mentors to move up and be a role model

Resources for disclosing HIV status- training and de-stigmatizing the circumstances

Counseling about social- support, to help talk through times when things happened.

Peer- personable counselor, who a true understanding of what happened

As an LGBTQ- HIV youth, how do I identify stigma, and who do I turn to for support/ guidance.

How to comprehend a misunderstanding vs. a bigger issue

—stigma

—discrimination

—prejudice

More support for trans community. Too often we are grouped in Lesbian / Gay

Health- Session 2

What does Health Mean?

—mental + physical stamina

—access to health

—in control of health

—ability to get what they need to be healthy

—mental health, options, access beyond taboos

—practicing self care

—curing the soul

—lifestyle

—balance

—sleep + eating habits

—clinics, hospitals, paperwork

—access

—holistic (mental, physical, spiritual)

—public, community health

—open choice in resource

—day to day choices

—intentional

—harm reduction

Mental Stability

—stigmatizing effects of language learn how to self-regulate

—loss- of family, relationships violence, micro-aggressions about race, gender class

talked about it/ didn't

—“Perfect State ” (end state) of identity doesn't exist,

healthcare providers struggle with this, when working with

parents

—Young people are resilient, and the way they celebrate their identity should be pointed out.

Barriers

—insurance

—Shame/ emotional barriers can lead to destructive behavior

—proximity to care (suburbs ? city)

—ageism (prevents/ interrupts self care) (youth need guidance about healthcare, but under 18 getting tested for STIs, may not want parents notified)

—Fear of judgment (adults who may be close-minded)

—so student seeks out other allies, counselors

—Summer time = no school nurse/ counselor so find community mentorship/ support

—I like seeing allies in my community. I feel lucky to have it, and want it for other youth across the city

TEAM REACH

—Some orgs. offer parent-focused classes to help educate parents. And this raises their awareness to advocate for youth classes.

What Resources Do You Want, Or Would You Use (youth who are homeless)

I often feel lost...I don't think too far into the future support for where they are now, finding happiness and personal interests.

community/rec. Centers that welcome (focus on) LGBT youth. Current neighborhoods. I'm scared to go to those centers as LGBT youth.

Safe gathering place for peer-to-peer

support the whole person (mental, physical spiritual)

get away from "mental illness" stigma

utilize condemned buildings. X-buildings could be upgraded for housing

so often "LGBTQIA" is siloed, and all parts of the community could gather together and be social. Not just "Ls" or "Ts" etc. Goal is integrate, not set aside.

VIDA SIDA – Puerto Rican Cultural Center

— has a sub-program that offers beds (20 beds)

suburbs- safer sex education "safer-sex olympics" helps

people feel more comfortable about harm reduction

need stronger ties between city/ suburbs

How to make healthcare more accessible to young people?

- start in school (elementary [Age 12+], middle, high school)

- educate parents about the importance of sex./safer sex education.

- parents can be a barrier to their children's health/ sexual health + future

- start as after school program

- homeless youth may actually be easier to reach because no parental barrier

How to Create A 'Safe Space' Without Building New Building

signs posted

ground rules/ policy

exposure (positive light)

reach out to existing allies in community

think through short/ med./ long term.

—short term = resource issue

—med. term = advocate for more resources

—housing. governmental housing

—long term = optimistic

—we have a constantly increasing body of allies who are pushing for change + support. young people are more accepting of each others lifestyles + values.

How Can I Be a Street Ally and Be Visible to People Who need my support?

—Advocate for physical/ mental health services

—Asking for funding to train park district staff, librarians + nurse practitioners.

—Advocate that health-care at a young age + prevention saves us money (public tax \$)

How To Tap Into Private Sector To Find Resources

businesses must re-invent in the neighborhood where they operate (Home Depot)

look at cross-disciplinary models (refuge youth mentorship program, apply to homeless youth)

private impact grants

offer tax exempt status/ credits to mom + pop family-owned business too.

Health- Session 1

What Does Health Mean?

Self preservation/ children

Mental, physical health + spiritual health

? dictates mental + physical health

"Center" - therapy, taking care of your thoughts + thinking promoting healing

meditation doesn't protect me/children from domestic abuse

rules + structure help maintain shelter

health= things necessary to stay alive. Stretching, meditation focus

Insurance – accessibility

* If my status is pending for health insurance. I have to resort to ER

* Need someone in a shelter to help me navigate the system – in a timely way. Pending means I can't take myself or kids to a doctor.

* Always: "go to DHS office" but they don't help me, follow up about what immunizations + records I need.

* Shelter threaten to call DFSS if I don't give health records Nutrition = veggies + fruits in kitchen med-school students drop in to tell me the importance of taking care...we know its important. There's a drop-off. We need follow-up.

* How do I know if/ how to qualify for benefits, timing for immunization

* Prescription support.

90 days in shelter.

"Oh you have to go to ER? Did you do your chores?" Take your kids with you. I need support in that moment.

Need an in-house advocate at shelters, to give you through health care for self + family

Dental Care

—Stroger Hospital ...at 3am.

—Hard to find

—available for kids, not adults

Ideal State of Health Care (if resource was no issue.)

—more wellness initiative to learn that walking could lower blood pressure (for example)

—access to healthy produce, ORGANIC \$1 cheeseburger vs. \$6 Salad.

If there are new STIs/STDs, we need to know about it.

Vision Care

—My glasses were broken, but I need help getting the eye exam + prescription.

We need more access to Woosah and serenity- type zones.

Need counselors/ social workers who are 'real' with a heart...less of the interns who are overly objective and stick to the bullet pointed agenda.

MORE PERSONABLE 1 on 1 counseling.

Know my name + story. Don't know me by a client #.

Healthy options for food, that are also affordable = LIMITED

Link/WIC card ... There should be sensitivity training for cashiers, so they're aware of stigmas.

DREAM: Mobile farmer's markets that come to our neighborhood shelter.

