



prosperous areas. During this “gentrification” period, single-room occupancy buildings closed their low rent apartments for residents. Social service providers for low-income residents were concerned about the fate facing those who were displaced, fearing that many would become homeless. That did happen, and the community was not prepared to address this growing need. It was in this environment that the Brown County Task Force for the Homeless was formed and Brown County’s first homeless shelter, Crossroads, opened to house individuals and families experiencing homelessness from 1990-2002.

The early days of the Task Force focused on educating local City and County government officials about the impact of gentrification and the needs of those displaced. Public forums, presentations and coverage in the local media were common, and for the first time, local statistics were gathered on those seeking shelter. A Subcommittee to the Human Services Committee of the Brown County Board was formed under Task Force leadership with the goal of educating the Board about the emerging homeless population. This Subcommittee addressed issues such as public assistance to local shelters, the need for community mental health outreach workers, transportation, and police concerns. The BCHHC still works to address those concerns today, with a focus on Housing First and No Wrong Door initiatives.

The BCHHC is a legal nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

The BCHHC has an Executive Committee, elected officers, voting members, and non-voting supporting members. Meetings are open to the community. The BCHHC currently has:

- 17 voting partner member organizations
- 2 Youth Action Board (YAB) representatives who get 1 vote
- 20 non-voting supporting member organizations
- Non-voting individual Advocate members (un-affiliated with an organization)

The BCHHC membership is made up of a team of community organizations who directly or indirectly serve those who are facing the many challenges of securing and maintaining safe, stable housing. They provide access to agencies through monthly coalition meetings.

Voting members elect an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is responsible for:

- Developing a structure for the Coalition meetings that will encourage greater commitment by the membership to participate in meetings and activities that will enhance the value in what the Coalition offers to its members and to the community.
- Monitoring how well the Coalition coordinates the opportunities for networking and facilitating exchange of information and delivery of services by programs within the Continuum of Care.
- Acting as the nominating committee.

Two YAB members were elected on February 23, 2022, to represent their peers at the BCHHC and WIBOSCOC YAB. The BCHHC voted at their March 9, 2022, meeting to change the bylaws to include two YAB members and give the Brown County YAB one vote.

One of the elected Brown County YAB Representatives presented the draft Brown County YHDP Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to the BCHHC and gave them opportunities to provide feedback. Members of the BCHHC were invited to send youth with lived experience to YAB meetings. Transportation to local shelters serving youth and dinner was provided for each YAB meeting from January 6 through March 9, 2022, when the plan draft was completed.

## **II. Mission and Vision**

### **A. *Mission Statement*** (adapted from WIBOSCOC Mission Statement)

The Brown County Housing Coalition, Brown County Youth Action Board, and community partners will collaborate and partner to develop an integrated system to end youth homelessness and housing instability and ensure wrap-around support for youth to thrive.

### **B. *Vision Statement*** (adapted from WIBOSCOC Vision Statement)

Brown County youth and young adults will collaborate with system partners to provide:

- Individualized wrap-around supports to create a mentally and physically healthy environment for growing and learning, with partners who are culturally competent to serve youth who are LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, pregnant, parenting, fleeing domestic violence, and fleeing human trafficking
- A variety of housing options that meet the needs of youth, with youth-chosen services and pathways
- Mental health, reproductive and preventive health care, and addiction services
- Changes to laws and policies that are standing in the way of youth accessing and receiving the services they want and need.

### **C. *Community history with Youth Homeless System***

BCHHC's strategic objectives include unaccompanied youth as a priority service population. An Unaccompanied Youth Task Force was started in the Brown County community in the mid-2010s to bring service providers from various sectors, community members, and youth together to begin working on solutions.

BCHHC Youth Task Force's goal is to provide, understand, and expand services for those under the age of 24 that are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless in Brown County. This group of agency and school representatives work to identify unmet needs and gaps in services toward addressing youth homelessness.

In 2019, Coalition member agencies successfully advocated for the passage of 2019 WI Act 22, allowing 17-year-olds experiencing homelessness to access emergency shelters before turning 18.

The Youth Task Force updated its strategic goals in 2020. Those goals include: establishing a Youth Action Board, opening a youth drop-in center for minors, House of Hope opening the Hope Center, a community education initiative around youth homelessness, and creating additional partnerships to support youth.

In 2020, House of Hope opened the Hope Center in Brown County, a licensed shelter care facility. The Hope Center is currently the only shelter care facility in Wisconsin that is licensed ages 0–17 and will not separate parenting minors from their children.

In 2022, several additional youth services are planned to open

- East side youth drop-in center - Spring 2022, Newcap
- West side youth drop-in center - Fall 2022, House of Hope
- Youth shelter - TBD 2022, Newcap

In 2021, the Unaccompanied Youth Task Force updated its name to the Youth Task Force to include at-risk youth, pregnant and parenting youth, and other youth in crisis who may have been excluded from service by the term “unaccompanied.”

In 2022, House of Hope engaged two social justice interns from UW-Green Bay to begin advocating the Wisconsin Legislature to provide 17-year-old unaccompanied youth, who access emergency shelter via 2019 WI Act 22, access to primary physical and mental health care. At this time, 17-year-olds experiencing homelessness can contract for emergency shelter, however, they cannot access basic or preventative medical or mental health care without consent of a parent or guardian.

The Brown County YAB was formed on January 6, 2022, to begin the Brown County YHDP process.

