



Youth Committee Workgroup Overview

Discharge Planning

USICH Criteria 5: The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth. The community dedicates sufficient resources to continue to prevent and end youth homelessness scaled to projected needs, and acts with urgency to end youth homelessness. The community has comprehensive plans and partnerships in place and system capacity to continue to: 1) whenever possible, prevent or divert youth from experiencing homelessness through substantial partnership with schools (including post-secondary educational institutions), the child welfare and justice systems, employment, physical, and mental health systems, and other youth-serving programs; 2) connect youth experiencing homelessness to appropriate and choice-driven crisis housing and services options; 3) connect pregnant and parenting youth to Head Start and child care centers; and 4) swiftly move youth into permanent or non-time-limited housing options with the appropriate services and supports.

USICH Benchmark A: There are few youth experiencing homelessness at any given time

Responses must: Ensure that assessments respond to the unique needs and circumstances of youth and emphasize strong connections to and supported exits from mainstream systems when needed.

Responses must: Ensure that youth leaving systems of care are not existing unsupported into the homeless response system.

Critical Stakeholders Include: child welfare system, criminal justice system, juvenile justice system, mental health system, and physical health systems of care.

Workgroup Action Item: Provide recommendations for an improved discharge planning process that can be adopted for the Kent County CoC that incorporates supports for youth leaving local systems of care.