

## True Colors Impact Summit Notes

### Breakout Session 1—Trevor Project: Chris Bright

- Youth seek out resources that represent them
  - LGBTQ+ specific
  - Intersectionality

### Most Common Topics

#### Trevor Lifeline (phone)

1. Mental Health Problems
2. Relationships
3. Gender Identity
4. Coming Out
5. Family

#### Trevor Digital (text/website)

1. Mental Health Problems
2. Coming Out
3. Gender Identity
4. Relationships
5. Self-Injury

### Key Topics on survey—age 13-24 (sample 25896)→ social media

- Disclosure of SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity)
- Acceptance of SOGI by others
- Depressive symptoms and suicidology
- Discrimination and victimization
- Politics (since election call/hotline boomed)
- Conversion therapy and SOGI change attempts→ state by state rather than national
- Counseling/crisis services support

### Describing Trans/ Non-Binary Youth

- Even disburse geography
- Span religion/spirituality

Trans/ Non-binary individuals → increased sadness and depressive state compared to cis gender individuals

78% of transgender and non-binary individuals report discrimination

58% bathroom

30% physically threatened and abused

LGBTQ Youth Adversity → Suicide Risk/ Ideation increased

- POC (people of color) → intersectionality
- Multiple identities → intersectionality
- Perceived Burdensomeness
- Minority Stress (Williams Institute Study)
- Thwarted Belonging
- Isolation/ Lack of access to affirming care

Possible Gender Identity Crisis Topics

- Gender Dysphoria

- Gate Keeping (idea of type/ level or medical decisions)
- Use of name assigned at birth (dead name)
- Misgendering

#### Gender Identity/ Sexual Orientation Crisis Topics

- Being outed
- Conversion Therapy
- Living “in the closet”
- Exposure to HIV/ diagnosis of HIV
- Challenges in accessing PreP/ PeP/ HIV treatment

#### Best Practices- Identity→ What helps:

- Mirroring language and pronouns the caller is using
- Normalizing exploration of gender identity, sexual orientation, and expression
- Exploring opportunities to expand affirming experiences
- Being aware of your own impulses and reactions

#### Best Practices- Identity→ What does not help:

- Asking questions simply out of curiosity
- Discouraging/ moving away from topic of transition/sex

- Invalidate youths experience based on age

### Coming Out

- Benefits/ Risks
- Timing
- Normalizing stress/ courage

NOT your opinion

## Breakout Session 2—Hit Refresh: Tom Haskin and Alesha Alexcee

- Moving from individual programs to a system
  1. A prediction of amount of homeless assistance resources it will take to prevent and end youth homelessness in your community
  2. “Unit counts” for how much prevention, diversion, crisis housing, and longer-term housing
  3. Resource for community to make decisions (budget, counts)

### Key Steps

- As a group of diverse community stakeholders
  1. Come to a common understanding of youth program models in the homeless response system
  2. Create to pathways out of homelessness
  3. Decide on the proportions of youth that will utilize each pathway
  4. Decide on the average length of time youth will spend in each pathway
  5. Come to an annualized number of young people who will touch the system
  6. Estimate the amounts of intervention needed in each of the pathways

Be flexible→change programs to what is being utilized do not change clients to programs

Always have a common understand/ language

CE= coordinated entry

PH= permanent housing

TH= short-term (shelter)

RRH= rapid rehousing

PSH= permanent supportive housing

Pathways—Community Examples

Pathway 1: CE to PH (Diversion)

Pathway 2: CE to Crisis Housing to PH

Pathway 3: CE to Crisis Housing to shortest time limit (i.e. TH or host homes) to PH

Pathway 4: CE to CH to medium time limit (i.e. RRH) to PH

Pathway 5: CE to CH to no time limit (i.e. PSH) to PH

Transitional housing in this model is up to 24 months

### Breakout Session 3—Youth Homelessness and Juvenile Justice: Lisa Pilnik

- Collaborating for Change Project
- Homeless Youth Legal Network
- Child Welfare Services

20-40% youth experiencing homelessness are LGBTQ+

20% of JJ population is LGBTQ+

Youth detained/ running away

Straight/ gender conforming—14%

LGBTQ+--28%

Homeless after being kicked out/running away

Straight/ gender conforming—21%

LGBTQ+--47%

JJ

- Minors and young adults
- Rehabilitation focus
- Broader/ youth focused services
- More family focused
- Transition planning

## CJ

- Primarily adults (youth charged as adults)
- Punitive
- Individual focused
- Re-entry planning

## Principles for Change

[Juvjustice.org/homelessness](http://Juvjustice.org/homelessness)

## Common Pathways

- “status offenses”
- Unmet behavioral health needs
- Family conflict
- “survival” or “quality of life” crimes
- “collateral consequences”
  - Particularly important when addressing re-entry



## Prevention

- Access to services in communities
- Family-focused crisis response
- School-based services and policy change (ending zero tolerance; exclusionary discipline)
- Law enforcement diversion/ alternatives to arrest
- Court-based diversion

Improving Outcomes: Avoiding the need for re-entry

Transition planning

Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018

JJDP Recertification

Title V

YES Program (MA)

Making Re-entry Programming Work for LGBTQ Youth

Source: Meghan Maury, National LGBTQ Task Force in Principles for Change

Not a cookie cutter Service Programs → Watch for religious/faith-based programs

## Breakout Session 4—Let's Get Radical: Matthew Aronson

- The United States has reactive systems instead of proactive systems