Farmer's Markets that take EBT- make this info known, current (up to date) far + wide

I want more swimming classes

STD AWARENESS + Treatment options especially for teens. This info changes, and we need that info. Now it comes word of mouth. We need this info beyond Lakeview.

Diabetes (Type 1 + 2), high blood pressure and prostate cancer are effecting yang people too.

We have special dietary + exercise needs. Need education for those healthy lifestyles and prevention screenings.

Health-Session 1

What Does Health Mean?

Not inclusive

othering

Prevention

Wellness

Fitness

Safety

Subjective

Standardized

Should be accessible

Access

Education

Flexible

A right

Budget priorities

Personal responsibility

public healthcare

expensive (prohibitive)

Trauma Center

HIV/AIDS

Politicized

Self Care

Under resourced

Inaccessible

Important

- On-Campus care, sexual preference is assumed. No funding for trans-exclusive health care —also inaccessible.
- Practitioners should start the conversation about LGBT health issues – open dialogue.
- Training for this (LGBT communication) may be needed or need to be expanded, fully integrated through. Med. School
- Taking 'sexual history' that is more inclusive beyond practitioners personal experience.
- Practitioners- have a culture of only listening to experts and not young people or community.
- Professional orgs. (National groups) need to address ways to change pedagogy.
- In take forms are limiting, not inclusive (M/F gender). But even 'address' is a problem if homeless.
- The in take forms are crystalizing clientele/system.
- Making young people navigate health service sys. Alone or without guidance is unrealistic. Meet them where they are, to empower them to take charge of their health.

What Are Barriers To Health Care?

- Proximity to health center
- Share these ideas (models) to health providers/funders
- Medicaid – “Path to Transformation”
 - More case management
 - Person-to-Person
 - Culturally – Sensitive care
 - “together for health”
- Eliminate competition between health service agencies for gov + grants. Come together and collaborate for grants.
- Youth sometimes abandon service orgs due to competitive culture
- Expand access
 - Education apps (address digital channel)
 - Mobile clinic
 - Collaborative approaches for comprehensive care
 - Diversify funding
- Service orgs should have a 'consumer committee' for youth, people experiencing homelessness to help give feedback on how funds & used/ services provided.
- Need more coordination between service orgs. Building partnerships to offer localized care ACROSS THE CITY without duplicating agencies/ competing for funding to meet need)

- Lack of evaluation criteria for health service providers across city- How do I help others to decide what service provider to use??
- IL has a medicaid advisory committee, meets monthly? And open to public.
- National Healthcare for the Homeless Council (NHCHC)
- Health Care is a class issue
- PROS Network
- Need group of LGBT-friendly doctors + clinic

People who need services are too often not at the table to talk about needs/ services for those people. Great example: Trans

Need to find away to include those voices throughout the process.

Access to info/ directory of doctors who are open?

How to access trans healthcare (esp. in the armed services?)

- More emphasis on 'what's learned here, leaves here' to disseminate edu. To community.
- Requirement in Med school, to talk to groups of LGBTQIA about how to conduct medical interview/procedure in a way that makes patient comfortable
 - Challenge med. Community to see us as a community to be cared for.
- Need a task force that can grow support for this community and go beyond the acronyms. There are so many variations to be deconstructed, and we need providers can go beyond the basics and offer comprehensive care.
- Fund healthcare providers who are and serve LGBTQIA
- Providers should share educational resource (toolkits, etc.) so resources are not wasted re-inventing the wheel
- Find a way for youth who are/have been homeless, to rise into positions of power and help others who have been in that position.

Youth in Systems

Below is a summary of these sessions, followed by comprehensive notes.

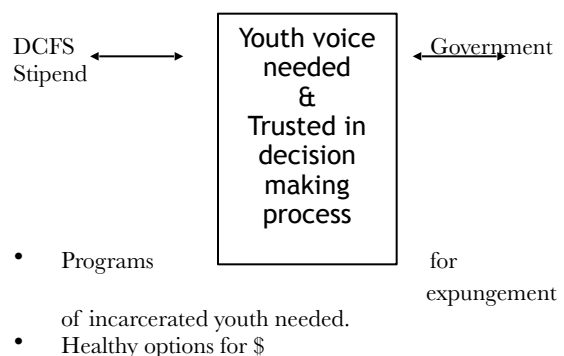
- DCFS
- Foster Parenting
- Recruit LGBTQ Foster Parents
- Culturally competent foster parent recruiters
- Ongoing support and monitoring after initial foster parent Pride training.
- Create an LGBTQ Youth Advisory Council that's empowered.
- Provide youth in care with access to queer and trans youth spaces and services.
- LGBT liaison within the department
 - Provide position more structure and resources

- Give more transparency and monitoring of liaisons' work
- Work with current and former people in care and adult allies

- DCFS Hotline – Start providing accountability & transparency
- Give public full transparency on the federal grant DCFS got re: LGBTQ
- Switch to a continuum of phasing out people out of care rather than an abrupt drop off of care. See St. Louis model.
- CCBYS (Comprehensive Crisis Based Youth Services)
 - Independent evaluation of their work to develop better strategies for success.
 - Grant the public transparency into their work.
 - Develop an understanding within CCBYS that re-unification is not always the best policy for LGBTQ young people.
- Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)
 - Guardian ad litem need LGBTQ training on an ongoing basis.
 - Expedite process for getting documents to GAL.
- Schools
 - All schools should have a restorative justice model. See existing programs in Chicago.
 - De-escalation of police in schools.
- Criminal Justice System
 - Evaluate and monitor Cook County Jail's policy on transgender prisoners.
 - Illinois prisons need to reform policies towards transgender workers and detainees.
 - Adopt alternative models for non-violent juvenile crimes.
 - Detangle DCFS and the juvenile justice system and make it more transparent.
- Public Benefits
 - Fix SSI policy for transition to emancipation
 - If youth want their own benefits, allow disentanglement from their parents.

