

CLERK FILE No. 299979

REPORT OF CO

299979
Report of the Seattle Commission on Homeless Youth in Seattle:
dated April 1994.

299979

Honorable President:

Your _____
to which was referred the within _____
would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully

Filed May 9, 1994
By Margaret Carter Deputy

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

Referred	To
Referred	To
Referred	To
Reported	Disposition
Re-referred	To
Reported	Disposition



Your
Seattle
Commission on Children and Youth

Norman B. Rice, Mayor

April 26, 1994

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Timothy Thompeon

Ackhadet Viradet

Fabiola Woods

Connie Morse,
Staff Director

FORM 2-0006

Mayor Norman Rice
City of Seattle
1200 Municipal Building
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mayor Rice,

The presence of homeless youth on the streets of Seattle has long been a priority concern to the Seattle Commission on Children and Youth. Transmitted herein is a report the Commission has drafted to help focus the City's efforts to help homeless youth, and to stimulate public debate on the critical need to find ways for these youth to get off the street.

The Commission listened to the concerns of homeless youth, and of parents, police, and service providers, before developing recommendations for City action. We are recommending that the City be creative and aggressive by bringing many interested parties together in order to address the most critical need facing homeless youth: **more longer term shelter care beds**. The absence of longer term residential options currently is frustrating every effort to assist homeless youth in their attempts to get off the street.

We are well aware of the limitations on City resources, and the many demands put on those resources. We also are convinced that many parties currently are interested in helping homeless youth, and a specific City initiative could help focus that interest and generate significant other resources. Specifically, the Kiwanis are interested in a campaign to address the needs of the homeless population. A community advisory group recently convened by them established the need for longer term residential options for homeless youth as the highest priority. Management in the Department of Social and Health Services have indicated an interest in jointly pursuing federal resources for this purpose. And several other youth commissions across the state continue to be interested

SEATTLE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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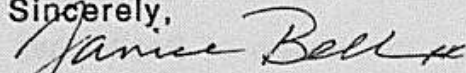
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CITY CLERK

in a joint effort to lobby the legislature.

During the forums, one youth concluded his comments by asking us to "Just keep fussin". It is too easy for the youth living on our streets to be overlooked, except when they get in our way. The Commission is proud of the role the City has played in meeting the needs of these children. We are asking that the City "just keep fussin" -- that the City use its resources and its voice to continue to support and fight for these youth.

We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and discuss our recommendations at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Janice Bell
Chair

HOMELESS YOUTH IN SEATTLE

A REPORT OF THE
SEATTLE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

APRIL, 1994

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the winter of 1993, the Seattle Commission on Children and Youth, with the assistance of the Seattle Young People's Project, conducted a series of forums and hearings to hear directly from homeless youth, parents and providers regarding issues facing youth living on the street. The purposes of the forums were threefold:

1. to learn from youths living on the street what services are most valuable helping them move off the street;
2. to provide information to policy makers and the public regarding the circumstances faced by youth living on the street; and
3. to gather information on current services and critical needs and develop recommendations for city policy and programs for the consideration of the Mayor and City Council.

The Commission's Report on Homeless Youth seeks to paint a picture of the life youth live on the street based primarily on the information they provided to us at the forums. The picture is framed by the perspective of police, service providers and parents voiced separately in a Commission hearing. The picture reveals youth going onto the street after exhausting other available options, staying with friends or relatives, or trying to stay at home. Returning home is not an option voiced by the youth at the Commission forums.

The everyday living problems faced by these youth are legion. The services available on the street to help them are highly valued by these youth-- the food available at local churches or youth centers, the short term shelters, the counseling and health clinics. But both the youth and adults spoke repeatedly on the need for more places for these youth to stay which get them off the street for the long term. Both youth and adults value most the shelters which help homeless youth stabilize, focus on future plans, and start moving their lives forward. The lack of longer term placements for these youth clearly surfaced as the critical barrier to helping them get off the street.

While the forums and hearing surfaced many other issues, the Commission decided to focus its recommendations exclusively on the need for longer term residential options, and this shortage is so severely and negatively impacting all other efforts to help homeless youth.

The Commission's recommendations therefore focus on the City's role in helping to generate and support additional longer term residential beds for homeless youth. Specifically, the Commission is recommending that:

- The City utilize its resources to leverage private, state and federal funding for longer term shelter options for homeless youth which provide housing for 30 to 180 days. It is recommended that the Children's Action Plan be revised to create a pool of \$200,000 for this purpose.

- The City devote a higher priority to carrying out the existing recommendations in the Children's Action Plan, including providing technical assistance and support to the church community to help them comply with DSHS licensing requirements.

- The City persist in placing a high priority on obtaining state support for youth shelter in the City's legislative agenda, and that an intergovernmental effort be initiated with King County and other interested local jurisdictions to accomplish this end. Priority should be given to significantly increasing the availability of group care beds available for long term placement.

- The Children's Action Plan be amended to include a new strategy for Systems Improvement: "Develop a collaboration between the city, county, state and homeless youth service providers to promote communication, share information, define gaps in service and define roles and accountability of service providers and governmental bodies. Collaboration should include establishment of a system for managing existing shelter beds in King County to assure maximum utilization of available resources."

To DSHS

- It is recommended that a permanent mechanism be established for providing on-going communication between the City, King County, homeless youth providers and the state.
- It is recommended that a high level "trouble shooting" individual or office be identified to follow up on complaints regarding foster care.

Overview

"Homeless" is a general term that refers to those youth who are not connected to a family or institution. Many "homeless" youth have run away from their family of origin or from a foster home or group home. Numerous studies indicate that as many as half leave home with the approval or encouragement of their parent or guardian. Some runaway youth experience temporary homelessness until they are reunited with their family. However, many runaway youth experience a more permanent separation that marks the beginning of long-term homelessness.