**D. *Statement from the local YAB*** – We asked a Youth Action Board Representative to write a statement about YHDP, youth homelessness, the work that is being done, the importance of the work, and what her experiences were. Here’s what S.G. (age 16) said:

“When I joined the Youth Action Board, the main thing that I was looking for is a place where I could feel like I could openly talk about what I was going through and how I could help fix it, so that things could be easier for someone else who might be going through the same thing. Brown County Youth Action Board is about bringing together youth in foster care and homeless, pregnant, parenting youth and young adults so we can do something to fix our community so that kids in these situations are more prepared and have a better success rate AT LIFE. Our Youth Action Board focused on mental health, wraparound care, and healthcare laws, and allowing youth and young adults to be more independent and to get the services we need if we do not have family to take care of us. I think it was easier for us to talk about all of these things, so we felt like we were not alone, and we challenged ourselves to NOT normalize being homeless.

“Also, it helped us to know that we have the support systems we need and to identify, understand, and access the support systems so that we could be successful later on in life. I found that there were a lot of kids that really participated in the Youth Action Board and brought a lot of good ideas from a lot of different scenarios and different stories.

“If there was anything that I would do over again, I would try to make it so there are more kids who feel open enough to come talk about their experiences.

“But lastly, I would like to thank Brown County and the State Youth Action Board for giving me an opportunity to represent the Brown County Youth Action Board and advocate for all of these kids who didn't have anyone to advocate for them growing up. I am beyond thankful that I got to help create something better for kids in the future and kids now.”

### **III. Statement of Need**

#### **A. PIT<sup>1</sup>**

The Brown County Point-in-Time Count (PIT) includes youth-specific data from two youth-focused Rapid ReHousing Programs. On average, 75 individuals in 34 youth-headed households were served each month in 2021 and 2022.

Beginning in June of 2021, the Brown County PIT began tracking children-only households served in shelter separately from other shelter households. Since then, on average, 4 minor youth are served in shelter each month.

In February of 2022, House of Hope's singles youth shelter began being tracked separately from its family shelter. On average, 2 youth between the ages of 18–24 are served monthly. Because of current HMIS restrictions, 17-year-old youth are not counted in the single shelter.

#### **B. Coordinated Entry<sup>2</sup>**

As of March 15, 2022, the Brown County Coordinated Entry Priority List had a total of 36 youth households waiting for access to housing. Of those households, 13 were youth with children and 23 were single youth.

#### **C. HMIS<sup>3</sup>**

According to HMIS data, in the last year 220 youth were provided shelter: 131 unaccompanied youth, 35 unaccompanied minor youth, and 55 parenting youth. Minority youth are overrepresented among youth experiencing homelessness with minorities making up more than 55% of total unaccompanied youth and more than 65% of parenting youth experiencing homelessness.

In the last year, more than half (53%) of youth experiencing homelessness had been homeless previously. It is significant that youth in Brown County are experiencing homelessness more than once.

Youth in Brown County are accessing shelter and services most frequently after being doubled up with friends or family (40%), staying somewhere not meant for human habitation (27%), or accessing a motel voucher program or other emergency shelter (16%). Youth residence prior to shelter access is approximately the same for parenting youth as for non-parenting youth.

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<sup>1</sup> "BCHHC Monthly PIT." Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition, [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1y4TjtWCG4uEPeWc0ZDYQpOhWBgmjK12epI9C8RkeF0/edit?usp=s\\_haring](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1y4TjtWCG4uEPeWc0ZDYQpOhWBgmjK12epI9C8RkeF0/edit?usp=s_haring). 3/10/2022.

<sup>2</sup> D. Delfosse, Case Manager, House of Hope Green Bay, personal communication, 3/28/2022 to Beth Hudak, Chair, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. Email attachments: Brown County Priority List Households with Children and Brown County Priority List Households without Children 3/15/2022.

<sup>3</sup> J. Allen, HMIS Manager, Balance of State & Racine COCs, Institute for Community Alliances, personal communication, 2/22/2022 to Beth Hudak, Chair, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. Email attachment: Balance of State YHDP data for Brown County for the "last complete year."

**D. National Runaway Safeline<sup>4</sup>**

In 2020, 27 youth in crisis called the National Runaway Safeline from Brown County, Wisconsin. Of those calls, more than half (58%) were made by females and a majority of youth calling found themselves in crisis because of family dynamics (27%), emotional abuse (16%), Mental Health (11%), Peer/Social Issues (11%), or Physical Assault (8%).

**E. Race and Ethnicity**

Brown County, WI	Brown County Census <sup>5</sup>	Unaccompanied Youth Served in the Last Year <sup>6</sup>
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	3.4%	14%
Asian or Asian American	3.4%	1%
Black, African American, or African	3.0%	28%
Multi-Racial or Other	2.4%	10%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%	0%
White	87.8%	42%
Unknown/Not Collected		5%

Brown County, WI	Brown County Census (2020)	Unaccompanied Youth Served in the Last Year
White, Not Hispanic or Latino	91%	83%
Hispanic or Latino	9%	17%

<sup>4</sup> J. Stern, Chief Engagement Officer, National Runaway Safeline, personal communication, 2/2/2022 to Beth Hudak, Chair, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. Email attachment: Brown County, WI 2020 crisis contacts.

<sup>5</sup> “QuickFacts Brown County, Wisconsin.” US Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/browncountywisconsin>, 3/10/2022.

<sup>6</sup> J. Allen, HMIS Manager, Balance of State & Racine COCs, Institute for Community Alliances, personal communication, 2/22/2022 to Beth Hudak, Chair, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. Email attachment: Balance of State YHDP data for Brown County for the “last complete year.”

## ***F. Domestic Violence***<sup>7</sup>

In 2021, 152 youth accessed 625 domestic violence related services, this is a 28% increase in the number of youth accessing services and a 70% increase in the number of services accessed from the previous year. Between 2020 and 2021, there was a 40% increase in the number of youth who were provided shelter at Brown County's domestic violence shelter, Golden House.