SESSION 2

- Peer leadership/interns/role models
- Hub of services with outreach to other services/providers
- Resources for "supporters"



- Welcoming place with services, role models, stressing the drop in centers
- Jobs/internships
- DCFS placement without youth voice in decision making process
- Active advocacy from providers, “walk the walk.”
- Education/training/sensitivity for profiling (policy that supports accountability for treatment)
 - CPD
 - CPS
 - Agencies
 - COH
 - Corporate Culture
- End LGBTQ stigma
- Increase mentoring opportunities
 - Youth connected to businesses & agencies
- School to prison pipeline
- Industrial complex to end!
- Providers
 - Recruit LGBTQ parents/families for future placement
 - Support
 - Training
 - Univ-free Mental Health Care
 - Safe areas (ID'd) in all communities [like COH]
 - LGBTQ sensitive Drop in Centers

Ending Youth Homelessness LGBTQ Youth

- More Shelters
- Police officers-more knowledgeable
- More places without curfews
- Once you are in a shelter- can't leave
- Causes:
 - Rejection by families
 - Acceptance in boystown
 - Employment discrimination – fired for gender identity
 - No food, no family, no place to sleep.

Youth in System?

- DCFS
- VCAN
- Institutions- Prisons, mental health
- Youth Instability
- Resources, health center, drop ins
- Military

Rules aren't conducive to youth experiencing homelessness

Gym

Computer lab

Allowing sleeping
 Can't use their electricity
 Leave the space with food
 Breakfast club, afternoon programming
 Tutoring
 Work Resources – employment opportunities- immediate employment
 Guarantee a job
 Put more effort- expanding resources
 More transparency from service providers

Providers

Need more living options for underaged youth under 18 years old

LGBTQ identity important for providers
 (sensitivity- competence) (CPD, Fx, Rx, CPS)

More foster families training

Communal/ Congruent continuum of

options

Connected services/ agency updated database for providers to use

'Barrier busters'- periodic mtgs between agencies

'Live' resource list

Holding families accountable

Restorative vs. punitive

YOUTH IN SYSTEMS- MAY 2nd

How do LGBTQIA Rt into systems?

—they don't

—homeless

What would we create?

- Build a building- kitchens, bathrooms, 300 beds
- Drop in – teach about money management, allowance, job training mentorship, counseling
- No rain- sun everyday
- Building a COH for homeless youth – community cater and housing
- Respect pronouns
- Need more cultural competency training
- This generation should be mentors
 - Prepare for interviews
- A place to go lets folks concentrate of GED, college, job placement
- Medical assistance- check ups, hormones, condoms
- Rooms for medical, job placement, apts. Upstairs
- Apts- better
- H. room- support each other

Media Coverage

Streetwise covered the summit both before and after. Their articles are not available as online links.

Additional media coverage came from online and traditional radio, including WGN, Anna DeShawn and Let's Talk Radio. South Florida Gay News, Medill, and local LGBT media covered the event, especially in the run-up as a way to get the word out.

Windy City Times hosted the summit. What follows are some articles covering the summit.

Windy City Times

LGBTQ youth summit looks at homelessness

<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/LGBTQ-youth-summit-looks-at-homelessness/47280.html>

Area youth, activists, service providers and other community members gathered May 2-5 for the 2014 Chicago Summit on LGBT Youth Homelessness, an event hosted by Windy City Times as a followup to its Generation Halsted series.

LGBT youths actively participated in the summit from planning through the final reporting out. Young people were the main participants in sessions held May 2, then were joined by other stakeholders May 3.

Additional photos from Saturday's workshops and sessions at the link:www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/photospreadthumbs.php.

Additional photos from Monday's reporting out at the link:www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/photospreadthumbs.php.

See a summary of summit results at www.windycitymediagroup.com/pdf/YouthSummitRecHandout.pdf.

On May 5, facilitators presented preliminary reports garnered from the findings of the previous days' sessions.

Session topics included housing, healthcare, public policy, legal issues, jobs and education and youths in systems. Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim was one of the summit's co-organizers, along with Kim Hunt of Affinity Community Services, Bonn Wade of Chicago House's TransLife Center, and youth advocates Trian Alexander, Keyshia Laymorris and Breezy Connor. At the May 5 event, held at the Museum of Broadcast Communications, 560 N. State

St., session facilitators identified a number of common concerns and suggestions youths spoke about.

Journalist LZ Granderson was the emcee, with six presenters discussing the following areas: policy, legal, housing, health, youth in systems, and jobs and education. Among the themes that emerged from the summit, according to organizers:

- 1) Youths are in need of more than a bed
- 2) Long-term relationship building is needed 3) Additional transparency and accountability from providers is needed
- 4) Visibility of the issue must be raised
- 5) Community assets can be repurposed for solutions
- 6) Youth must have a real voice 7) The community must hold itself accountable
- 8) Everything intersects A common thread throughout the sessions was a frustration in knowing what services and resources were actually available, and who qualified for what.

"We have to make the definition of 'youth' consistent across agencies ... [not having that] creates a tremendous amount of confusion," said activist Nicole Sutton, who facilitated sessions on public policy.

Young people who qualify for assistance in one sector may be too old to do so in another. Few agencies and resources can act as a clearinghouse for youth services, meaning those youths' days are often spent having to do long hours of legwork to find food or a place to sleep. Indeed, many social service agencies have the same problems—some of their representatives complained of working in "silos," where little information is shared with other agencies, sometimes hindering even their most basic tasks from getting accomplished.

Another issue was helping youths who "aged out" of the system, reaching an age where they no longer qualified for any assistance. Young people across many income levels now depend on support from their family well into their twenties; most homeless teenagers do not have a support system in place once they turn 18 or 21 and are left in limbo when they are dropped from support systems abruptly.

"We need to send them out on the right foot," said Imani Rupert of Broadway Youth Center, facilitator of the Youth in Systems sessions.

Owen Daniel-McCarter of Transformative Justice Law Project facilitated sessions on legal issues, and said that participants were quite often centered on their experiences in Lakeview and encounters with police there.