Youth become homeless for many reasons. A combination of family and environmental stressors usually exist such as:

- Emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse within the youth's family of origin. Recent studies indicate that over 60% of homeless youth report physical abuse; 21% report sexual abuse.
- No consistent family structure on which the youth can rely. This includes instability within foster care and other out-of-home placements. In a 1990 study of runaway and homeless youth less than 25% of the youth came from intact families. 56% of the youth in shelters considered themselves to be homeless and had no home they were able or willing to return to.
- Parental alcohol, substance use and/or mental health problems. Counselors estimate that about 65% of homeless youths come from homes where one or both parents are substance abusers.
- Dissension within families in which a youth has identified him or herself as gay, lesbian or bi-sexual. This includes foster care and other out-of-home placements.

The greatest challenge to forming policy that targets the homeless is obtaining accurate data on this population. There is currently no reliable data on how many youth are homeless in Seattle. It is estimated that there are 500 to 1500 homeless youth on any one night, but the numbers vary greatly between summer and winter. However, the King County Task Force on Runaway/Homeless Youth is planning to conduct a one day count of homeless youth this spring. Data is expected to be available in late May.

Background

Under state law, the state is responsible for child welfare services for homeless youth. RCW 74.13 states that "The state is responsible for developing, administering, supervising and monitoring a comprehensive plan of services for the protection and care of homeless, runaway, dependent or neglected children." However, the state over the past decade has not funded shelters for youth, preferring instead to rely on foster care and a declining number of group home beds to try to accommodate runaway and homeless youth. As a result, the number of homeless youth has continued to grow over the past decade, and the pressures have mounted for local governments to help.

City Of Seattle Policies and Programs

Recognizing the growing crisis of youth living on the streets, funding provided by the City of Seattle for shelter and drop-in services for homeless youth has increased significantly over the last decade. In 1985, the City provided approximately \$140,000 in funding for drop-in and shelter services. In 1993, funding from the City totalled \$524,812. A summary of the current funding of homeless and street youth programs is provided in Attachment A.

The City's official policy towards homeless youth is spelled out in the "Children and Youth Action Plan: 1993-1996". The Systems Improvement section of the plan includes the following goal:

Increase housing options for homeless youth ages 12 to 21 - Assist churches and community organizations to develop shelter options and transitional housing for youth; advocate for increased state funding for group or foster care and other alternative placements for youth; increase resources for runaway and homeless youth by at least \$500,000 by developing and implementing a strong advocacy program for legislative and other strategies needed to implement objectives in the King County Report on Runaway and Homeless Youth.

Seattle Commission on Children and Youth

Since its inception in 1987, homeless youth have been a primary issue of concern to the Seattle Commission on Children and Youth. During the past six years, the Commission has developed information, sponsored regional forums, advocated for increased City funding for homeless youth services, and initiated state legislation to help address the shelter needs of homeless youth.

The Commission continues to be concerned about homeless and street youth for many reasons. Youth on the streets are vulnerable to serious physical and psychological damage from being abused and/or victimized. Youth living on our streets are an unavoidable statement of the society's failure to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our children. The fact that many of these youth are choosing the street rather than available residential settings does little to mitigate the fact that youth are living in extremely unsafe circumstances, and our laws and social services are unable to provide viable solutions for a significant number of youth and young adults who reside on the streets of Seattle.

The Commission decided to hold hearings during Homeless Children's Awareness Week for several reasons:

1. To learn from youths who have lived on the streets what services are most valuable to them, and what support helps them to move off of the street.
2. To provide information to policy makers and the public regarding the circumstances faced by homeless youth and the problems they face.
3. To gather information regarding strategies that work which can be used to develop recommendations to the Mayor and City Council.

Two forums were held specifically to obtain the ideas and suggestions of homeless youth. The forums, which were organized by the Seattle Young People's Project, were held in the University District on October 29th, and at the Orion Center in downtown Seattle on October 30th. A separate hearing for parents, providers and other interested parties was held the evening of November 2nd.

The Seattle Young People's Project recruited youths to participate on the panels at the two afternoon forums. There were seven panelists at the first forum, ages 16 through 18. Approximately 70 people were in the audience of Commission members, service providers, interested adults and youth from the community, and the press. (See Attachment B) The youth were living in or had lived in youth shelters, and/or had used the drop-in and referral services available at the Orion Center. The panelists were very open, expressive and articulate, and had a variety of positive recommendations regarding the services that were the most valuable to them in transitioning off of the street.

The second forum, at the Orion Center, had a panel with most of the same youth as the first forum, plus two additional youth, one of whom currently lives on the street.

The hearing was attended by approximately 20 individuals representing shelter providers, community service officers from the Seattle Police Department, state agency representatives, City Council and Mayor's Office staff, citizens, parents and youth advocates.

Living on the Street

During the forums, the youth described their own experiences with homelessness, which ranged from a few months living with friends, to being on their own since age 12 living in squats, cars and on the couches of friends (couch surfing). They described the difficulties of being homeless.

When I became homeless, I felt guilty and shameful. You think there is nothing worth living for. You can't get a job because you don't have the mental stability. You can't go to school -- where do you do homework? We need help.

It was clear from the statements made that the street is getting tougher. When asked about predatory adults on the street, one youth commented that the main concern is violent and predatory youth on the street.

Needs and Issues

The youth forum participants were concerned with a wide variety of issues, but a few were raised repeatedly: the need for more long term residential care and for shelter beds with longer term stays, referral services, sensitivity to unique needs (particularly to gay and lesbian youth), treatment for drugs and alcohol, and the difficulties of staying in school. Some of the most poignant statements were pleas for more adults to just listen, and to care.