## ***G. County-Wide Estimates***<sup>8,9</sup>

Approximately 10,563 youth ages 15-17 and 24,143 youth ages 18-24 reside in Brown County. Using National Estimates created by Voices of Youth Count, we can predict that approximately 352 youth ages 15-17 and 2,414 youth ages 18-24 will experience homelessness in some form in Brown County in the next 12 months.

## ***H. Employment***<sup>10,11</sup>

As of February 2022, Brown County's unemployment rate is 2.7%. For youth experiencing homelessness, approximately 23% in Brown County are employed. For parenting youth experiencing homelessness, 20% are employed. Of youth who were unemployed, 52% were actively seeking employment.

In Brown County, just 43% of available jobs offer a stability wage for a single adult. For two adults with children, only 18% of jobs available in Brown County pay enough to stably support two adults with two children in childcare.<sup>12</sup>

## ***I. Education***<sup>13</sup>

During the 2019-2020 school year, one in every 36 enrolled students experienced homelessness in Brown County public schools. For the more urban area of Green Bay, during the same school year, one in every 21 students experienced homelessness.

## ***J. Other Risk Factors***

There are many risk factors that contribute to a young person experiencing homelessness. Homelessness is an experience that effects the whole person, and therefore we must look at how different factors, like parenting or LGBTQIA+ status, effect stability and access to services.

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<sup>7</sup> M. Heim, Grants and Outreach Manager, Golden House, personal communication, 1/28/2022 to Beth Hudak, Chair, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. Email regarding youth provided domestic violence related services by Golden House.

<sup>8</sup> "Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America, National Estimates." Voices of Youth Count, <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/> . 3/10/2022.

<sup>9</sup> "QuickFacts Brown County, Wisconsin." US Census Bureau, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=brown%20county%20wi%20age&tid=ACST5Y2020.S0101> . 3/10/2022.

<sup>10</sup> "Current Employment Statistics and Local Area Unemployment Statistics February 2022." Job Center of Wisconsin,

[https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/wits\\_info/downloads/Publications/PressRelease/local.pdf](https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/wits_info/downloads/Publications/PressRelease/local.pdf). 3/17/2022.

<sup>11</sup> J. Allen, HMIS Manager, Balance of State & Racine COCs, Institute for Community Alliances, personal communication, 2/22/2022 to Beth Hudak, Chair, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. Email attachment: Balance of State YHDP data for Brown County for the "last complete year."

<sup>12</sup> "Living Wage Jobs." Not So Big Data, [https://nsbdata.shinyapps.io/Living\\_Wage\\_Jobs/](https://nsbdata.shinyapps.io/Living_Wage_Jobs/). 4/19/2022.

<sup>13</sup> "Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Data." Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/data>. 3/22/2022.

Pregnant and parenting youth are 200% more likely to experience homelessness than their non-parenting peers.<sup>14</sup> In Brown County, 99 of the births that occurred in 2020 were to mothers under 18. High teen birth rates, like Brown County's 17.3% teen birth rate, increases the likelihood of homelessness and presents unique challenges and needs among youth and young adults who are parenting.<sup>15</sup> Of the youth served in shelter in the last year, 25% were parenting.<sup>16</sup>

Unaccompanied minors represent 16% of the youth served in shelters.<sup>17</sup> Youth who are experiencing homelessness as minors without a parent or guardian are at a higher risk of dropping out of school, labor or sex trafficking, assault, and other forms of victimization.<sup>18</sup> In 2020 and 2021, Brown County CPS investigated 36 incidents of alleged sex trafficking of minor youth with 4 substantiated cases.<sup>19</sup>

Living with one or more disabilities is a significant risk factor to experiencing homelessness for youth. Of the youth served in shelter in Brown County in the last year, 44% live with a mental health condition, 15% struggle with addiction, 10% have a developmental disability, 10% live with a chronic health issue, and 7% have a physical disability.<sup>20</sup> In 2021, 240 youth in Brown County were admitted to psychiatric hospitals under emergency detention.<sup>21</sup> Lack of access to physical and mental health care are significant concerns for youth experiencing homelessness.

Brown County's Child Protective Services works to ensure that youth and children are not subject to abuse and neglect and are protected from harm and danger. Youth who are "screened out" after a CPS referral are more likely to not receive services. In 2021, there were 4,625 CPS referrals, with 1,713 of those reports screened in. This leaves 2,912 youth not provided with protective services, which demonstrates the level of need, and also highlights the vulnerable young people who are likely falling through the cracks, not receiving needed services and support.

Youth in the juvenile justice system are more likely to be involved in the adult justice system and are more likely to experience homelessness. In Brown County, 370 youth

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<sup>14</sup> "Missed Opportunities: Pregnant and Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness in America." Voices of Youth Count, <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/pregnant-and-parenting-youth-experiencing-homelessness/>. 3/10/2022.

<sup>15</sup> "Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health Query: Teen Births Module." Wisconsin Department of Health Services, <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/teen-birth/birth-form.htm>. 3/10/2022.

<sup>16</sup> J. Allen, HMIS Manager, Balance of State & Racine COCs, Institute for Community Alliances, personal communication, 2/22/2022 to Beth Hudak, Chair, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. Email attachment: Balance of State YHDP data for Brown County for the "last complete year."

<sup>17</sup> J. Allen, HMIS Manager, Balance of State & Racine COCs, Institute for Community Alliances, personal communication, 2/22/2022 to Beth Hudak, Chair, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. Email attachment: Balance of State YHDP data for Brown County for the "last complete year."

<sup>18</sup> "Unaccompanied Youth." School House Connection, <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/unaccompanied-youth/>. 3/22/2022.

<sup>19</sup> M. Seidl, Child Protection Initial Assessment Supervisor, Brown County Health and Human Services, personal communication, 2/16/2022 to Beth Hudak, Chair, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. Email attachment: Child Welfare Data.