"People were clearly traumatized and felt disrespected across the board by interactions with police," said McDaniel Carter, who added that participants suggested a full-time Chicago Police Department LGBT liaison as one of the possible solutions.

They were also eager to see decriminalization of sex work and drug use, two transgressions that often impeded young people's ability to find employment once they reached legal age.

"There are very few opportunities to have records expunged," said Rupert. "When they grow up these are things that stick with them and they have a difficult time finding a job that will get them a living wage."

Finding stable housing also presented a problem for youths. While the city does have myriad services available, they nevertheless are confusing and difficult to access, and obvious solutions are sometimes overlooked thanks to bureaucratic and political hurdles. According to activist Lara Brooks, facilitator of housing sessions, a potential solution are "hosted housing" programs wherein community members can provide space to a youth and their family.

"We don't need buildings with 250 units," said Brooks. "We need homes, where young people can have flexibility." But Bonn Wade of TransLife Center noted that it has been difficult to obtain funding for such programs.

"We've been in front of every politician under the sun," said Wade. "We don't fit neatly in with the current requests for proposals." Health concerns also posed serious challenges. Despite Medicaid expansion and implementation of the Affordable Care Act, youths often don't know where they can turn for medical issues. Luis Roman of Association of Latino/as Motivating Action said that AIDS and STIs were not first and foremost on youths' minds during the

healthcare sections, and that they were often concerned about accessing wellness and child care programs. Granderson, who was Roman's co-facilitator, added that participants were frustrated at having to frequently come to the North Side to access the services.

Angelica Ross of the TransLife Center's TransWorks project, facilitated the jobs and education discussions, and pointed to the additional barriers experienced in employment by transgender women of color. She especially promoted entrepreneurial and LGBTQ small business owner involvement as keys to the solution to more employment options. Other special speakers appearing at the summit included Jama Shelton, Forty to None Project Director of the NYC-based True Colors Fund; activist Monica James; state Rep. Greg Harris; John Pfeiffer of the Chicago Department of Family Support Services; James Cunningham of Housing & Urban Development; and Juliana Harms of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. YEPP, the Young Empowerment Performance Project, performed each of the three days of the summit.

Windy City Times will post findings from the summit's plenary sessions, and post videos from keynote addresses, as well as additional reports from summit discussions.

The foundations and groups assisting Windy City Times with the summit were: The Crossroads Fund, True Colors Fund, Polk Bros Foundation, Alphawood Foundation Chicago, Liz and Eric Lefkowsky, Pierce Family Foundation, Lehman-Stamm Family Fund, Woods Fund of Chicago, Heartland Human Care Services, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Affinity Community Services, Lambda Legal, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago House, Howard Brown Health Center, The Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action, LM Catering French Caterer, Orbitz, and ChicagoPride.com. The venues donating their facilities are: Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, the University of Illinois at Chicago Gender and Sexuality Center, and the Museum of Broadcast Communications.

Also see Windy City Times' 2012-2013 Generation Halsted series on youth homelessness at the following links:

Queer street youth need OUR love Frank McAlpin 2013-01-09 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/VIEWPOINTS-Queer-street-youth-need-OUR-love/41099.html.

Generation Halsted: Recommendations 2013-01-02 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Generation-Halsted-Recommendations/41012.html.

Teen Living Programs serve homeless youth on South Side Jamie Anne Royce
2012-12-26 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Teen-Living-Programs-serve-homeless-youth-on-South-Side/40948.html .

Walking while trans in Chicago Kate Sosin 2012-12-26 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Walking-while-trans-in-Chicago/40947.html .

Chanel Winn DeCarlo, 28 years old, Auburn-Gresham Bill Healy 2012-12-26 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Chanel-Winn-DeCarlo-28-years-old-Auburn-Gresham-/40946.html .

Vulnerable LGBT youth have limited options for justice Bill Healy 2012-12-26 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Vulnerable-LGBT-youth-have-limited-options-for-justice/40945.html .

Non-affirming church offers inviting space for youth Bill Healy 2012-12-19 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Non-affirming-church-offers-inviting-space-for-youth/40877.html .

Center security and licensing at issue Bill Healy 2012-12-19 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Center-security-and-licensing-at-issue/40876.html .

Center on Halsted offers youth services...but not without controversy Kate Sosin
2012-12-19 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Center-on-Halsted-offers-youth-servicesbut-not-without-controversy/40875.html

LGBTQ Host Home Program: a different approach to youth homelessness Kate Sosin
2012-12-12 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/LGBTQ-Host-Home-Program-a-different-approach-to-youth-homelessness/40797.html

The Crib creates safe haven for LGBTQ youth Erica Demarest 2012-12-12 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/The-Crib-creates-safe-haven-for-LGBTQ-youth/40796.html .

Nomi Michaels Devereaux: A year on the streets at 17 remembered Kate Sosin
2012-12-12 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Nomi-Michaels-Devereaux-A-year-on-the-streets-at-17-remembered/40795.html .

Chicago homelessness, by the numbers 2012-12-05 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Chicago-homelessness-by-the-numbers/40689.html .

Reaching Beyond Chicago: YPS goes national Kate Sosin, Windy City Times
2012-12-05 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Reaching-Beyond-Chicago-YPS-goes-national/40688.html .

Jamal, 18 years old, Maywood Erica Demarest, Windy City Times 2012-12-05 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Jamal-18-years-old-Maywood-/40687.html .

The numbers nationally 2012-12-05 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/The-numbers-nationally/40685.html .

Beyond Lakeview's youth controversies, a snapshot of New York Kate Sosin
2012-12-05 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Beyond-Lakeviews-youth-controversies-a-snapshot-of-New-York/40684.html .

Overnight in Lakeview: A timeline 2012-11-28 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Overnight-in-Lakeview-A-timeline/40576.html .

Lakeview pastor talks 'love work' Erica Demarest 2012-11-28 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Lakeview-pastor-talks-love-work/40575.html .