People to show the least bit that they care-- that's the most important thing.

It's not shelters that we need, it's parents that we need. We need a stable place and love. Shelters are a second choice.

The hearing for parents and providers focused on the multiple gaps in the system serving homeless and runaway youth, and the need for a continuum of care to serve their differing needs.

There is a huge continuum of background and needs among street kids. All providers in the spectrum should be working toward stable long-term solutions.

Following are specific issues raised during the forums and hearing.

FOSTER CARE

The youth who participated in the forums were almost universally critical of foster care. Most panelists said that most foster parents are not very sensitive to the unique needs of young people, and some thought foster care parents were only in it for the money. One panelist commented:

My foster home partied all night so I joined them.

Panelists indicated that what they need and want is a safe environment and adults who care about them and their needs. One panelist stated that receiving homes are not safe, and that DSHS staff told her it was not safe to go to the receiving home that was available. Several gave examples of foster homes where their needs were not met, citing examples of the food being locked up to being physically abused. Community Service Officers at the hearing also indicated that there are a few foster homes that youth consistently run away from, and where clearly there is a problem with the

quality of care being provided. At the same time, the shortage of foster care beds for teens severely limits the alternatives available to them.

The most consistent comment of the youth regarding foster care was that they are not heard when they have a problem.

When you talk about a problem with an adult in the system, they don't believe you. They believe the foster parent. They don't listen.

A frequent observation among providers is that foster care settings do not work for the great majority of youth living on the street. These youth cannot cope with the intimacy of a home environment, severely act out or run away, and require more structured residential care settings. There also are few foster care parents who are trained to supervise youth with multiple issues who have lived on the street.

Gay and lesbian youth represent a large proportion of homeless teens, and cite severe problems with harassment and with the lack of sensitivity to their needs, particularly in regards to foster care. Several of the forum participants recommended that special care be taken in placing gay and lesbian youth with gay and lesbian foster parents, or at least in a placement that is sensitive to the needs of this population.

RESIDENTIAL CARE

Group homes provide 24 hour supervision and intensive therapy to children and youth who require highly structured environments, due to demonstrated lack of self-control. All programs provide intensive individual, family and group therapy, with areas of specialization in drug addiction, sexual and physical abuse, clinical depression and family dysfunction.

In the 1970s and 80s, "group care" was a much more available residential alternative for youth than it is now. In 1980, over 1300 residential group care beds existed in Washington. Today, the state contracts for approximately 400 group care beds, and not all of these are available. According to the Department of Social and Health Services, approximately 291 children currently are living in residential care programs. Furthermore, according to a DSHS case count in January of 1992, 584

children are in need of group care and are not receiving it. The decline in this resource has been constant, and no doubt bears a direct relationship to the dramatic increase in the number of homeless youth on the streets.

Because reimbursement rates from the state for the provision of residential services are far below the actual cost of care, many organizations are choosing not to provide residential care services.

The need for more short and long term residential care options was identified repeatedly during the forums and the parent and provider hearing. Examples were given of youth who were unable to find placements and need a variety of housing options, including:

- the need for structured group home settings and for therapeutic foster homes that will work with youth who have been homeless;
- the need for transitional living situations which provide some structured support while working toward independence.

SHELTER

It was clear from the forums that more shelters are needed with longer stay periods. The shelters which provide longer stays were identified as the most valuable, because they helped participants to stabilize their lives and move forward.

Friends of Youth really helped me alot. They helped me find a place to live or I would be homeless again. They believe in you-- and that is really important because homeless youth have really low self esteem.

Teens need a stable place to live until we are on our own.

I was in a shelter for only two weeks. Others were waiting....

When specifically asked about the short term shelters available in the University District (provided by the churches on a volunteer basis), the youth obviously value the safe, warm place provided by these shelters but view them as necessary stop gaps. None of them, or the providers and volunteers who testified at the hearing, view the church shelters as a long term solution. While the churches don't offer a range of services, they do provide referrals to services offered by other agencies. The churches are going to have a very difficult time meeting the new licensing

requirements issued by DSHS, and may be forced to stop providing shelter. There presently is no permanent shelter in the University District; plans to open a new shelter at the "Gold House" on 45th have been abandoned, primarily due to a lack of financing for operating costs.

A separate issue identified by providers during the November 2nd meeting was the need to better coordinate the shelter resources that are available. The existing system of informal coordination among shelter providers does not always assure maximum utilization of existing capacity.

SCHOOL

One issue that the youth talked about frequently was the difficulty of getting into and staying in school when you are homeless. One aspect is just the logistical barriers to staying in school when you are not living with a parent or guardian. Several youth stated that you cannot go to school without a permanent address, and when they stay in temporary shelters they are not able to attend school. The law, as stated in RCW 28A.225.215, requires school districts to enroll children without legal residences at the request of the children. Further, school districts may not require a child to show proof of residency if the child is eligible because of age for school district services. The Seattle School District requires that all minors have parent or guardian signatures and an address in order to maintain enrollment, but the signature and address of a shelter counselor or other adult service provider will be accepted if necessary. A parental signature is required, however, for a student to receive services from the school's health clinic.

Regardless of the legal aspects of attending school when homeless, several youth stated that they are too busy worrying about where they are going to get money for shelter and food to think about their education.

School transitions are hard. We need ways to get into school without paying fees. If you are worrying about basic needs, it's awfully hard to concentrate on school.

It took two weeks to get into school. It's really hard when you don't have parents to sign things.

Parental signatures are required for everything.

The other issue brought up about school was the need for school personnel to be more sensitive to the possible homelessness of students, and to intervene. It was suggested that some sort of education be provided for teachers about homelessness, and a resource be identified for teachers or administrators to obtain help if a young person was homeless. Schools are possibly the only place adults can spot youth who are not living in a stable situation; the youth felt that schools need to find a way to help youth who are moving toward homelessness.

