

Coordinated Advocacy and Resources for Education (CARE)

NAEHCY Chicago 2017



Objectives

In this session you will learn...

- How LCFF Supplemental and Title I funds can be used to staff a district team
- How one California district developed a team to provide direct service to homeless students
- What kinds of services and supports we offer to our students.

Background and Logistics



Morgan Hill, California

Southern edge of Silicon Valley

Median home price
\$880,000

One of the most expensive
places to live in the US

4 RV “campgrounds”

Many doubled up

Agriculture and ranches





Morgan Hill Unified School District

8,500 students enrolled

Six TK - 5 elementary schools

Two TK - 8 schools

Two middle schools (6 - 8)

Two high schools (9 - 12)

One continuation high school (10 - 12)

One community adult school

300 square miles

600 identified homeless

40% NSLP

... since 1894

Homeless numbers increase in MH and the county

POLICE AND ADVOCATES WORKING ON SOLUTIONS

“...cities such as Morgan Hill, which saw a 379 percent jump...”

San Jose Mercury News, July 2017



...TIMES JULY 14, 2017

City, nonprofit team up for 'safe parking'

← Homelessness, 1

... agrees that there are more homeless. They pointed to the rising cost of housing and rental properties in Morgan Hill and the temporary closure of the Thousand Trails RV Park on Uvas Road west of Morgan Hill as two major factors.

“I think (the numbers for 2017) are pretty accurate. The 81 (homeless people counted in 2015), I think, was pretty low two years ago,” said Bernstein-Chargin, Board President of Gilroy-based Compassion Center that assists homeless throughout South County. “We’re seeing more families becoming homeless, and that means it’s not just one individual but a family of over those two years.

This year, 215 volunteers, service providers and county and city employees conducted the count along with dozens of currently or recently homeless paid guides. Many community and faith-based organizations also assisted with volunteer recruitment to identify census workers.

Donations to the Compassion Center can be made at compassioncenter.org or by visiting its Facebook page. They will also host a Sept. 30 fundraiser at Castillo Hillside Shire Winery in Morgan Hill. Tickets are \$75 each. For information, contact gilroycompassioncenter@yahoo.com.

More homeless living in RVs

One newer trend among homeless—and something that has become more visible in Morgan Hill and Gilroy—is the use of Recreational Vehicles, or RVs, that are parked on the side of roads or in shopping center parking lots. These individuals count as 500

South County. They plan to bring it before the County Board of Supervisors in the coming months. “We want to be able to use nontraditional solutions to provide safe and legal methods to get people back on their feet,” she added.

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Ways to help with homelessness

While the report shows



The Big Idea

One of our Assistant Superintendents went on an accreditation visit to another district

Clovis Unified School District -- Transition Team

Field trip to see Clovis program in March 2016

Adapted to MHUSD needs, structure and staffing

We wound up with something completely different, but works for our district



Defining the Need

40% of our students receive Free or Reduced Lunch (3,000+ students)

Homeless or Foster + poor grades + poor attendance

Homeless or Foster + poor grades + discipline

“We don’t see any homeless people around...”

About 400 students identified as homeless in our Student Information System

Board approval



CA Local Control Funding Formula: Supplemental Dollars

Needs based, targeted funds to support high need students: Foster, EL, low socio-economic (as measured by NSLP)

Homeless is not a category for supplemental funding, but NSLP is. It is important to **direct certify your homeless students for free lunch**. That is the only way they get into the unduplicated count that drives supplemental funding.

The more unduplicated students you report, the greater the funding

Must be accountable for use of funds



Title I Homeless Set Aside Funds

All public schools and districts receiving federal funds **must ensure** that services are provided to children who are experiencing homelessness.

- Tutoring services
- Before/after school, summer programs
- Personal school supplies
- Student fees
- Graduation cap, gown, fees
- Counseling services
- GED, SAT, ACT
- Birth certificates to enroll
- Parent education and engagement
- Transportation



Staffing

Mix of existing and newly-created positions

Classified vs. Certificated positions

Equity staffing -- school counselors



Educating our constituents

The McKinney-Vento definition of "homeless"

