



Florida Coalition for the Homeless Annual Conference

October 10, 2019
Orlando, Florida

“One More Quick Question . . .”

How to Handle Common and Unexpected Homeless Education Scenarios

Lorraine Husum Allen
Florida Homeless Education Program



Some Quick Session Outcomes

Better understanding of how to respond to challenges in

- Determining Eligibility
- Removing Barriers to Enrollment
- Meeting Transportation Needs
- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
 - Health Services
 - Birth Certificates
 - Postsecondary Education



A Quick Agenda . . .

- Welcome
- D-DADA
- Scenarios in the Rounds
 - Determining Eligibility
 - Removing Barriers to Enrollment
 - Meeting Transportation Needs
 - Accessing Other Services
 - Health Services
 - Birth Certificates
 - Postsecondary Education
- Evaluations



A Quick Illustrative Skit

From off-off-off Broadway
A Production of HEP Studios

“A Day in the
Life of a State Director”



A Quick Training Strategy

- Describe the process/rules
- Demonstrate the exercise
- Ask if there are any questions
- Do the exercise
- Ask if there are any questions

Describe the Process

- Tables are divided into two groups of four-five tables.
- Facilitators are at each table.
- In each round, each table will consider two scenarios for a common topic; e.g., eligibility.
- Lorraine will identify the tables that will initiate the report out--different tables in each round.

Process

- One table per scenario reports out.
- Reporter waves appropriate prop before reporting out.
 - Director's Clapboard – “Wrap it up, we've got this, it's a go.”
 - Golden Ticket – “We think we got it right.”
 - Shades – “We need another set of eyes.”
- Ask for questions.

Demonstrate the Exercise

- Scenario Facilitation Questions
- What key helpful information is included in the inquiry?
- What other information would you like to have?
- Would you provide additional contextual information or raise any related issues?
- Based on the information provided, what is the best response?

Practice Scenario

I have a question regarding a homeless student in a public charter school. The charter school does not participate in the School Lunch Program; therefore, no student receives a free- or reduced-price lunch. Does the LEA still have to provide lunch to the homeless student? My thought is that food services are comparable services. If the school does not provide lunch to any students, then it would not provide lunch to a homeless student. What are your thoughts?

Do It!

- Table facilitator will distribute first scenario to tables at beginning of each round.
- Rounds will be timed.
- Discuss scenario and response.
- Lift up prop when finished.
- Lorraine selects tables to report out.
- Table reporter will report out.
- Ask for any other comments.
- Start next round.

Group 1 - Eligibility - Scenario 1

- Our transportation director has an address for a student experiencing homelessness and wants to know if there is a way to find out who is renting the property at this address. He reached out to the property holding company. The person he spoke to confirmed that the lease does have language which prohibits visitors/guests for more than 10 days; meaning the family should not be doubled up more than 10 days. He requested a blank lease, just the lease template, but has not received it. The company would also not confirm the name of the lease holder. He was working with his router to find a bus for the student.
- Is this permissible under McKinney-Vento? How should this be addressed? I'm sure I already know the answer, but is this something that he should be doing before establishing transportation for a homeless student? The family is doubled up and I did explain that McKinney-Vento does not require us to dig into where people are living or to contact property managers. I would appreciate any input you can provide on the matter.

Group 2 - Eligibility - Scenario 1

- A family moved to our school district to assist with the parent's mother and sister. The mother and sister are in bad health and the sister is in Hospice. The parent of the children that moved here told me that since they had to move here she is not working and has no income. The family is living with the grandmother. Would this family qualify?

Group 1 - Eligibility - Scenario 2

We have a student who is currently living at a campground. It is my understanding that they are living in a 32' camper, and have paid for an entire year there. However, despite having a lot number, the family receives mail in the front office. The enrollment tech didn't list them as McKinney-Vento eligible, but asked that I review their records. I am truly on the fence about this one... apparently the campground has a number of amenities, so basic needs will be met. In terms of fixed, regular and adequate, this one seems to fit the bill. What do you think?