In follow up discussions with the school district, it appears that considerable effort is focused on younger students in homeless families, but few resources are available at the middle and high school levels. The district provides transportation assistance to homeless children and youth to try to facilitate on-going stable attendance at one school regardless of what shelter they are living in. One middle school has a case manager who works with youth and families to try to assure continued attendance at school. The school district once had a case manager for homeless high school students at Garfield, but that position was lost due to funding cuts.

The schools do not outreach to unenrolled youth who are not attached to the system, and very limited resources are available to those who appear to be "on the edge". The schools deal with the issue as it comes to their attention through families and service providers.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Several agencies provide support services for homeless and street youth. The Orion Center in downtown Seattle and the University District Youth Center (UDYC) both provide an array of services to youth during the day. Youth can get food, clothing, counseling, drug and alcohol counseling and educational and employment support from both Centers. They are well utilized. Over 500 youth accessed services available at UDYC last year.

Food is available in the University District at Teen Feed - a feeding program sponsored by churches on a rotating basis. Teen Feed currently is available four evenings a week. The program serves between twenty and forty youth a night. The absence of any food program several nights of the week is viewed as a serious concern, as the youth using Teen Feed have few if any other resources available to them.

For many gay and lesbian youth, Lambert House was identified as a source of strength, acceptance, and critically needed services. Lambert House provides counseling, food, support groups and recovery services for youth who have openly stated their sexual orientation.

Lambert House has been a God-send to me.

Lambert House just turned my whole life around.

DRUGS, ALCOHOL and HEALTH ISSUES

Street youth have a greater number of problems both physically and psychologically than the general population, and health care is generally inadequate for many reasons, including:

- a lack of access to medical, substance abuse, and mental health treatment facilities;
- the behavior of adolescents themselves;
- the inability of providers to deal with their special needs;
- the questionable legal status of homeless youth; and
- their perceived fears of lack of confidentiality.

They often suffer from malnutrition complicated by higher rates of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. They are more likely to suffer from mental illness, including depression and self-destructive behavior. Their mental illness and high risk behaviors make homeless youth more vulnerable to pregnancy and physical illnesses like tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases and human immunodeficiency virus. If youth are involved in sex/prostitution, they are even more likely to suffer from drug abuse and depression, often resulting in suicide.

There are very few treatment facilities willing to see youth without parental consent. There are four "walk-in" clinics in the city that care for medical problems. There is one 20-bed inpatient chemical dependency program, and there are five outpatient drug treatment programs that serve the remaining population by being flexible, with minimal age requirements and financial demands. See Attachment C for a list of facilities.

Legal Issues

One of the most difficult barriers cited by many youth is the need for parental consent. It is hard to imagine how many times a young person is asked for a parent's signature-- to get into school, to get a job, to buy a car, to get an absence excused at school, to go on a field trip. Several young people also stated that they need a parent's signature to rent an apartment. Although legally minors can sign for services that are essential to living, clearly most landlords require an adult presence to lease an apartment or house to a young person.

The nearly omnipresent requirement for parental signatures is frustrating to youth who have no parent in their lives.

I didn't need my mother's signature to be on the street. But I need her signature for everything else.

Another legal issue was raised from a parent's perspective -- the lack of legal authority parents have to keep their teen children at home. One parent testified regarding her experience with her twelve year old son when he ran away. She testified that there was no legal means for keeping him at home or in school, and that "the system" failed to hold her son accountable, from community service requirements to attending school. "The truth is that when I say no, the state or city says yes."

The Community Service Officers confirmed the lack of any legal means to hold on to youth who run away. One CSO stated that DSHS and other kids tell 11 and 12 year olds that they can just walk away from a receiving home or other placement, and no one can stop them. There are laws against harboring juveniles, but often attempting to enforce these laws just results in youth moving from one place to another. Several people voiced support for a curfew, which would make it illegal for teens to be out on the streets after a certain hour. Others voiced a concern about criminalizing being on the street, and about the need for an appropriate place to take youth if a curfew was imposed. One provider commented that detention is not a good option for youth who have been abused, and is often glorified by youth. There was general agreement that any consideration of a curfew must include the need for services and alternative places for youth to go.

The discussion of legal issues reflects a conflict between the recognized need to have better ways to hold on to youth who are running away, and concern with protecting the rights of youth -- especially those who are abused.

"A kid can continually run away and no one says 'you have to stop.'

"We have to balance children's rights and parents' rights. We don't want the pendulum to swing back too far the other way. It has to come to the middle."

The CSOs emphasized the need for cooperation between parents and police. The lack of police officers is a big issue in being able to work with runaways and street youth. The lack of clout is also an issue. "We have to stop the cycle of trying to help people and not being able to do anything."

The lack of effective tools for parents trying to keep runaway youth at home has often been cited as a serious weakness in state law. The concern is often countered by child advocates who argue that most children who run away are running away from something-- abuse and/or neglect--and the real issue is providing services to these youth, not placing them back in abusive situations. While the debate rages on, youth remain on the street where they are severely victimized, and the services nearly everyone agrees are needed are not provided because of limited resources. One solution is to provide a "neutral" place where youth are assessed and appropriate places are identified for them to go. The lack of appropriate places, however, is the core issue plaguing current efforts to help homeless youth.