<sup>20</sup> J. Allen, HMIS Manager, Balance of State & Racine COCs, Institute for Community Alliances, personal communication, 2/22/2022 to Beth Hudak, Chair, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. Email attachment: Balance of State YHDP data for Brown County for the "last complete year."

<sup>21</sup> M. Seidl, Child Protection Initial Assessment Supervisor, Brown County Health and Human Services, personal communication, 3/1/2022 to Beth Hudak, Chair, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. Email regarding youth admitted to psychiatric hospitals under EMIs.

have been arrested for violent crimes, 1,200 have been arrested for drug crimes, and 8,100 have juvenile justice involvement.<sup>22</sup> Involvement with the justice system contributes to the increasing cost of homelessness and makes youth more likely to continue to involvement with the justice system in their adulthood.

**K. FYI Vouchers, FUP Vouchers and RHY Data**

In 2021, Brown County had one RHY-funded program, the Hope Center. During the calendar year, 33 minor youth were provided shelter: 25 teens, 4 parenting teens, and 4 infants.<sup>23</sup>

Brown County has access to 52 Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers. As of the end of March 2022, 36 of those vouchers are being utilized by 110 individuals in 36 households. Currently, 8 households have been approved for active vouchers and are searching for appropriate housing. A majority of the households utilizing FUP vouchers are female, with 31 of the 36 households headed by women. Five of the households utilizing vouchers are individuals who have aged out of foster care. Additional demographic information is not available at this time.<sup>24</sup>

ICS, the organization coordinating the FUP vouchers, will be accepting all qualified referrals until all 52 vouchers are fully utilized.

While Brown County qualifies for Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers, we will not be able to access any until all of our FUP vouchers are actively in use.

**Youth Data Summary:**

The youth population experiencing homelessness in Brown County is not significantly different from the general homeless population, except that they have higher barriers to accessing services. For many youth and minors, the services they require are either not available, inaccessible, or non-existent.

Minority populations are vastly over-represented in the population of Brown County youth experiencing homelessness. Culturally specific services should be considered to meet the needs of over-represented minority populations.

More than half of youth who experienced homelessness in the last year had experienced homeless before. Prevention and Diversion services should be prioritized to make youth homelessness a rare occurrence.

Nearly half of youth served suffered from mental illness. Mental health access before emergency interventions should be prioritized and available for youth. Providing access to preventative mental health care could help mitigate the high number of youth who are involuntarily admitted to psychiatric hospitals with EMIs.

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<sup>22</sup> “UCR Arrest Data.” Wisconsin Department of Justice, <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/bjia/ucr-arrest-data>. 4/12/2022.

<sup>23</sup> L. Reinen, Case Manager, House of Hope Green Bay, Inc., personal communication 3/29/2022 to Beth Hudak, Chair, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. Email regarding minor youth served in Hope Center shelter in calendar year 2021.

<sup>24</sup> C. Damys, Solutions Specialist, Integrated Community Solutions, personal communication, 4/5/2022 to Beth Hudak, Chair, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. Email regarding Brown County FUP voucher usage.

We are lacking some data. More data specific to youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness is needed for Brown County, specifically regarding employment, income, education, LGBTQIA+, sex trafficking, age of first homeless episode, disability, and pregnancy status. Data specific to youth that is available has not been recorded separately in the PIT until recently. We will continue to track youth data separately.

We are working with Clarity to begin collecting and tracking additional information related to youth such as pregnancy status and age of first homeless episode.

FUP vouchers in the Brown County community are currently underutilized. We will work collaboratively to ensure that FUP vouchers are fully utilized, Brown County will have access to FYI vouchers, and we will collect more complete demographic information about the households that utilize FUP and FYI vouchers.

#### **IV. Goals, Objectives, Action Steps**

##### **A. Goals**

There are four USICH Core Outcomes that the WI BOS is using to determine the goals. These are:

- Stable housing, including a safe and reliable place to call home
- Permanent connections, including ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks
- Education/employment, including high performance in and completion of education and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particular for older youth
- Social-emotional well-being, including development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community

**B. Objectives** – Brown County partners recognize that the most urgent matters for youth who are experiencing homelessness are: Mental health care, substance use treatment, childcare, and affordable housing. The YAB has asked the partners to submit ideas and proposals for new projects that will help the Brown County YAB achieve their goals.

#### **Goal 1: Stable housing, including a safe and reliable place to call home**

**Objective 1.1: We will develop an integrated youth and young adult support community, with programs and services that embrace positive youth development; these are strengths-based, forward-looking, protective, preventive, and empowering.**

Action 1.1.1: Complete the Youth Homelessness Systems gap analysis and share outcomes with stakeholders.

- Partners Responsible: BCHHC, ICF TA, YAB
- Timeframe: Spring 2022
- HUD Key Principles: Coordinated entry, Community Integration, Housing First

Action 1.1.2: Develop a thorough plan with the support of ICF TA and communicate outcomes of the work with stakeholders and community partners.

- Partners Responsible: BCHHC and YAB
- Timeframe: May-June 2022

- HUD Key Principles: Coordinated entry, Community Integration, Housing First, Equity

Action 1.1.3: Add to Brown County youth system a west side drop-in center to reduce barriers for youth and young adults getting the support they need.

- Partner Responsible: House of Hope
- Timeframe: Fall 2022 (pending funding and construction timeline)
- HUD Key Principles: Coordinated entry, Community Integration, Housing First, Equity, Youth Choice, Positive youth development, Trauma-informed care, Family engagement

Action 1.1.4: Add to Brown County youth system an east side drop-in center to reduce barriers for youth and young adults getting the support they need.