Z's Church Erica Demarest 2012-11-28 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Zs-Church/40574.html .

'Beauty isn't everything, but it does take you a hell of a ways' Erica Demarest
2012-11-21 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Beauty-isnt-everything-but-it-does-take-you-a-hell-of-a-ways/40472.html .

Friends like brothers: Brian and Eric Kate Sosin 2012-11-21 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Friends-like-brothers-Brian-and-Eric/40470.html .

Stormy Monroe, 22 years old Identifies as transgender Kate Sosin 2012-11-21 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Stormy-Monroe-22-years-old-Identifies-as-transgender-/40469.html .

Photo essay: Overnight in Boystown Bill Healy 2012-11-21 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Photo-essay-Overnight-in-Boystown/40468.html .

The Priest of Boystown Kate Sosin, Windy City Times 2012-11-21 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/The-Priest-of-Boystown/40506.html .

INFOGRAPHICS: Survey Demographics 2012-11-14 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/INFOGRAPHICS-Survey-Demographics/40374.html .

LGBTQ YOUTH: Generation Halsted, Our Future, Our Selves Tracy Baim, Windy City Times
2012-11-14 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/LGBTQ-YOUTH-Generation-Halsted-Our-Future-Our-Selves/40375.html .

INFOGRAPHICS: The Youth Experience 2012-11-14 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/INFOGRAPHICS-The-Youth-Experience/40373.html .

Generation Halsted: An Overview, LGBTQ Youth Series from Windy City Times, by Kate Sosin, Windy City Times
2012-11-14 www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Generation-Halsted-An-Overview/40371.html .

Forty to None director talks about bringing resources together

<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Forty-to-None-director-talks-about-bringing-resources-together/47406.html>

Key components of ending homelessness among LGBT youth are streamlining information and resources amongst organizations facing the issue, and listening to the perspectives of homeless youths themselves.

Those were among the observations shared by Jama Shelton, director of the Forty to None Project, launched by the NYC-based True Colors Fund. Shelton spoke May 3 on the second day of the LGBTQ Homeless Youth Summit, hosted by Windy City Times.

Shelton said that she was once homeless herself, and that she found it just as important to being 'out' about having that experience as well as being out about being a lesbian.

Forty to None came about after donors did a nationwide survey to find out what was needed in order to combat youth homelessness. The name is a reference to the statistic that 40 percent of homeless youths are LGBTQ. "We want to take that number from '40' to 'none,'" Shelton explained.

Forty to None acts as an information clearinghouse, so organizations from different regions can learn what other resources are utilized in other parts of the country. Every two years, Forty to None surveys service providers to ascertain where their strengths and weaknesses may lie. In the alternating years, youths themselves are surveyed in order to determine the scope of their needs.

The information from the surveys is aggregated for a clearer picture of LGBTQ youth homelessness. "The gist of it is we are working on systemic change efforts, mostly at the national level," Shelton said, adding that Forty to None has an intergenerational advisory board to maintain a clear perspective on youth's needs.

The project also is launching an "inclusion assessment tool," wherein organizations can ascertain what additional resources might improve their effectiveness. Shelton added that among the goals of Forty to None, is helping organizations develop community partnerships so that not just gay businesses and organizations are providing safe spaces for LGBT youth. She said that a Tennessee tattoo parlor, for example, was among the first to agree to provide resources in that area. Other examples she gave were libraries and 24-hour diners.

Shelton's organization is also trying to develop "family intervention" initiatives, a concept taken from Canada and Australia. That would allow youths to work towards uniting with families of their choice, not necessarily their birth families.

"Basically, the sky's the limit," Shelton said of resources organizations should be considering. She advised the audience to, among other tactics, continue their work, join her network and "honor the voices of young people."

Summit panel talks government efforts on youth homelessness

<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Summit-panel-talks-government-efforts-on-youth-homelessness/47409.html>

According to state Rep. Greg Harris, Illinoisans concerned about LGBT youth homelessness need to go to Springfield and lobby with the same intensity they were willing to channel for marriage equality. Harris, speaking as part of a panel at the LGBT Homeless Youth Summit May 3, said his colleagues have had their awareness raised about the issue from individuals who could speak from experience about its complexities.

Photo: From left: Nicole Sutton, John Pfeiffer, state Rep. Greg Harris, James Cunningham and Juliana Harms at the LGBT homeless youth summit. Photo by Hal Baim

"Most of them didn't understand that there were 24,000 homeless youth in the state of Illinois ... a third of the youth are from Cook County, a third are from central Illinois, and a third are from downstate," Harris said.

Local and national studies have shown that LGBTQs make up 40 percent of the youth homeless population.

The panel, "Changing Course in Serving Homeless LGBTQ Youth: Funding, Infrastructure, and Cultural Competency," also included John Pfeiffer of the Chicago Department of Family Support Services; James Cunningham of Housing & Urban Development; and Juliana Harms of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

It was moderated by Nicole Sutton, former Project Director of REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry.

Pfeiffer, who said his agency touched about 300,000 people a year, added that "Chicago is unique in that we have a task force, involving key stakeholders" which meets quarterly.

"We recognize that [homelessness] is a vulnerability of some of the youth we serve," noted Harms. "We look at youth who might come to us as part of an investigation."

A lot of the youth in DCFS care noted problems with the system over the course of the summit, and expressed interest in an LGBTQ youth advisory panel being formed. Harms said that is under discussion. Some studies show that LGBTQ youth in the DCFS have a 78-percent chance of becoming homeless at some point in their young adult lives.

Cunningham said that HUD does not really set policy but, rather, "We have [communities] tell us what their needs are ... we fund them based on their priority needs."

He further explained the importance of agencies and organizations establishing a continuum of care so that clients experience few or no moments where vital services are interrupted. That often means collecting data on persons who are ages 18-25, since those persons won't automatically have resources made available to them when they reach age 18. It also means extrapolating techniques utilized for serving other homeless populations—Cunningham gave Houston as an example, saying that it was a city that was exemplary in providing for homeless veterans "but they're not doing a very good job on LGBTQ."