EMANCIPATION

During the 1993 legislative session, the legislature passed a bill authorizing any minor sixteen years of age or older to petition the superior court for a declaration of emancipation. The new law becomes effective on January 1, 1994. In order to be declared emancipated, a minor must prove that he or she (a) is sixteen years of age or older; (b) is a resident of Washington (c) has the ability to manage his or her financial affairs; and (d) has the ability to manage his or her personal, social, educational, and nonfinancial affairs. A minor's parent, guardian or custodian may oppose the petition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To The City:

The goal of all services for homeless youth is to help them get off the street. The shortage of long term shelter beds was identified as a major barrier to reaching that goal by youth, providers, and volunteers. Without long term residential options, short term shelter and support services are frustrated in their efforts to move homeless youth off the street. While recognizing the critical role short term services play in providing a bridge for homeless youth, and the need to maintain these services, the lack of long term placements for youth is clearly the area of greatest need.

The Commission recommends that the City work in partnership with the County, the State, providers and the private sector to increase longer term shelter resources available to homeless youth.

Specifically, it is therefore recommended that:

- The Children's Action Plan be revised to create a pool of City funds which can be used to leverage private, state and federal resources to increase longer term residential options. It is recommended that \$200,000 be included in the Plan, and that the Department of Housing and Human Services be directed to work with local private contributors, the Washington State Department of Community Development and the Department of Social and Health Services to acquire and operate facilities that can provide housing for homeless youth from 30 to 180 days. Flexibility should be provided to the Department in developing a program design that best meets current needs and available funding sources.
- The City devote a higher priority to carrying out the existing recommendations in the Children's Action Plan, including providing technical assistance and support to the church community to help them comply with DSHS licensing requirements.
- The City persist in placing a high priority in the City's legislative agenda on obtaining state support for youth shelter, transitional housing and increased group home beds, and that an intergovernmental effort be initiated with King County and other interested local jurisdictions to accomplish this end.

•The Children's Action Plan be amended to include a new strategy for Systems Improvement: "Develop a collaboration between the city, county, state and homeless youth service providers to promote communication, share information, define gaps in service and define roles and accountability of service providers and governmental bodies. Collaboration should include establishment of a system for managing existing shelter beds in King County to assure maximum utilization of available resources."

To DSHS

- It is recommended that a permanent mechanism be established for providing on-going communication between the City, King County, homeless youth providers and the state.
- It is recommended that a high level "trouble shooting" individual or office be identified to follow up on complaints regarding foster care.

APPENDIX A

CITY OF SEATTLE FUNDED PROGRAMS
 PROVIDING SERVICES TO HOMELESS YOUTH - 1993

Multi-Service Centers

These programs provide comprehensive educational, social and health services necessary to meet the multiple needs of street youth and assist them in making a commitment to leave street life.

Program	# Clients Served	Funding	
		City	Total
Youth Care Orion Multi-Service Center 1020 Virginia St. Seattle, WA 98101 223-1303			97,697
	1055	Total	416,054
United Indians of All Tribes Foundation I-W'a-Sil Youth Program 102 Prefontaine Pl. S. Seattle, WA 98104 343-3111		City	66,500
	814	Total	110,017
Center For Human Services University District Youth Center 4218 Roosevelt Way N.E. Seattle, WA 98105 547-2220	53	City	57,801
	477	Total	188,977

Housing Programs

Program	# Clients Served	Funding	
Youth Care The Shelter Mailing Address: 333 First Avenue West Seattle, WA 98119 282-1288 Emergency and transitional housing, counseling and case management services for homeless youth ages 12 through 17. 14 days - 4 beds; 60 days - 4 beds; 18 months - 4 beds		City	54,366
	230	Total	249,611
YMCA, Central District Young Adults In Transition 909 Fourth Avenue Seattle, WA 98104 382-5018 Emergency housing and independent living skills training to young adults ages 18 through 22. 60 days - 20 beds		City	138,955
	239	Total	235,164
YMCA, Central District Aloha House Youth Shelter Mailing Address: 909 Fourth Avenue Seattle, WA 98104 328-2275 Emergency shelter, counseling and case management to homeless girls ages 12 through 17. 90 days - 8 beds		City	57,807
	148	Total	272,407
Youth Care Straley House Mailing Address: 333 First Avenue West Seattle, WA 98119 282-1288 Transitional housing for young adults ages 18 through 21. 18 months - 2 years - 12 beds	29	City	20,394
		Total	166,350
Catholic Community Services Denny Place Youth Shelter Mailing Address: 100 - 23rd Avenue South Seattle, WA 98144 328-5772 Emergency overnight shelter to homeless and runaway youth ages 12-17. 14 days - 15 beds	268	City	31,292
	268	Total	290,137
Total City Support			524,812

Homeless teens share tales from the streets

Youths looking for compassion and stronger parenting

BY DIEDRA HENDERSON
Seattle Times staff reporter

Homeless youths have clear views about what society owes them:

- Providing enough shelter beds so the press of kids on waiting lists doesn't limit stays to as little as a few days.

- Showing even the smallest bit of compassion and caring to "street punks" at shelters and drop-in centers.

- Starting a reality check that eases requirements for parental signatures on field trips, for identity cards and public assistance applications for kids who have been estranged from parents for years.

- Showing empathy — instead of cruel taunts — toward panhandling kids who are too young to get full-time jobs.

"I cried the first night I was in a squat. I was like, 'Is this what my life has come to?'" said Jaime Barber, 16, who has slept in doorways, porches and at friend's homes. "It's no way for anyone to live."

- And pushing homeless shelters to a lower priority.

"It's not shelters that we need, it's parents that we need," said Felicia Green, 18, on her own six years and facing homelessness again at month's end.

The thoughts came from a panel of seven youths who have bobbed in and out of homelessness. The forum, sponsored by the Seattle Young People's Project, is one of three to raise community awareness of the issues homeless youths face.