- Partner Responsible: Newcap
- Timeframe: Spring 2022
- HUD Key Principles: Coordinated entry, Community Integration, Housing First, Equity, Youth Choice, Positive youth development, Trauma-informed care, Family engagement

**Objective 1.2: We will partner with Brown County, the City of Green Bay, landlords, and builders to increase availability of affordable homes.**

Action 1.2.1: Present plan to community partners

- Partners Responsible: YAB and BCHHC
- Timeframe: Ongoing

Action 1.2.2: Prioritize proposals and make recommendation to BCHHC

- Partner Responsible: YAB
- Timeframe: Spring 2022

Action 1.2.3: Further refine Plan

- Partners Responsible: BCHHC, YAB, and community partners
- Timeframe: May-June 2022
- HUD Key Principles: Coordinated entry, Community Integration, Housing First, Equity, Youth Choice, Positive youth development, Trauma-informed care, Family engagement

**Goal 2: Permanent connections, including ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks**

**Objective 2.1: We will improve the continuity of education, where possible, by partnering with the area school districts to highlight areas of opportunities identified.**

Action 2.1.1: Share education opportunities identified, improving inter-district transfers, with Northeast Wisconsin school district leadership.

- Partners Responsible: BCHHC, YAB, Local School Districts
- Timeframe: TBD

- HUD Key Principles: Positive Youth Development, Community Integration, Equity

Action 2.1.2: Connect youth with mentoring and tutoring opportunities so that youth may choose what types of mentorship relationships they are interested in and choose an individual with whom they can build a trusted relationship, and spend meaningful time, such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

- Partners Responsible: Youth Shelters and Drop-In Centers
- Timeframe: Summer/Fall 2022
- HUD Key Principles: Positive Youth Development, Youth Choice, Community Integration

**Objective 2.2: We will continue to engage the community in identifying supportive foster families for youth, especially those ages 11-17, and provide the foster family and youth continued education and support.**

Action 2.2.1: Expand foster family support to include training in trauma-informed care and counseling.

- Partners Responsible: BCHHC, Child Protective Services, House of Hope, Newcap, Foundations Health and Wholeness
- Timeframe: TBD
- HUD Key Principles: Trauma-Informed Care, Community Integration, Family Engagement, Positive Youth Development

**Goal 3: Education/employment, including high performance in and completion of education and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particular for older youth**

**Objective 3.1 Brown County will eliminate barriers to education and employment through mentoring, connecting with school districts, building skills and abilities, and developing childcare services.**

Action 3.1.1 Develop career mentorship program

- Partner Responsible: TBD
- Timeframe: TBD
- HUD Key Principles: Community Integration, Equity, Positive Youth Development

Action 3.1.2: Share education opportunities identified; improving tutoring, transportation, access to and engagement in afterschool activities, with Northeast Wisconsin school district leadership.

- Partners Responsible: Housing Coalition and YAB
- Timeframe: TBD
- HUD Key Principles: Positive Youth Development, Community Integration, Equity

**Objective 3.2 We will advocate for youth and young adults by seeking changes to current legislation impeding partners' ability to provide needed support.**

Action 3.2.1 Prioritize the list of legislative issues and identify partners who can get changes made at the state level.

- Partners Responsible: Housing Coalition and YAB, House of Hope
- Timeframe: On-going
- HUD Key Principles: Positive Youth Development, Community Integration, Equity

Action 3.2.2 Draft legislative changes on priorities and make proposals to state representatives, educating them on the experiences that youth and young adults face.

- Partner Responsible: House of Hope
- Timeframe: on-going
- HUD Key Principles: Positive Youth Development, Community Integration, Equity

**Goal 4: Social-emotional well-being, including development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community**

**Objective 4.1 Brown County service providers will improve access to mental health care and addiction counseling (group and individual) for youth and young adults and family members.**

Action 4.1.1 Prioritize hiring youth provider staff with training and experience in AODA, mental health care, peer support, and other trauma-informed specialties.

- Partner Responsible: TBD, youth service providers
- Timeframe: On-going
- HUD Key Principles: Trauma-Informed Care, Positive Youth Development, Community Integration, Equity

**Objective 4.2 We will develop and build upon services providing preventative health and dental care to youth and young adults.**

Action 4.2.1 Work with community mental health providers to increase access to existing mental health resources and build additional preventative mental health resources and access point for youth.

- Partner Responsible: TBD, youth service providers
- Timeframe: On-going
- HUD Key Principles: Trauma-Informed Care, Positive Youth Development, Community Integration, Equity

In addition, the YAB and Coalition have identified the following opportunity areas:

- Stabilize the YAB by identifying youth ages 15-24 who have lived experience with homelessness or housing instability and move meetings to the library.
- Share priorities and identified needs with area service providers and representatives to identify new projects and their partners
- Prioritize programs which will reduce and eliminate youth homelessness.
- Participate in a gap assessment workshop (4 hours) which will identify areas of opportunity for Brown County youth service and support community.

- Ensure the Brown County Housing Coalition is ready and able to lead changes in Brown County to support youth and young adults in the community, with trauma-informed care and Positive Youth Development, to improve youth experiences in unstable and/or unsafe housing and reduce/eliminate homelessness in this population.

## **V. Governance**

There are three functional groups in the effort to end youth homelessness in Brown County.

- Brown County Youth Action Board, 100% of whom have lived experience with homelessness. This board is supported by a consultant who is facilitating the YAB and Coordinated Community Plan. Their role is primarily to develop the plan, and review and prioritize proposals. This group is rebuilding to ensure more consistent attendance. The plan is to move meetings to a neutral location, ensuring participants meet the requirements of the YAB and support the YAB members in becoming recognized as partners to the coalition and other stakeholders.
- Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition. This coalition is made up of housing providers who are stakeholders to the plan. Coalition members will likely write proposals which will be added to the action plan as approved.
- And Brown County service providers and community partners. This is a stakeholder group made up of approximately 100 community members who provide a variety of services to or engage with youth. These stakeholders might also write proposals, which will be added to the action plan as approved.

