



Housing Stability for Youth in Courts (H-SYNC): A Stepped-Care Youth Homelessness Prevention Model

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Partners

Pilot funding generously provided by

Raikes Foundation

Block-Leavitt Foundation

Premera Blue Cross

WA Office of Homelessness Youth Prevention and Protection (WA-OHYPP)

Site Partners

King County (Juvenile Court and YouthCare)

Snohomish County (Juvenile Court and Cocoon House/Youth Action Council)

Kitsap County (Juvenile Court and Dept of Human Services)

Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR)

Overview



Challenge

Youth housing instability & justice system contact

Intervention Model

Leveraging juvenile courts to prevent future housing instability

Current Status & Challenges

Preliminary lessons learned & next steps in the COVID era

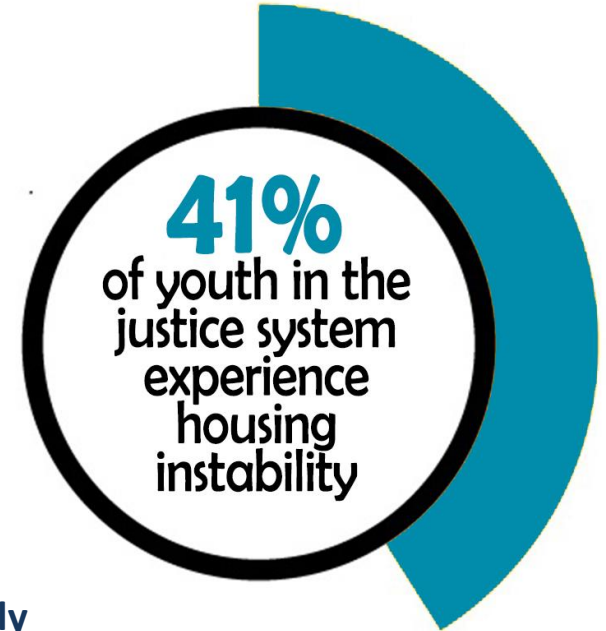
The Challenge

>75%

of homeless youth
will have contact
with the police

>50%

of homeless
youth will be
arrested



Youth housing instability is largely
preventable (60% due to home conflict).

Motivating Example

Male client, Age 17

Housing is very sporadic – “Almost every time I talk to him he is staying somewhere else”

Returns home → fights with parents → parents call the police → youth runs away

Parents at the end of their rope – “we’ve tried everything, nothing works”

Youth is currently staying with family and says “its not going well”

The Model



Development Process

Co-designed with 20+ system partners via two multi-disciplinary workgroups in Snohomish and Kitsap Counties in Washington State to develop a systems-focused youth homelessness prevention model

Vision

Develop a model of system coordination and programming for justice-involved youth that reaches vulnerable families prior to crises, supports youth through crises, and builds collective impact for funding and sustaining needed services in communities

Pilot Implementation Sites

Pilot implementation ongoing in 3 counties (Kitsap, Snohomish, and King) with potential expansion to Okanogan County

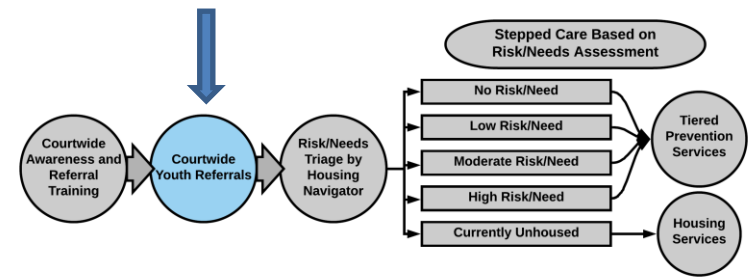
#1. PACT Referrals

<p>? 2. History of running away or getting kicked out of home: Include times the minor did not voluntarily return within 24 hours, and include incidents not reported by or to law enforcement.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> No history of running away or being kicked out</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> 1 instance of running away/kicked out</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 2 to 3 instances of running away/kicked out</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 4 to 5 instances of running away/kicked out</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Over 5 instances of running away/kicked out</p>
<p>? 11. Level of conflict between parents, between minor and parents, among siblings:</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Some conflict that is well managed</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Verbal intimidation, yelling, heated arguments</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Threats of physical abuse</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Domestic violence: physical/sexual abuse</p>