The second youth forum was to be at 3 p.m. today at the Orion Center, 1020 Virginia St. Next week, parents and shelter providers will be asked for recommendations in a 6



Jaime Barber, left, gives Felicia Green a lift after the youth forum, where they discussed their street experiences.

p.m., forum next Wednesday at Catholic Community Services, 100 23rd Ave. S.

And just as the Seattle Commission on Children and Youth issued a report on the needs of gay youths, the group hopes to pass on to city officials recommendations to better serve homeless kids.

Many teens shared tales of recovering from drug addiction and walking away from ill-fitting foster homes

marked by physical abuse or ambivalent care. There also were stories of hope and compassion.

Trinelle Sullivan, 17, is grateful staff at Friends for Youth helped her focus. Seth Dennon, 18, who is gay, applauded Stonewall Recovery for providing drug counseling that didn't require him to act "straight" to get straight.

Barber, after one bad match with two crisis counselors, thinks Lam-

bert House may have found her "the mom I always wanted" in her next placement with a lesbian foster mother. The Capitol Hill home is a drop-in center for gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-sexual youths.

But the youths also took institutions to task for making it too difficult to get help and for frequently doubting the word of youths.

The Department of Social and Health Services, is too overburdened

and quickly drops older teens from its caseload, said Nicole Carbine, 17.

As homeless youths mobilize, government officials counter with new ordinances making it easier to arrest panhandling youths. Others talk about reinstating a curfew.

"They're trying to beat us down because we're loud. We have to be loud," Barber said. "I've never met a street punk who's quiet. ... That's all they have is their voice."

ALAN BURNER/SEATTLE TIMES

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APPENDIX B

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY

Adolescent Program
Ryther Child Center
2400 N.E. 95th Street, Seattle 98115
525-5050
Inpatient and follow up outpatient services for 18-20 youth
ages 5-18

Center For Human Services (Youth)
17011 Meridian Ave. N., Seattle 98133
362-7282
Outpatient services for ages 14-22

I-WA-Sil Youth Program
102 Prefontaine Place S., Seattle 98104
343-3111
Outpatient services for ages 10-22

Central Youth and Family Services
1730 Bradner Place S., Seattle 98144
322-7676
Free outpatient services for ages 13-18

Ruth Dykeman Youth and Family Services
15001 Eighth Ave. S.W., Seattle 98166
243-5544
Outpatient and prevention services for ages 8-21

Stonewall Recovery Services
430 Broadway Ave. E., Seattle 98102
461-4546
Limited to gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents
Outpatient services through Lambert House for ages 13-22

Mom's Project (DSHS)
3600 S. Graham St., Seattle 98118
721-2888 1-800-662-4397
Inpatient and outpatient services for 30+ participants who
are pregnant women 16 and over

DROP-IN CLINICS SERVING HOMELESS YOUTH

The 45th St. Clinic
1629 N. 45th Street, Seattle 98103
633-3350
Tuesday 6-9p.m., ages 12-25

Pike Market Youth Clinic
1930 Post Alley, Seattle 98101
622-5555
Monday 6-9p.m., ages 12-21

Pioneer Square Youth Clinic
206 Third Ave. S., Seattle 98104
622-5555
Wednesday 6-9p.m., ages 12-21

Lambert House (Serving gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth)
1818 15th Ave., Seattle 98112
322-2735
Wednesday 4:30-6p.m., ages 12-21

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- King County Special Task Force on Runaway and Homeless Youth (1993). King County Youth Alternative Residential Care Resource Directory (Draft), Seattle, WA: Author.
- King County Department of Human Services - Youth and Family Program (1993), Shelters Intake Report: 1/1/93 - 6/30/93, Seattle, WA: Author.
- Mallon, G. (1992). Gay and No Place to Go: Assessing the Needs of Gay and Lesbian Adolescents in Out-of-Home Care Settings. Child Welfare, 71 (6), 547-556.
- Orion Center (1986). Survey of Street Youth. Seattle, WA: Author
- Savin-Williams, R. C. (1988). Theoretical perspectives accounting for adolescent homosexuality. Journal of Adolescent Health Care. Vol. 9: 95-104.
- Seattle Commission on Children and Youth (1992), Snapshot '92: Seattle's Children and Youth. Seattle, WA: Author.

RESOURCE DIRECTORY: YOUTH RESIDENTIAL BEDS
IN
KING COUNTY

December, 1993

King County Special Task Force on Runaway/Homeless Youth
2020 Smith Tower
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 296-5229

Type of Care	Facility Name	Service Provider	Location	Phone Number	Age	Gender	Number of Beds	Length of Stay	Services/Comments	Means of Access
Overnight Emergency Shelter	Denny Place	Catholic Community Services	Seattle	328-5693	12-17	Co-ed	15	Overnight	Provides dinner, breakfast, shower, laundry, some clothes, may stay overnight, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m., for up to 14 nights	Referral Only
	University District Churches	University Street Ministry	Seattle - University District	522-4366	13-20	Co-ed	15	Overnight	Teen feed dinner Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Volunteer supervisors. Some breakfast. Shelter 7 nights per week.	Drop-in
Emergency Shelters	R-House	Friends of Youth	Issaquah	236-KIDS 1-800-442-TEEN	11-17	Co-ed	6	30 days	Full range of services. Live-in foster parents.	Open referral with screening
	Joshua House	Friends of Youth	Kenmore	236-KIDS 1-800-442-TEEN	11-17	Co-ed	4	30 days	Full range of services. Live-in foster parents.	Open referral with screening
	South County Shelter	Auburn Youth Resources	Auburn	939-2202	11-17	Co-ed	6	14 days	Full range of services, shift staff.	Open referral with screening
	The Shelter	Youth Care	Seattle	725-8888	12-17	Co-ed	6	14 days	Full range of services, shift staff.	Open referral with screening
	Aloha House	YMCA	Seattle	328-2275	13-17	Girls	8	90 days	Beds available for runaway/street girls, pregnant/parenting (2 beds), alternative to detention (2 beds), and transition from DJR (4 beds).	Agency referral
	Iwa-sil	United Indians of all Tribes	North Seattle	781-8303	12-17	Co-ed	10	14 days	Full range of services. Shift staff. Target native American and youth of color.	Agency referral
	Young Adults in Transition (YAIT)	YMCA	Seattle	382-5018	18-22	Co-ed	20	60 days	Independent living	Agency referral