The YAB coordinator is a consultant who has been hired for the purpose of getting the YAB off the ground and for facilitating the group's work to develop the plan in a condensed timeline. In addition, she is mentoring the youth to become strong and reliable leaders, facilitators, and public speakers within the YAB to ensure the YAB is able to function without the support of the consultant.

The Brown County YAB reviewed the WIBOSCOC Mission and Vision and provided feedback as to how they wanted the Brown County mission and vision to be adapted. They also developed the objectives and identified their needs. They are also expected to review proposals and build them into their action plans as they are prioritized.

One of the YAB members presented the draft plan to the Brown County Housing Coalition on March 9, 2022, to get stakeholder feedback.

BCHHC members and community stakeholders participated in a youth services gaps analysis with support from a HUD TA. The results of the analysis were shared with BCHHC members and community stakeholders, who came together to discuss possible projects based on identified gaps. At this time, agencies were able to identify projects they would like to apply for YHDP funding to begin. Identified projects were presented to YAB members for feedback; the YAB also identified several additional projects they would like to see. Information from the gaps analysis and feedback from the YAB is incorporated throughout Brown County's CCP.

### ***A. Coalition Leadership***

The BCHHC is engaged in the development of the YHDP planning team as a stakeholder.

Executive Committee Members of the BCHHC have worked with youth experiencing homelessness for years. They are experts in the field of homeless services and include representatives from shelters, food pantries, housing providers, and Brown County Health and Human Services. The Chair of the BCHHC has worked in a Brown County shelter focused on serving youth experiencing homelessness for six years and volunteered there for two years prior. Weekly, she supports the YAB with their needs. The Treasurer of the BCHHC has worked with youth experiencing homelessness for over a decade. She also sends youth from the Brown County shelter, where she is the executive director, to the YAB meetings weekly. The Vice Chair was the Executive Director at a family shelter serving youth experiencing homelessness in Brown County and is now the Executive Director for a nonprofit providing permanent housing solutions to families with children experiencing homelessness and housing instability in Brown County. The co-secretaries have been in their roles for more than five years as a food pantry provider and a county health and human services provider. They also worked for years prior to that in a Brown County Shelter focused on serving youth and at a Brown County agency that provides clothing and household assistance including rent to people experiencing poverty. All members of the Executive Committee are deeply dedicated to the success of the YHDP and the YAB.

The BCHHC voted to support the youth system gap analysis in their March 9, 2022, meeting.

The BCHHC is committed to working on board development, beginning with the Executive Committee. This will improve the coalition's functioning and help them to further define their role in the YHDP effort.

***B. Committee***

BCHHC Youth Task Force's mission is to provide, understand, and expand services for those under the age of 24 who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless in Brown County. This group of agency and school representatives work to identify unmet needs and gaps in services toward addressing youth homelessness.

***C. Youth Action Board*** – The Brown County Youth Action Board is 100% made up of youth with lived experience of homelessness. They are equals. There is no executive committee.

The youth identified their values as they were getting to know each other. Values include: build trust, respect one another, participate fully and speak your truth, be accountable to commitments, youth leadership and representation, housing-first approach, trauma-informed care and support.

The YAB has elected two of their members to represent them at the Brown County Housing Coalition and at the Balance of State YAB. One representative facilitates the YAB meetings. The YAB coordinator is continuing to develop the representatives' skills in facilitating YAB meetings for their peers.

The Housing Coalition voted on March 9, 2022, to change its bylaws to include YAB representatives in membership and allow them to have one vote in the housing coalition.

The BCHHC Youth Task Force will incorporate YAB goals into their annual planning. The YAB will report their work to the BCHHC Youth Task Force.

## **VI. Stakeholders**

The stakeholders identified are either involved in developing the plan, providing data to support the plan, supporting the YAB, or are intended to aid in development and implementation of projects. The BCHHC and the YAB are in the process of collecting signatures of support from the stakeholders listed as well as other stakeholders in the community.

<b>Stakeholder Information</b>		
<b>Partner Organization</b>	<b>Name and Role</b>	<b>Involvement</b>
Achieve Brown County	Sarah Beckman	Provision of data for initiatives the YAB identifies
ADRC	Devon Christianson	Access for youth with disabilities
Boys and Girls Club of the Fox Valley	Katie VanGroll	Street outreach
Boys and Girls Club of Greater GB	Lisa Kogan-Praska	Youth services and after school programs
Brown County Board of Supervisors	Megan Borchardt	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies
Brown County Executive	Troy Streckenback	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies
Brown County Health and Human Services	Jeremy Kral	Support from case workers and child protective services
Brown County Housing Authority	Patrick Leifker	Housing and rent assistance
Brown County Human Services Board	TBD	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies
Brown County Library	Sarah Sugden	Access to internet, computer, books, media, and educational resources/classes
Brown County Planning Commission	TBD	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies
Brown County Shelter Care	TBD	Shelter care for court ordered youth
Brown County United Way	Robyn Davis	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies

Casa Alba Melanie	TBD	Support for Hispanic youth
CASA Brown County	Kristin Jacobs	Advocacy for abused and neglected children
The Children’s Museum of Green Bay	Toni Burnett	Interactive educational experiences for youth
CollegeReady	Brent Roubal	Tutoring and educational support for youth
Connections for Mental Wellness	Rebecca Fairman	Mental health education for providers and schools
Curative Connections	Jeanne Stangel	Transportation, employment, and services for youth with disabilities
De Pere Council	James Boyd	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies
Diverse and Resilient	Gerald Coon	Support and advocacy for LGBTQ+ youth 18-24
Downtown Green Bay and Olde Main Street	Jeff Mirkes	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies
EPH	Crystal DeCleene	Housing and Case Management
Encompass	Missy Schmeling	Childcare
Family and Childcare Resources of NEW	Paula Breese	Parenting classes
Family Services of NEW and Willow Tree Advocacy Center	Lois Mischler	Therapy, support for sexual assault and child abuse survivors, day treatment for 7–18-year-old youth, and 24/7 crisis center
Foundations Health and Wholeness	Ryan Good	Counseling, foster care, and host homes for youth
Freedom House	Jennifer Schmohe	Shelter for parenting youth 18-24
Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes	Patti Shafto-Carlson	Youth services and after school programs for school aged female youth
Golden House	Maicheeia Lo	Shelter for youth 18-24 fleeing from domestic violence

Greater Green Bay Community Foundation	Dennis Buehler	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies
City of Green Bay	Eric Genrich	Support and networking for policy initiatives the YAB identifies
Green Bay Common Council	TBD	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies
Green Bay Housing Authority	TBD	Housing assistance for youth 18-24
Green Bay Police	Christopher Davis	Support for initiatives the YAB identifies with a focus on legal and safety matters
Green Bay School Board	TBD	Access to education
House of Hope Green Bay	Shannon Wienandt	Shelter for single and parenting youth 18-24 and their children, shelter for minor female youth 0-17, drop-in center for youth
Howe Community Resource Center	Amanda Johnson	Youth services, parenting education, and educational programs
ICS	Matt Roberts	FYI, FUP, and Section 8 vouchers for youth 18-24
JAS House	Eunice White	Transitional Housing for youth 18-24
JJ Keller Foundation	Heidi Dusek	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies
Literacy Green Bay	Robyn Hallet	ELL classes and GED tutoring
Military Avenue Business Association	Leah Weycker	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies
NeighborWorks	Noel Halverson	Apartments for youth 18-24 to rent
NEW Community Clinic	Kim Franzen	Health, Mental Health services for youth 18-24 and AODA and reproductive services for youth
NEW Community Shelter	Terri Refsguard	Shelter for single youth 18-24
Newcap	Cheryl Dietrick	Shelter, Housing and case management for youth 18-24, shelter for minor male youth 11-17, drop-in center for youth
NWTC Dental Clinic	Sheila Gross-Rogers	Dental services for 18–24-year-old youth

On Broadway	Brian Johnson	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies
Oneida Nation	TBD	Support and networking for policy initiatives the YAB identifies with an emphasis on the Native American community
Options for Independent Living	Josh Theis	Access for youth with disabilities
Paul's Pantry	Craig Robbins	Food access for youth who are unable to access FoodShare
POINT/US Venture	Lynn Coriano	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies
Safe Shelter	Pearl Webster	Shelter for youth 18-24
The Salvation Army	Nan Pahl	Food, clothing, rent assistance, programs, and emergency services for youth 18-24
St John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter, Micah Center, and Wellspring	Alexia Wood	Shelter and daytime resource centers for single youth 18-24
St. Norbert College	TBD	Education and programs for youth 18-24
St. Norbert College Norman Miller Center for Peace, Justice, & Public Understanding	TBD	Support and networking for policy initiatives the YAB identifies
UW-Green Bay Center for Civic Engagement	David Coury	Support and networking for policy initiatives the YAB identifies
UW-Green Bay Pride Center	TBD	Education and programs for LGBTQ+ youth 18-24
Urban Cultural Arts	Kelli Strickland	Support and networking through art for initiatives the YAB identifies
Young Life	Heather Faulkner	Youth services and after school programs
Youth Justice	Tammy Jo Hock	Legal services and solutions for youth and support for initiatives the YAB identifies
YWCA Greater Green Bay	Amy Schaeuble	Childcare, DEI, fitness, and youth services

We All Rise: African American Resource Center	Robin Scott	Counseling, Case management, and support with an emphasis on serving the African American community.
Wello	Natalie Bomstad	Services to promote health and well-being
Wisconsin Association Homeless and Runaway Services	Joli Guenther	Support and networking for initiatives the YAB identifies and for youth providers in WI
Wisconsin Childcare Alliance	TBD	Advocacy for childcare needs
Wise Women Gathering Place	Alice Skenandore	Street outreach, resource assistance, and educational programs

## **VII. New Projects**

*Brown County projects will make an effort to include low barrier access to AODA and mental health support and resources. This may include hiring staff with experience in AODA, mental health care, peer support, and other trauma-informed specialties. Youth from the YAB reviewed the projects below proposed by stakeholders, provided feedback that was incorporated into the projects, and provided additional possible projects.*

### **Brown County projects identified:**

- Youth-specific permanent supportive housing
  - Newcap: non-time limited, low-barrier supportive housing for youth who have serious and long-term disabilities, such as mental illness, substance abuse, chronic health conditions, and developmental and physical disabilities. This will provide individually tailored intensive case management and community-based supportive services
- At-risk youth outreach programming – both traditional outreach services and mobile outreach services
  - Newcap: Mobile Youth Outreach – a small RV will provide street outreach to youth in Brown County. It will travel around engaging unsheltered or at-risk youth and young adults providing basic needs assistance, health and mental health services, connections to necessary resources, including shelter and housing.
- Diversion services for youth and their families
  - Partnership with schools and other places youth congregate to educate and connect at-risk students and their families to available resources.
  - Provide stipends to the families (or chosen families) of at-risk youth to keep them housed.
- Drop-in Center creation and programming
  - House of Hope: Drop-in center to be developed in its existing facility. Services provided at the drop-in center will include prevention, outreach, diversion, emergency shelter, housing support, follow up services and supportive services such as case management, transportation support, life skill building, mentorship, parenting support for pregnant and parenting youth, mental health care, physical health care, employment and job readiness, job search and application assistance, education and

tutoring opportunities, translation and interpretive services (including ASL) when needed, and connection to mainstream resources.