"The goal is preparing them for adult living," added Harms.

Harris elaborated on how the state's budget woes stand to hurt funding for initiatives assisting homeless youth.

"The challenge before us that at the end of this year, which is the middle of our next fiscal year, the state's temporary income tax surcharge expires," Harris said. "If that is allowed to happen, it will fall on every program, whether it's homelessness, HIV, substance abuse ... all of that is going to be devastated. So the first thing to do is to be sure that my colleagues step up to the plate."

He added that many of his fellow lawmakers were interested in making sure that the state is indeed invested in prevention services that have been overlooked while the state contended with its budget crises.

"The reason people are willing to do that ... is because of the face-to-face lobbying effort that a lot of folks in this room, who come down to Springfield [or] our district offices and explain what the problem is for homeless youth. ... We are beginning to realize that we have a responsibility to address this problem."

Group Agreements

One of the summit handouts.

-
- Speak from your own experiences
- We are all teachers and learners
- Listen respectfully to different opinions
- What's said here, stays here. What's learned here, leaves here.
- Move up, move up
- Don't yuck my yum
- Move from safe space to brave space
- Do not make assumptions about people's identities
- Use preferred Gender Pronouns

Session Volunteer Notes

One of the summit handouts.

Thank you again for being a part of the LGBTQ Homeless Youth Summit: *Dream It, Speak It, Do It!* Friday and Saturday are days for discussing existing programs and services, identifying gaps, and brainstorming on how to do better. This document provides a basic framework for the discussions taking place this week. Sunday, the summit planning team will compile the notes from Friday and Saturday to create a report and presentation for Monday that everyone is encouraged to attend (but they MUST register for it at: <http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/>.)

Six topics will be discussed throughout the weekend. Your team is only responsible for one (See email with your assignment). Sessions are only 45-50 minutes so you need to be efficient and conscious of the time. We'll send time keepers around at the 15 minute and 2 minute marks.

There will be a "garden" in a common area for people to write down thoughts, experiences, etc. on Post It notes. These will be included in the final report and may be used to construct a poem that will be recited during the Monday report back. Please advise people to contribute ideas that they didn't have time or didn't want to discuss during the session. Post It notes will be available at the garden and in workshop rooms.

Room Supply Checklist

(Please let the Planning Team know if any of the following items are not present.)

- Sign with session topic on outside wall or door
- Session sign in sheet (We need to know who was in the room for each session, but confidentially will be maintained)
- Group Agreements (should be taped to wall)
- Flipchart paper (stands may not be present)
- Markers
- Colored dots
- Workshop feedback 1/2 sheets
- Post-It notes
- Water bottles for volunteers

Session Format

- Let people know which topic is being discussed
- Session Team introductions
- Participant introductions – name, preferred gender pronouns, and affiliation (remind people to sign in)
- Review group agreements
- Read session topic description (in this packet)
- Questions for discussion:
 1. How would you define (fill in session topic)? (Feel free to add examples)
 2. If we could start over and solve LGBTQ youth homelessness with/through (fill in session topic) and resources were limitless, what would we create?
 3. What do we need to do or put in place to make these things happen?
- Give each participant 3 colored dots so they can indicate the top three priorities for the list developed from question 3.
- Participants complete feedback forms.

Facilitator Tips

- Review handouts from the April 26th facilitator training (attached)
- Remind people to use the garden as another opportunity to add their ideas.
- I asked Lara Brooks for additional thoughts on language based on our discussion during Saturday's orientation and training: I think that young people will use all different kinds of words to describe different experiences—some will use "I" language and others will use "they" or speak for young people generally (which I think is totally fine—it's typically understood that this is code for talking about yourself or your chosen family). It's been my experience that sometimes youth regurgitate the language that they've internalized (i.e. othering language like, "I see a lot of young people on Halsted screwing it up for everyone

else. They take us down by acting loud and violent, etc.”). I think it’s important for the facilitator to interrupt these statements by bringing it back to the larger questions (instead of trying to unpack internalized stigma with the limited time).

Scribe Tips

- Your role is to document the work of the group in a way that it can later be reported back and included in follow up documents.
- You do not try to provide a transcript. Try to summarize statements.
- It’s ok to ask people to slow down or repeat themselves.
- Write legibly.
- On the back of the flipchart paper write the session topic, page number, and date.

Social Media Tips

- You’ll be tweeting and posting through your own social media accounts
- We’re using **#DreamIt2014**
- Please include @AffinityCS and @WindyCityTimes1 when possible to your tweets
- Do not attribute quotes to individuals.
- Do not take pictures of participants during group discussions on Friday.
- Respect people’s requests to not have their picture taken.



Adulthood

Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health lead a training on adulthood and discussed ways to engage with youth.

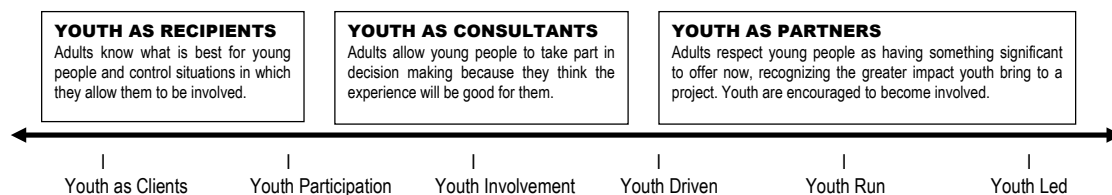


MODELS OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

A Model for Effective Youth-Adult Partnerships in Social Justice Work

There are multiple levels that youth take part in decision-making roles within an organization. The effectiveness of each level of youth engagement often depends upon the level of leadership youth have in decision-making power. While youth can be active in countless ways, it is most important that youth are involved with an organization at a level where they can work in partnership with adult allies who are supportive and cognizant of their input and actions.