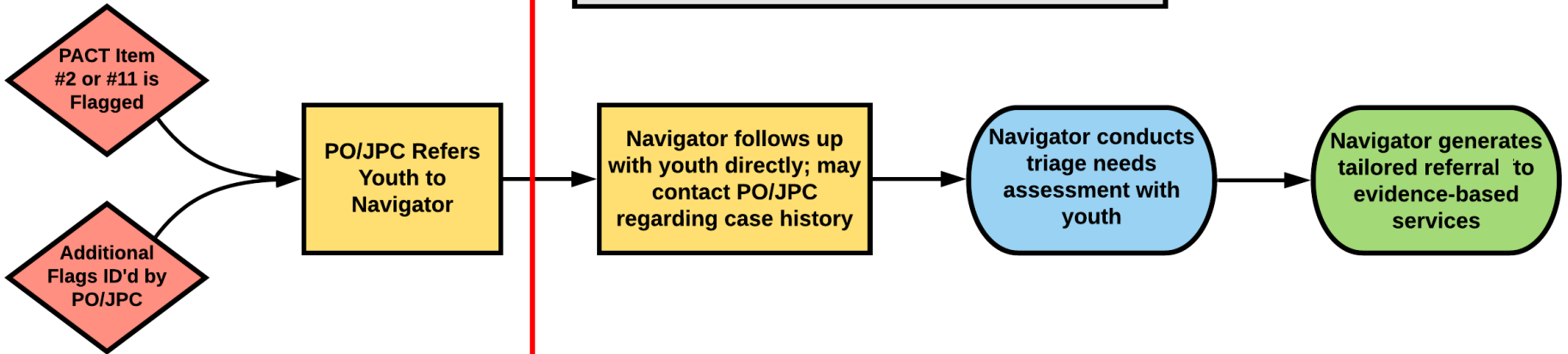
#2. Discretionary Referrals

At the PO/JPC's discretion, any youth they believe may be at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness (e.g., family facing eviction, youth tells them they are at risk, etc.)