Type of Care	Facility Name	Service Provider	Location	Phone Number	Age	Gender	Number of Beds	Length of Stay	Services/Comments	Means of Access
Teen Mothers & Babies	Watson Manor	Kent Youth & Family Services	Kent	859-0300	16-21	Teen moms	8	2 years	8 apartment units. Full range of services.	Prefer agency referral
	TLC	Friends of Youth	Bothell	486-6774	16-21	Teen moms	5	2 years	Full range of services.	Agency referral
	Tree House	Friends of Youth	North Bend	486-6774	Under 18	Teen moms	2	2 years	Full range of services.	Agency referral
	Arbor House	Friends of Youth	Bothell	486-6774	16-21	Teen moms	14	18 months	Full range of services.	Agency referral
	Ardell Mitchell Home	Goodwill Baptist Church	Seattle	323-7409	Under 18	Teen moms	6	2 years	Two bedroom apartments.	Agency referral
	Elizabeth House	Catholic Community Services	Auburn	833-5271	Under 18	Pregnant/Parenting Teens	6	2 years	Full range of services.	Agency referral
	Columbia Court Apartments	YMCA	Seattle	382-5011	18-24	Teen moms	13	2 years	2 bedroom apartments	Agency referral
	Kiwanis House	Private	Lynnwood	672-3660	14-21	Teen moms	8	3 years	Full range of services	Open agency referral
	Seattle Housing Authority	Central Area Youth Assoc.	Seattle	322-6640	Under 18	Teen moms	25	2 years	Scattered apartment sites.	Agency referral
	SW King County Housing Program	DSHS	Park Lake Homes	433-1253	Under 18	Pregnant/Parenting Teens	30	Permanent	Apartment units. Must be sponsored by case manager.	DSHS referral
	Teen Parent Home	Children's Home Society	Seattle	322-8918	13-17	Teen moms	4	Open	Group foster home	Agency referral
	Threshold Phase II	Youth Care	Seattle	282-1288	14-17	Teen moms	2	12 - 18 months	Transition to independent living	Referral from Phase I

Type of Care	Facility Name	Service Provider	Location	Phone Number	Age	Gender	Number of Beds	Length of Stay	Services/Comments	Means of Access
Interim Care	Bell House	Auburn Youth Resources	Auburn	939-2202	16-17	Co-ed	6	18 months	Long term foster care	Open referral with screening
	Auburn House	Service Alternatives of Washington	Auburn	833-6252	12-17	Boys	6	1 - 90 days	Wide range of difficult to manage behavior; aggressive, destructive, severe mental health problems, sexual victim/offender, severe family problems.	DCFS referral
	Renton House	Service Alternatives of Washington	Renton	277-5157	8-17	Co-ed	6	1 - 90 days	Developmentally disabled/disturbed youth	DCFS referral
	Kent House	Service Alternatives of Washington	Kent	432-2926	12-17	Girls	6	1 - 90 days	Wide range of difficult to manage behavior; aggressive, destructive, severe mental health problems, sexual victim/offender, severe family problems.	DCFS referral
	Ruth Dykeman - Regional Assessment Center (The Loft)	Ruth Dykeman Children's Center	Burien	242-1698	8-12	Co-ed	8	1 - 90 days	No decline facility. Most difficult to serve children: aggressive, destructive, severe mental health problems, sexual victims/offenders, family problems.	DCFS referral
	Ujima House	Youth Advocates	Seattle	725-9668	13-17	Co-ed	4	1 - 90 days	Regional assessment center. Wide range of difficult to manage behavior; aggressive, destructive, severe mental health problems, sexual victim/offender, severe family problems. No decline.	DCFS referral
	Gamma House	Youth Advocates	Seattle	781-7208	13-17	Co-ed	4	90 days	Regional assessment center. Wide range of difficult to manage behavior; aggressive, destructive, severe mental health problems, sexual victim/offender, severe family problems. No decline.	DCFS referral
	CRC Introspect	Youth Advocates	Seattle	784-7276	12-17	Co-ed	4	5 days	Regional Crisis Residential Center (CRC)	DCFS/Law enforcement referral