Below are several different levels of youth engagement in an organization. The models listed to the left of the diagram are adult-run methods of leadership with little or no partnership with youth. From left to right, the diagram progresses into models that emphasize youth-adult partnerships. The models at the bottom are more specific examples of each of the three models listed at the top.



Here are definitions of the six models of youth engagement listed at the bottom of the diagram:

- 1.) *Youth as clients* – Youth have little or no decision-making power but are only present to fulfill the needs of the organization. All work they do is typically overseen and controlled by adults.
- 2.) *Youth participation* – Youth participate in decision-making roles, sometimes overseen and solicited by adults. Youth have little or no power in running the organization.

Volunteers

WORKSHOP ASSIGNMENTS								
	2-May	3-May	5-May					
HEALTH	HEALTH SESSION							
Vibe Checker								
Youth Facilitator	Luis Roman	Luis Roman	Luis Roman					
Adult Facilitator	LZ Granderson	LZ Granderson						
Scribe 1	Dawn DeWald	Dawn DeWald						
Scribe 2								
Social Media		Kris Rosentel						
	HOUSING SESSION							
Vibe Checker								
Youth Facilitator	Sebastino Aviles	Sebastino Aviles						
Adult Facilitator	Steve Huesing	Steve Huesing	Lara Brooks					
Scribe 1	Marcia Lipetz	Lara Brooks						
Scribe 2								
Social Media	Emmanuel Garcia	Emmanuel Garcia						
	YOUTH IN SYSTEMS SESSION							
Vibe Checker								
Youth Facilitator	Xia Xiang	Xia Xiang						
Adult Facilitator	Vidal Cruz	Imani Rupert	Imani Rupert					
Scribe 1	Imani Rupert	Vidal Cruz						
Scribe 2								
Social Media	Channyn Parker	Channyn Parker						
	JOB TRAINING & EDUCATION SESSION							
Vibe Checker								
Youth Facilitator		Alexis Pegus						
Adult Facilitator	Ebonie Davis	Angelica Ross	Angelica Ross					
Scribe 1	Angelica Ross	Ebonie Davis						
Scribe 2								
Social Media								
	PUBLIC POLICY SESSION							
Vibe Checker								
Youth Facilitator	Jamari White	Jamari White						
Adult Facilitator	Nicole Sutton	Lisa Kouba	Nicole Sutton					
Scribe 1	Jason Stodolka	Jason Stodolka						
Scribe 2								
Social Media		Joy Messinger						
	LEGAL SESSION							
Vibe Checker								
Youth Facilitator	LZ "Isiah" Granderson	LZ "Isiah" Granderson						
Adult Facilitator	Owen McCarter	Owen McCarter	Owen McCarter					
Scribe 1	Antonia Clifford	Lilianna Gomez						
Scribe 2								
Social Media		Antonia Clifford						

Evaluations

Data from Program Evaluation Forms																						
N = 79																						
Rating Scale																						
Ratings	1 = Strongly Disagree	2 = Disagree	3 = Neutral	4 = Agree	5 = Strongly Agree	Average Rating																
The event/session appeared to be well planned	0	0	2	9	68	4.8																
The facility appeared to be adequate	0	0	1	13	65	4.8																
The Speaker(s) appeared to be knowledgeable	0	3	0	8	67	4.8																
The handout/materials were helpful	0	1	6	6	58	4.7																
Was it a worthwhile event	0	1	1	11	66	4.8																
Experience with Homelessness	YES	NO																				
Have you ever experienced homelessness?	49	22																				
If yes, are you currently homeless?	27	11																				
What topics/changes would you like to see made or addressed in future programs?																						
Parents go to jail (2)																						
None (10)							Brown Paper Tickets Report															
Dealing with homelessness																						
Doing everything better I a lot of our situations being unique & valuable																						
How to prepare for interviews (2)																						
Trans problems (3)																						
They reached all points																						
More talk about barriers and what that means																						
All (3)																						
LGBTQ homelessness come to an end																						
Have more trans awareness groups																						
More specifics on policy																						
Housing for youth/students who attend city colleges of Chicago																						
Policy session had the best ideas/results/info																						
Youth in legals systems and public policy																						
The topics were very knowledgeable																						
Sexual help with HIV																						
More resources for homeless youth																						
Housing & policies (2)																						
Homelessness of youth, housing																						
Everything is covered 4 now!																						
Housing safety-security																						
Everything was great!																						
Policy, legal, job training																						
Self healing, meditation																						
Housing (7)																						
Learning																						
Good food																						
Housing, finances																						
Job training																						
Foster care, mental health																						
Everyone got lost! + Auditorium was cold, uncomfortable																						
It was really unclear what the purpose of closing panel was, like who they were speaking to, etc.																						
A further workshop on health & wellness and an addressing of overall violence																						
Childcare																						
More discussion on low resource community mobilization																						
LGBTQIA housing with children																						

Brown Paper Tickets Report	
Total RSVPs:	344
May 2nd RSVPs:	100
May 3rd:	
YOUTH	74
ADULTS	65
May 5:	105

Poems

Breezi Connor, one of the youth workers for the summit, took all of the words posted in a “garden” during the summit, and created a poem she read on the summit’s closing day:

From The Garden

Let everyone cast the devil of non-caring back into the pits of hell

Take the bull crap out of your brain. Stomp on it and yell

Be aware that all promises made to us should never be broken

It’s in an unwritten handbook with lines unspoken

Life is full of problems so transform yourself into the solution

LGBTQ homelessness is as big of a concern as pollution

I am the change I want to see

My adult allies can inspire me

Teach me more life skills such as leasing an apartment

Leave out the know it all remarks and judgments

I want your backside to be sore so you have no choice but to stand up for us

Advocate for our health because that’s not a want but a must

Open your minds and have faith that we can make change happen

Spread the word to end homelessness to your lover, friend, or captain

When things get hard and you don’t know what more you can do

Look into some helpless eyes and that should see you through

Breezi also performed two other pieces for the audience:

Fight

Homelessness what's brought us to this place?