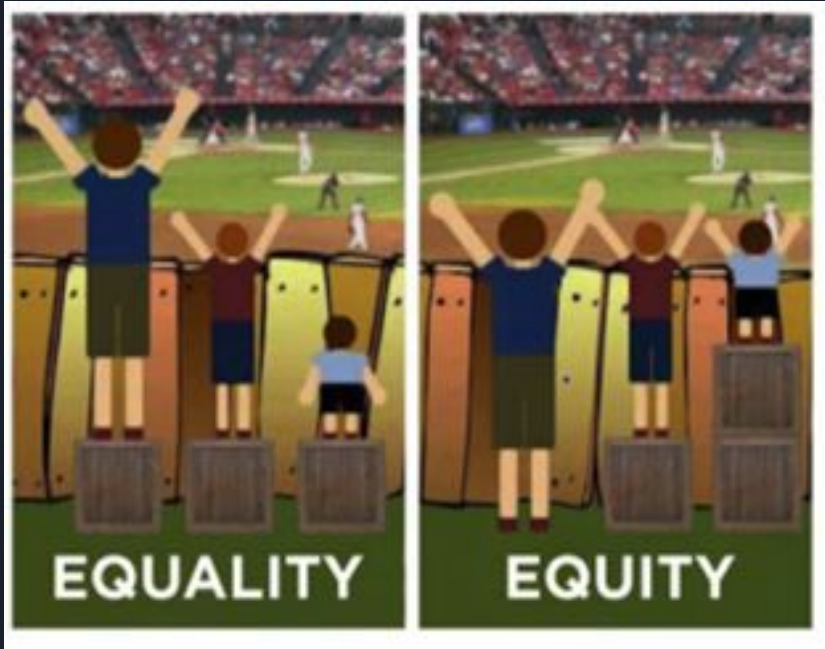
Front office staff

School Board

Public and Community

Teaching staff

Equality vs Equity



The whole purpose of the CARE program is to provide **MORE** support to students who are struggling.



Identifying Partners and Resources

Academic support

Free school lunch

Free school bus transportation when possible


Public transit passes

Food resources, clothing, school supplies

Housing support

Mental Health support

Medical, Dental, Immunizations, etc.



A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for all students





Sustainability

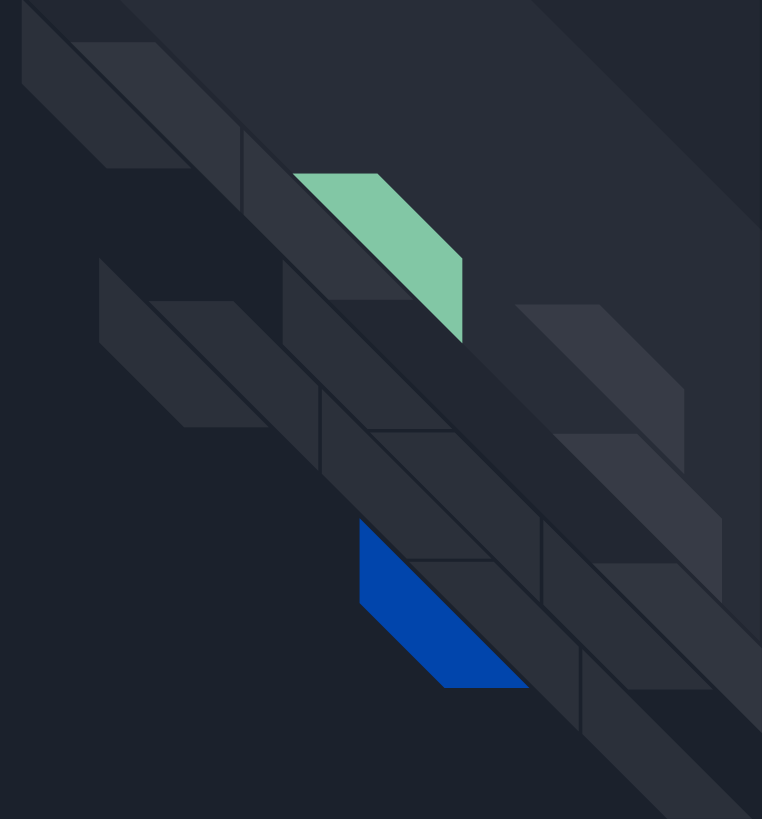
The more students we identify the more we get paid


