

Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Network (RHYPN) Meeting

Meeting Notes for Friday, March 9, 2018, 11:00 a.m. – noon (EST)

Call- in: 877915-6896, Passcode: 5616489

Attendees:

FYSB

- Toyin Akintoye
- Karal Busch
- Ana Cody
- Gloria Watkins

AIR

- John McGah

RHYTTAC

- Tammy Hopper
- Mark Wolf
- TC Cassidy
- Elizabeth Smith
Miller

NRS

- Maureen Blaha
- Katy Walsh
- Gordon Vance

RHY Clearinghouse

- Nina Corin
- John Langan
- Susan Long

MSG Logistics

- Wendy Houston

Agenda (sent in advance)

- Access to the forum and related questions
- Upcoming events and activities
- Shared product – Community Awareness Product(s)
- Begin development of schedule of deliverables and assignments
- Emerging needs

Notes

Kick off and miscellaneous

Tammy kicked off the meeting and referred to the agenda, which had been included in the meeting invitation. The meeting continued with TC facilitating.

Elizabeth shared that, on Feb 15, after the last call, she sent an email to RHYPN members with instructions for accessing the Support Center and Community Forum. A few attendees reported they did not see the email. She resent during the meeting; the sender is FYSB RHYTTAC.

Please check for the email, click the links, and connect with Elizabeth in the event you have any questions or obstacles. Make sure to visit the RHYPN Support Center to access the meeting notes from the RHYPN meeting that took place on Feb. 2 that are posted there.

Ongoing or upcoming events and activities

Participants provided updates on the major projects or events they are working on.

NRS: Just wrapped up a webinar and conference workshop PowerPoint, to be used at four or five conferences scheduled between now and end of fall. A Home Free program description has been updated and THE CLEARINGHOUSE is helping to edit. It will be widely distributed to programs and collaborating agencies as an awareness-raising tool.

RHY Clearinghouse: Working on reconfiguring the Clearinghouse homepage. They are launching a blog and several new features. As Gordon said, they are contributing to the Home Free program description and engaged in various FYSB support measures as well. Preparing a newsletter and some blast emails from the APP group in May for Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. The Report to Congress for FY16-17 is also in progress. The Clearinghouse will be reaching out to partners to request data for that and submitting it on an ongoing basis as sections are completed. The Clearinghouse is also working on a series of human trafficking tools. Karal added that the FY14-15 Report to Congress was just released and approved in January. This report was a 2.5-year process and FYSB hopes that this one is completed more quickly. If you get a call asking for data, please respond quickly.

AIR: Coordinating with Gloria for the upcoming RHYMIS spring data upload. The screen upload tool is launching in May. Vendor testing will take place soon to test an upload of dummy data. They are preparing a grantee pilot for a new RHYMIS dashboard. This pilot will be available to select grantees next week for testing. There will be a training webinar for grantees in April along with updated user guides.

RHYTTAC: Working with FYSB to plan one-day regional meetings in the 10 regions. Meetings will include FYSB updates, training, peer-to-peer sharing, and other topics as needed. TC is the point person for this and is working in coordination with FYSB project officers, regional managers, grantees to establish venues, dates, and more. Dates and locations for three meetings have been determined so far:

- April 5: Dallas, Region 6
- April 20: Atlanta, Region 4
- May 17: Kansas City, Region 7

Planning for the 2018 National RHY Grantees Training is underway. RHYTTAC is looking at themes and identifying keynote speakers to recommend to FYSB leadership. RHYTTACA is currently securing a contract and will announce confirmed dates and location soon. There has been some initial discussion about inviting other groups to the National Training in a limited capacity. More information is needed and the discussion will continue.

MSG Logistics: Introducing a new monitoring instrument to federal project officers and peer monitors. Rolling the tools out through a series of webinars, the last of which is coming up. The webinars are designed to train the peer monitors on the differences between previous onsite monitoring instrument and the new one. They are beta testing the onsite instrument, so people can enter info directly online and Logistics can extract data down the road. They are also developing a Standard Operating Procedure for peer monitoring for federal project officers. They have also finalized a report on rural homeless

youth that will be published soon. They have seven visits scheduled for March and nine for April. The current contract period of performance ends April 21.

FYSB Trafficking: A series of human trafficking products, including an infographic, are being finalized. The products will be disseminated to FYSB grantees through TTA providers. Ana Cody has been asked to share approved language for the products when FYSB is ready for dissemination to proceed.

Shared product – community awareness

RHYTTAC, through FYSB's direction, shared the collaborative product for 2018 will be focused on community awareness: who homeless kids are, what our organizations and partnerships do, raising general awareness of the value of FYSB's RHY Programs.

We need to decide:

- What might the project look like?
- Since year one for this group ends September 30, how do we build on the product in years two and three?
- Completion plans

NRS collects a lot of data and has a lot of contact with families and individuals. They could supply the data for an infographic, white paper, or impact statement. Grantees could disseminate the statement.

RHY Clearinghouse proposed a series of shareable social media posts. Grantees and youth-serving agencies could promote and use them in their own channels. The RHYPN team would share them but grantees could use them to promote who the kids are, the value of the program, and other major themes. The Clearinghouse shared a lot of organizations are strapped for resources and social media is time-consuming. This could help them over that hump.

The question was asked if this product will be distributed directly to the general public, or is it for grantees to distribute through their work locally. The team needs to decide on that, but it will probably be a mixture of both: FYSB will direct RHYPN members after they hear our ideas.

MSG Logistics shared another potential product: an article for NAPS (North American Precip Syndicate), a content syndicator that pushes content out to media outlets with limited capacities looking for content. Potentially hundreds of syndications can result.

AIR has experience with and can possibly engage celebrities for homeless messaging in videos. They will check on whether they have people in their networks. They've had success in the past engaging folks to put videos together, and video is a potentially much greater source for views and engagement than infographics.

RHYTTAC shared the idea to aim for the emotional center of this issue rather than the academic side. One possible approach: a story of three young people side-by-side, enduring homelessness, trafficking, and abuse. As we tell the story through design, we explain why these three are representative of those wider threats. We can explain that these young people aren't out of the norm. They experience the same thing as thousands of others. We might also produce another piece of material about hard-to-

reach youth. It would be impactful if readers experience the stories from a young person's perspective, which brings our services to life. RHYTTAC shared an example of a video ([ReMoved](#)) that informs about foster care on an emotional level and indicated having a video displaying an RHY story might be worth considering (depending on time and resources available to produce).

AIR: There is a recent CD that features homeless youth performing with celebrities. Those tracks would be available for free. John at AIR can share that music and also connect us with another person they work with, an Oscar-nominated editor/producer who might donate his time to work on producing videos such as the one discussed. He'd likely edit and work on it for free.

The Clearinghouse suggested including a call-to-action so people don't feel helpless about the issue and will know what they can do to help.

Begin development of schedule of deliverables and assignments

After the team submits its ideas, RHYTTAC will submit to Angie at FYSB for review and approval. This discussion will be moved to the next call, so we can determine which product we will be undertaking before dividing up responsibilities. Everyone, please think of any additional ideas and about the type of contributions (resources, time, ideas, etc.) you can make and share them on the RHYPN forum. by COB 3/14. RHYTTAC will attach to the notes as an appendix for FYSB review and approval.

Emerging needs

The Clearinghouse needs data and information for the biennial report to Congress. If they reach out to you for help, please send as soon as you can. The timetable for that is forthcoming. Time will be allotted for review from various partners in the network.

There has been a request to move this meeting to the second Friday of the month. That would mean the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 13 at 11 a.m. Update/confirmation to follow from Tammy.

The meeting was adjourned.