We come in all different shape, sizes, and race

It's a never ending dilemma that can be fixed

We need help from caring individuals to get youth out this horrible mix

LGBTQ homelessness means a lot to me

My rainbow peers are dying and dealing with issues a lot of people can't see

Struggling to have faith that they are worth being saved, loved, and respected

People close to us is causing pain. Some of us are abused and neglected

Outsiders are constantly shunning us away and turning their backs

Some think our problems aren't as big as theirs. so they tell us calm down, get over it, and relax

Too often being quick with the tongue and slow on the ears

Questioning our situation and fears

Be the stitch and not the knife that reopens the scars

With your courage, open mindedness, and empowerment the plan to end homelessness can go far

It doesn't matter how or why we ended up in the predicament were in

All that matters is are you willing to be a part of letting our future begin

Believe. Take this community by the hand

Give us hope and a chance. Make a stand

Come out of the shadows and blind yourself with a different kind of light

Let there be an end to LGBTQ homelessness. Come join the fight

It's cold

The shelter I usually go to is at capacity. What should I do? Mind is rolling so I can't think straight guess I can ride the train all night done it before. it wasn't that bad.

The suns up now. i'm a little tired but I can manage. Have to stash one of my bags because I don't feel like carrying two of them to school.

Damn it's cold out

My teacher tells me to pay attention. You're not going to pass your GED if you keep spacing out in class. Sorry I say it's been a long night.

Day ends evening starts. Drop in hours are available so I go there.

It's still cold out.

I'm happy the day is almost over will be able to go to the shelter and chill out. i'm tired.

There's to many people so we have to do a lottery to see who will get to stay.

The anticipation. Will they call my name? Where will I go if they don't?

I'm angry I didn't get called in

Its cold out

I don't think my legs just carry me to the train.

Train conductor says excuse me sir I mean ma'm you can't sleep on here so I'm a have to ask you to get off.

I check the time was only sleep for 10 minutes. Sorry I say then leave.

I don't know what to do now so I walk the streets all night.

It's cold

I got to keep moving to stay warm. Ignore the blisters forming on my feet

Brush off the pain rising in my back.

I keep walking until the sun comes up.

I repeat the same morning process as the day before. Will I get lucky tonight to get called into a safe haven that is temporarily my home?

NO Not at all.

3 days no sleep enough is enough I need to rest.

I hear my mother's words

You are always welcomed in my house.

Her house is the mini world of temptation can't go there if I want to maintain my sobriety. i'm not strong enough for that yet.

By now you would think I'm still on drugs by the way I'm shaking

Paranoia's kicking in. I'm seeing shit that's not there. The unicorn is trying to communicate with me in Spanish.

I'm losing my mind.

I walk. Stumbling and sometimes falling

I walk to unknown places and bump into unfamiliar faces.

I walk heavy heartedly.

I need to sit down.

I see a park ahead.

My legs are like Jell-O trying to hold up a bowling ball but I make it there.

I sit.

A burst of joy runs through my body. I start praying and thanking god.

I'm crying I'm so grateful. I will finally be able to go to sleep because tonight

It not that cold out.

Additional materials

Column on Youth

by Imani Rupert and Kristin Keglovitz Baker

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) will host our final town hall meeting on Monday, June 16th. This meeting will focus on increasing the awareness for issues specifically affecting the health needs of LGBTQ youth in Chicago. This discussion will help guide HBHC's efforts and programs to improve the health of young LGBTQ individuals in our community. The meeting will be held at the Brown Elephant resale shop, at 3651 N. Halsted, from 6:00 – 7:30p.

We invite the participation of LGBTQ identified youth, and anyone interested in discussing the health needs of LGBTQ youth. This meeting will be co-facilitated by Kristin Keglovitz Baker, PA-C, Associate Medical Director and Imani Rupert, Director of the Broadway Youth Center and will represent the culmination of the HBHC town hall series on health of the LGBTQ community. Not only will this discussion inform the continued effort of HBHC to provide thoughtful and competent healthcare to the LGBTQ youth community, but the information obtained from these discussions will be made available to the broader community as well.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that people aged 15-24 make up 27 percent of sexually active people but account for 50 percent of the 20 million new Sexually Transmitted Infections each year. The HIV prevalence rate is highest amongst this age group as well. This number continues to disproportionality affect LGBT identified youth that experience additional barriers to healthcare. It has been extensively documented that many LGBTQ individuals report discomfort in health care settings because of a lack of LGBTQ competence by health care professionals. This is compounded when LGBTQ youth make up a disproportionate amount of youth experiencing homelessness and violence or abuse. Combined with intersecting identities such as race and socio-economic status, LGBT identified youth represent the most vulnerable populations affected by inadequate health care. HBHC is committed to further identifying ways to run programs in line with increasing the health of young LGBTQ people in Chicago and the surrounding areas.

Additionally, because youth do not have the social privilege typically associated with adults, navigating the health care system can present an increased difficulty for this population. HBHC is committed to being a comprehensive health home for young people living in the Chicagoland area and will explore ways to better improve our services and program offerings at this town hall meeting.

While community health care providers like HBHC are attempting to close the gap by providing culturally competent health care to LGBTQ youth, there is still more work to be done. We believe a great first step is to work together to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices in an open forum as opposed to behind closed doors.

We are excited to work with the community to engage in a meaningful discussion about LGBT youth in Chicago! We invite you to join us in person, on Monday, June 16th at the Brown Elephant resale shop at 3651 N. Halsted, from 6:00 – 7:30, or on twitter: #HBHCTownHalls

Imani Rupert is the Director for the Broadway Youth Center, a location of Howard Brown Health Center. She has a Master's degree from University of Chicago's Social Service Administration.

Kristin Keglovitz Baker is the Associate Medical Director at Howard Brown Health Center. She is a Physician Assistant and received a Master's Degree from Marquette University.