Grants, local collaboration, donations

Sharing our story and supporting other districts in their efforts

Positive PR, recognition and political support

Team Structure, Roles and Responsibilities





2 Counselors (PPS credential) and 2 Student Support Specialists

1 full time counselor at each of 2 high comprehensive schools

Caseloads - maximum 200 students

1 full time counselor at middle school

Caseload - maximum 200 students


1 full time Lead counselor based at District Office

2 Student Support Specialists at District Office



Student Support Specialists

- 1) Active outreach throughout district community and schools
- 2) Participate in Second Harvest food distribution each month
- 3) My New Red Shoes - received 400 pair with \$50 gift card
- 4) Personally interact with families by calls, home visits
- 5) Support CARE activities on site - AVID, Advisory
- 6) Quickly respond with clothes and necessities upon request
- 7) Part of homeless verification team
- 8) Share accurate information regarding community resources
- 9) Attend community liaison meetings, CARE PLC's
- 10) Part of tutoring program at local RV park once a week
- 11) Tutor/mentor students at high schools and middle school



Using the Student Information System

Homeless identification: registration process through home schools

Identified as Homeless in SIS, with program code, date of origin, type of dwelling, additional comments as needed

Counselors responsible for maintaining accurate documentation in SIS notes, Google docs, and Google calendar for site clientele.

Records reviewed regularly for accuracy and follow up



Challenges in the first year

Year of exploration - counselors were at multiple sites

Program goals and expectations unclear

Counselor's duties did not include academic counseling, rather more support services

Feelings of disenfranchisement, not part of any site or program

Needed direction, boundaries and firm Action Plan and Implementation Timeline

Thousands Trails flood



Data analysis to inform the program

Chronic absenteeism

Grades

Graduation/promotion and/or alternative pathways (various alternative ed graduation requirements)

College and Career

Scholarships

Referrals - mental health services, food resources, health resources, material goods

Successes

Finding Siblings

200 additional students identified

Restructuring team assignments to provide more targeted support

Positive PR





My New Red Shoes

Grant from local non-profit

400 pairs of brand new shoes

\$50 gift card to Old Navy

Helped us find siblings

List can be used for other
donations



100% of Homeless Students will be...

Identified and placed on CARE caseload 6-12

Seen for AB 1802, with parent review and signature

Individually advised for registration process and coursework, with parent review and signature

Reviewed with site and parent input for chronic absenteeism

Evaluated on a regular basis

Identified for 2018 Red Shoes grant

Supported by Mobile Team and Counselors



Current challenges

Little to no documentation in SIS at elementary other than tag of Homeless, type and date.

Yearly validation process needs developing

Site vs. CARE

Same vs. “more”

Communication



Next Steps

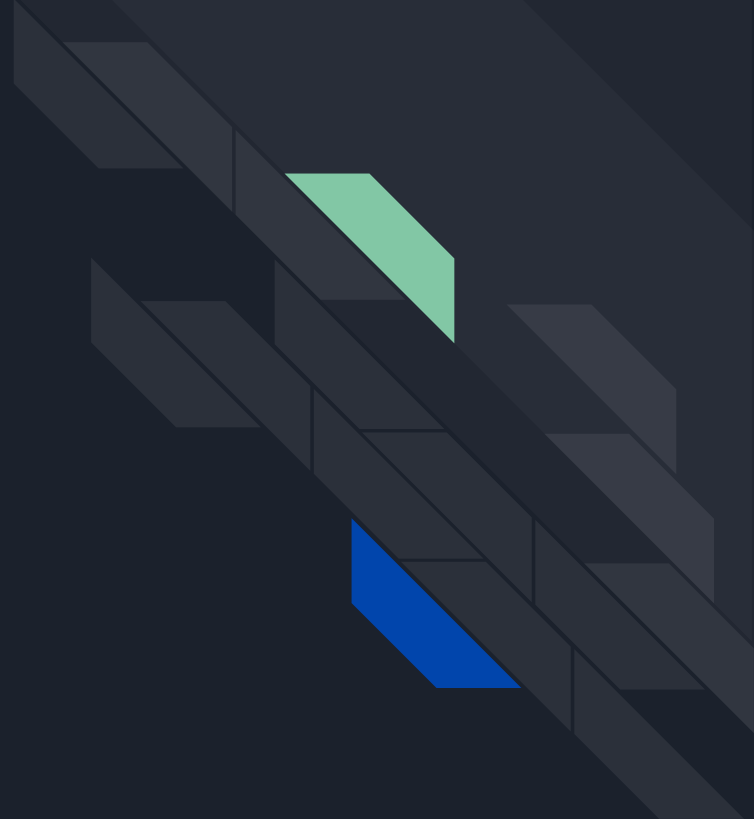
Develop a sustainable process for keeping student records up to date

Consider expansion or redirection of Mobile Team to better support elementary

Work closely with new Family Resource Center to connect 0-5 families with resources

Strengthen partnerships with agencies to supply interns etc.

Questions?





Thank you!

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