Type of Care	Facility Name	Service Provider	Location	Phone Number	Age Range	Gender	Number of Beds	Length of Stay	Services/Comments	Means of Referral
Group Care	Ashley House	Ashley House	Enumclaw	825-6525	Birth - 17	Co-ed	10 group care/2 respite	1 - 6 months	Children in need of medical rehabilitation	DCFS referral for group care. DDD/DCFS for respite beds.
	S.A.I.L.	King County Mental Health McGraw	Seattle	283-3300	18-21	Co-ed	11	Up to 18 months	Must have mental health diagnosis	Open referral
	Boy's Village	Boy's Village	Seattle	789-4440	7-12	Boys	12	12 - 18 months	Residential treatment for extremely disturbed boys.	DCFS referral
	Cobb	Children's Home Society	Seattle	524-6020	6-17	Boys	24	12 - 18 months	Residential treatment for extremely disturbed boys with family involvement.	DCFS referral
	Distad	Distad	Richmond Beach	542-5566	6-12	Boys	12	18 months	Extremely disturbed boys, level III, group home.	DCFS referral
	Griffin Home	Friends of Youth	Renton	228-5776	13-17	Boys	6/offender 6/non-offender	12 - 18 months	Residential treatment for disturbed youth, sex offenders.	DCFS referral
	Griffin Home	Friends of Youth	Renton	228-5776	13-17	Boys	6/offender 6/non-offender	Open	Dept. Juvenile Rehab - transition from incarceration. Disturbed youth/sex offender.	DJR referral
	Parkview	Parkview	Seattle	324-4113	8-17	Co-ed	6	12 - 18 months	Dual diagnosis: developmentally disabled, disturbed, residential treatment.	DCFS referral
	Ruth Dykeman	Ruth Dykeman Children's Center	Burien	242-1698	12-17	Boys	12	12 months	Extremely disturbed boys with family involvement.	DCFS referral
	Ruth Dykeman	Ruth Dykeman Children's Center	Burien	242-1698	12-17	Girls	12	12 months	Extremely disturbed girls with family involvement.	DCFS referral
	Ryther	Ryther Child Center	Seattle	525-5050	6-13	Co-ed	24 (17 for K.C.)	12 - 18 months	Residential treatment for extremely disturbed girls and boys.	DCFS referral
	Ryther	Ryther Child Center	Seattle	525-5050	12-17	Boys	9	12 - 18 months	Residential treatment for disturbed boys with parental figure involved.	DCFS referral

Type of Care	Facility Name	Service Provider	Location	Phone Number	Age	Gender	Number of Beds	Length of Stay	Services/Comments	Means of Access
Group Care	I'wa-sil	United Indians of all Tribes	North Seattle	781-8303	12-18	Co-ed	6	Up to 18 months.	Level III group home. Focus on urban, off-reservation Native American youth who have a history of family dysfunction, including physical/sexual abuse and display difficult to manage behavior.	Agency/DCFS referral
	Threshold Phase I	Youth Care	Seattle	262-1288	16-18	Girls	6	12 - 18 months	Residential treatment for severely emotionally/behaviorally disturbed girls. Transition to independent living.	DCFS referral
Transitional Living	I'wa-sil	United Indians of all Tribes	North Seattle	781-8303	16-21	Co-ed	25	2 years	Target Native American and youth of color.	Open referral with screening.
	Severson House	Auburn Youth Resources	Auburn	939-2202	18-20	Co-ed	6	18 months	Independent living	Open referral with screening.
	Jim Harkey Place	Auburn Youth Resources	Auburn	939-2202	18-22	Co-ed	6	18 months	Independent living	Open referral with screening
	Straley House	Youth Care	Seattle	526-9637	18-21	Co-ed	5	18 months	Independent living	Agency referral
Therapeutic Foster Care	CHAPS	Catholic Community Services	King County	323-1950	6-17	Co-ed	20	18 - 24 months	Children with mental health diagnosis who can live in a therapeutic home setting with weekly counseling and case management. Includes in-home care.	DCFS referral
	IMPACT	Boy's Village	King County	789-4440	6-17	Boys	6	18 - 24 months	Disturbed children who have been stabilized and can live in family setting.	DCFS referral
	Bigby House	Friends of Youth	Bothell	228-5776	0-17	Co-ed	4	18 - 24 months	Disturbed youth, pregnant and parenting teens	DCFS referral
	Enumclaw House	Service Alternatives of Washington	Enumclaw	735-8618	8-17	Co-ed	4	12 - 18 months	Dually diagnosed, developmentally disabled, and disturbed.	DCFS referral
	Family Living Program	Friends of Youth	King County	228-5775	10-17	Co-ed	6	18 - 24 months	Disturbed children who have been stabilized and can live in family setting	DCFS referral

Type of Care	Facility Name	Service Provider	Location	Phone Number	Age	Gender	Number of Beds	Length of Stay	Services/Comments	Means of Access
Therapeutic Foster Care	Y - Therapeutic Foster Care	YMCA	King County	382-5340	12-17	Co-ed	20	12 - 18 months	Very disturbed youth	DCFS referral
	Y-CHAPS	YMCA	King County	382-5340	6-17	Co-ed	5	18 - 24 months	Children with mental health diagnosis who can live in a therapeutic home with weekly counseling and care management.	DCFS referral
	Endeavor House	Highline/West Seattle Mental Health	Burien		12-17	Girls	4	12 - 18 months	Disturbed girls. Must have mental health diagnosis	DCFS referral.
Residential Treatment Substance Abuse *	BLAADE	BLAADE	Seattle	781-7220	13-17	Boys	15	60 days (max)	Level I treatment - basic residential. Ages 12 and younger and ages 18-20 may be served with clinic assessment of appropriateness. Targets African American, Latino, and youth of color	Open referral with screening
	Thunderbird	Indian Health Board	Seattle	722-7152	13-17	Co-ed	4	60 days (max)	Level I treatment - basic residential. Ages 12 and younger and ages 18-20 may be served with clinic assessment of appropriateness. Targets Native American.	Open referral with screening
	Lakeside	Lakeside Recovery Center	Bothell	392-8468	13-17	Co-ed	6	60 days (max)	Level I treatment - basic residential. Ages 12 and younger and ages 18-20 may be served with clinic assessment of appropriateness	Open referral with screening
	Ryther	Ryther Child Center	Seattle	525-5050	13-17	Co-ed	13	45 - 90 days	Level II - intensive residential treatment for both substance abuse and mental illness.	Open referral with screening
	Ryther	Ryther Child Center	Seattle	525-5050	13-17			90 days (max)	Recovery house for post residential treatment	Open referral with screening

* Alcohol and Drug 24 Hour Help Line, 722-3700, can provide assistance to gain access

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