The Model: Court Identification & Referral



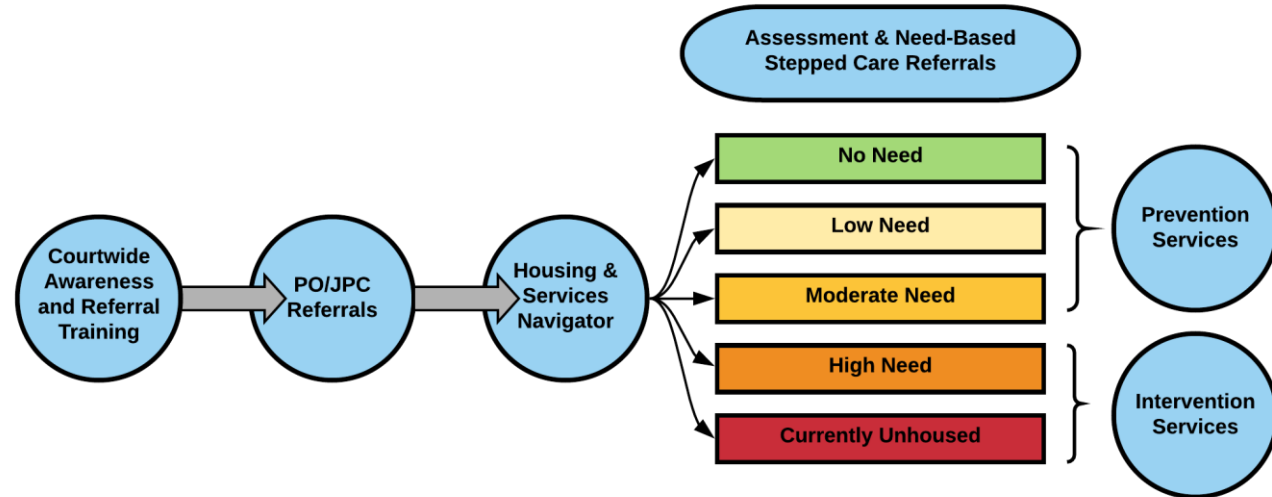
Court Identification & Referral Process



The Model: Triage Assessment & Referral to Services

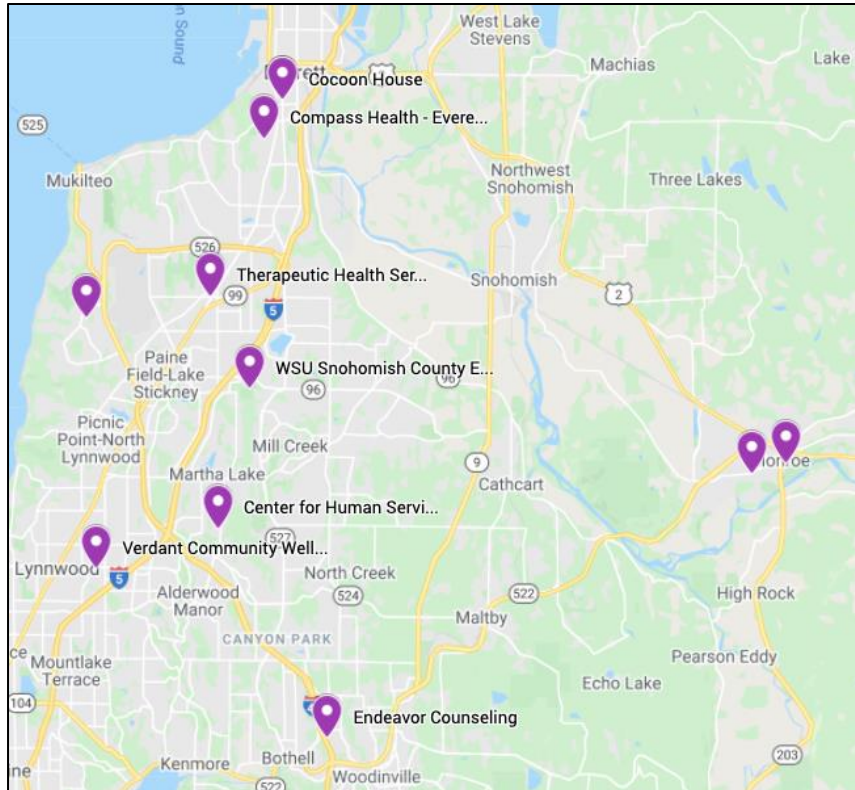
- Identifies and connects youth and caregivers to prevention services *before* youth homelessness occurs.
- Maximizes existing community resources by triaging youth and offering a greater menu of services to those most in need
- Shared decision-making & embedded follow-up
- Designed to be scalable and generalizable to other sites and contexts

A Tiered Prevention and Intervention Model for Cross-System Referral



Need Levels and Associated Services				
No Need	Low Need	Moderate Need	High Need	Currently Unhoused
*Close case	*Telehealth support services *Phone consultations *Parent coaching	*Selective preventative programs (e.g. Strengthening Families, Guiding Good Choices)	*In home interventions, (e.g. Family Functional Therapy, Multidisciplinary Wraparound Teams)	*McKinney Vento services *Foster care services *Coordinated care through local shelter agencies *Civil legal services

Identifying & Mapping Evidence - Based Family Services



WayOUT Seminar	
Cocoon House	
Address	3530 Colby Ave Everett, WA, 98201
Phone Number	425-259-5802
Eligibility	Open to families w/youth age 12-17. Youth has to participate in addition to parent.
Cost	Free
Capacity	Max around 30, sometimes reach capacity and try to accommodate for more
Training Credentials	Trained in the WayOUT Seminar.
General Notes	13 hour seminar (over one weekend) w/youth and caregiver focused specifically on improving communication.

47.9703, -122.20869

Current Status, Challenges & Next Steps

Current Status

- 54 referrals to date (12/30/19 – 6/22/20)
- 31 youth triage assessments conducted
- 26 successful contacts with caregivers
- 13 families referred to evidence-based services

*Benefits of an iterative implementation model → still learning!

“Normal” Challenges

- Caregiver time commitment
- Availability of services
- Follow-up in the age of robocalls

COVID-Related Challenges

- Courts largely closed (re-opening July 2020, COVID permitting)
- Services cut back or cancelled
- Face-to-face warm handoff meetings with caregivers on hold

Summary



Challenge

Youth housing instability & justice system contact build on and exacerbate one another. No clear model exists to engage this continuum.

Intervention Model – Housing Stability for Youth in Courts (HSYNC)

- ❖ Leverages existing juvenile court infrastructure
- ❖ Identifies youth at risk for housing instability, with a goal of preventing in mind
- ❖ Links youth/caregivers to evidence-based family services tailored to specific needs

Current Status & Challenges

Pilot operating in 3 WA counties and growing; still adapting and learning despite COVID-19

For More Information...



Visit www.SAJECenter.org/HSYNC for a description of the model and related publications



E-mail HSYNC@uw.edu with any project questions