- System Navigation Support
  - Youth-specific support role to help young people navigate a complex housing system. This project will provide a centralized point of contact and support for young people and could also incorporate a talk/text line.
- Address Racial Equity
  - Prioritize culturally specific supports for youth.
  - Provide trainings in cultural competency and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.
- Youth-centered Coordinated Entry systems improvement
  - Work on smoother transition from RHY HMIS to HMIS
  - Partner with other systems (i.e., hospitals, schools, psychiatric, etc.) in the community to identify vulnerable youth and their families outside of the homeless system and provide guidance and resources so that youth and their families can easily and quickly access resources and housing.
  - Create new required HMIS fields to identify and provide resources to pregnant youth.
- Mentorship programs
  - Mentors to serve as trusted adults who will help youth access systems, basic needs, education opportunities, employment and training, housing, parenting supports, life skills training, mental and physical health care, and other mainstream resources.
  - Youth with lived experience design and implement a mentorship program for elementary and middle school aged youth experiencing homelessness to help younger children grow their circle of friends and network of support. This will include active programming such as sports.
- Host homes
- Transitional Housing
  - JAS House: up to 12 transitional units for former foster youth – in collaboration with an organization in the community to assist with HMIS.
- Rapid ReHousing
- Joint Traditional/Rapid ReHousing
- Mentoring and Tutoring network linked tightly to Drop-in Centers
- Comprehensive support for pregnant and parenting youth
  - Partnering with local childcare providers to reserve spots for the children of youth or to provide funding to help bridge the gap between Wisconsin Shares and the cost of childcare.
  - Access to comprehensive childbirth education so young parents are aware of all their options and rights before, during, and after childbirth.
  - Access to community Doula support for pregnant youth who do not have family support.
- Addressing gaps in Mental Health Care
  - Hiring staff with mental health care experience and training as case managers and youth-focused staff.
  - Collaborate with and engage mental health professionals in the community to allow youth to quickly access mental health specialist and navigate the health care system. A pool of flexible funding would address immediate youth needs: transportation, employment, childcare, etc.
- Hotline/text line/talk line

- A designated line for youth to access services and to talk with someone before a crisis occurs.
- Financial Literacy
  - Budgeting support, learning to file taxes, bank account access, support with building wealth.
- Legal support
  - Access to legal advice and support, could be tied into drop-in centers in partnership with Legal Action.
- Education and Employment support
  - Partnerships with schools and local colleges/universities to provide scholarships and support to at-risk youth.
  - Hands-on job training as partnership with large corporations and businesses to help youth gain and maintain stable employment.
  - Improve inter-district school transfers to ensure at-risk and homeless youth do not lose education credits when transferring between school districts.

### **VIII. Signatures**

A signature page document of partner agencies will be provided. Representatives of the required groups are listed below. Signature collection is in progress and will be submitted with the final plan.

Each coalition will have a page for signatures. The signatures required are below:

**A. *Coalition Leadership*** – This will be the Board member and the Coalition Chair.

- Beth Hudak, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition Chair
  - Signed
- Jessica Diedrich, Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition Vice Chair
  - Signed

**B. *Public Child Welfare Agency*** – From at least one county. This is on top of the MOU.

- Jeremy Krahl, Executive Director of Brown County Health and Human Services
  - Waiting on approval

**C. *Local Government Agency*** – Ideally, there would be more than one, but we are only requiring that you get one signature. This could be a signature from a Mayor, County or City government or anyone else that fits this criterion.

- Troy Streckenbach, Brown County Executive
  - Waiting on approval
- Eric Genrich, Mayor of Green Bay
  - Signed

**D. *Local Youth Action Board*** – This can be a representative from the local YAB or the entire YAB can sign.

- Serenity Griffin, Brown County Youth Advisory Board Representative
  - Signed
- Daisy Lester, Brown County Youth Advisory Board Representative
  - Signed

**E. *Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider*** – If applicable.

- Shannon Wienandt, House of Hope Green Bay
  - Signed

***F. Additional Stakeholder Signatures***

- The Brown County YAB and the Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition are continuing to reach out to stakeholders to get them to sign on to support the CCP. We will continue to pursue additional supporters.
- Signed on Stakeholders
  - Golden House
  - ADRC
  - Urban Cultural Arts
  - Bay Area Workforce Development Board

## **IX. Other**

Ideally, Brown County youth services would be youth-centric and comprehensive, which is why we would like a youth systems gap analysis to be completed in Brown County with the YAB, Housing Coalition, and Stakeholders. Community Partners in Brown County agree that youth and young adults need affordable and stable housing, access to mental health care services, drug and alcohol addiction counseling, access to wrap-around services, and changes to laws.

To create comprehensive change, we need to:

- Re-build a strong, cohesive housing coalition that works together to address opportunities (versus working in silos or competing with one another).
- Identify best practices which will serve youth experiencing (or at risk of experiencing) homelessness.
- Re-think affordable housing planning and transportation to work across Northeast Wisconsin. Affordable housing is being built outside of the city limits; public transportation is not comprehensive and is inefficient to travel to/from work.
- Identify additional partners for all action items, YAB and Housing Coalition
  - Timeframe: on-going.
- Leverage FUP vouchers for youth, shelters
  - Timeframe: on-going
- Identify gaps in data specifically for youth, and separate youth data from young adult data. More data specific to youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness is needed for employment, education, LGBTQIA+, disability, and sex trafficking.
- Collect and track additional information related to youth such as pregnancy status and age of first homeless episode by working with Clarity.
- Advocate the Wisconsin State Legislature for unaccompanied minor youth experiencing homelessness to access mental and physical health care services without parent/guardian consent.