Group 2 - Eligibility - Scenario 2

- We have two children attending a middle school and a high school in our district. In early 2018, the family was living in County A and were referred to a domestic violence shelter in our county B. The children were enrolled then in our county's (B) schools zoned for the shelter and enrolled in the school district's Families in Transition (FIT) Program. Sometime after that, the family moved into a mobile home owned by the parent back in County A. The children completed the 2017-2018 and the 2018-2019 school years in our county (B) schools.
- In the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, our school district reviewed the residence status of the family and determined that the family had been living in a mobile home that was fixed, regular, and adequate in County A. We learned that the mobile home was in an RV Park, but that the owner of the RV Park had asked the parent to relocate her mobile home. This request was due to a recently changed city zoning ordinance that "residential mobile homes" were no longer permitted to be on site at the RV Park. The parent moved the mobile home to a mobile home site in County A. Although the family still is living in County A, the parent argued that since the mobile home was in an RV park (which is a campground), her children were eligible for MVA services.
- Do you think the district's determination was correct? What options did the parent have at this point?

Group 1 - Enrollment - Scenario 1

Can homeless students who are already enrolled in the school system, but are starting the new school year again as homeless, be excluded from school for not having the required Tdap shot? My first reaction was that they cannot be excluded from school. However, everything that I am finding about shots addresses immediate enrollment. These aren't enrolling students. They were given notice that the shot was required before the start of this school year.

Group 2 - Enrollment - Scenario 1

Question – Our middle schools are calling parents of 7th grade students on the second day of school if they do not have their Tdap. Parents are being asked to come pick their child up from school and not return until they have received the shot. If the school is doing this for all 7th graders, would this be acceptable for our students coded homeless?

Group 1 - Enrollment - Scenario 2

- We have a homeless student registered on July 26th. School starts on August 12th. The student needs a physical. I am working with his parent who has Medicaid and has a late August appointment for her child to get the physical. Does the homeless student get a 30-day extension starting 7/26 or starting 8/12?

Group 2 - Enrollment - Scenario 2

I seem to recall that if we can prove that we have offered to assist parents to obtain updated records and they continue to not get physicals, updated shot records, or copies of birth certificates, are we then able to follow procedures as if they were non-homeless? We have offered bus passes, gas cards, and financial assistance to help parents obtain these items and they are making no effort.

Group 1 - Transportation - Scenario 1

- I need to clarify school of origin and transportation for homeless students during the new school year. Since we are in the beginning of a new school year, does school of origin apply? For example, we currently have a family in shelter who attended XYZ Elementary for the last two months of school last school year. They were not homeless at the time. They became homeless over the summer and are now requesting enrollment and transportation for XYZ Elementary even though the shelter is outside of the attendance zone. Are we obligated to transport in this situation?



Group 2 - Transportation - Scenario 1

- I have a student who attended XYZ High all of last school year. The family became homeless living in a hotel in January of 2019 and we provided transportation to XYZ High as the school of origin from January 2019 through the end of the school year. They are still in the same hotel. Are we obligated to transport again this school year?

Group 1 - Transportation - Scenario 2

- A parent has contacted me regarding transportation for her daughter to attend ABC school, a choice school. Her daughter previously was enrolled at RES since Kindergarten (school year 2014-2015). She was identified as homeless at the beginning of her 2nd grade year (2016-2017) at BES. The student was appropriately coded as homeless, and the student remains homeless and eligible for McKinney-Vento services. ABC school, the choice school, does not provided transportation to non-homeless students. In this situation, how do the transportation and school of origin provisions in McKinney-Vento apply?



Group 2 - Transportation - Scenario 2

- I wanted to clarify with you the law as it pertains to the LEA's responsibility to provide transportation for homeless charter school students to remain in their school of origin. We have a father who has contacted our office requesting assistance with transportation for his 2 students who attend a charter school that is for students with disabilities. Thanks again for your time and direction.


Group 1 - UHY - Scenario 1

I have a student who is 17 and will be 18 years old in a month. She and her mother were displaced by hurricane Michael and her mother is living in another city, while she (the student) is here in our county living with her boyfriend and his mother. When enrolling this student does the mother of her boyfriend enroll her, does she enroll herself, or how do we go about this situation. She hasn't been in school for almost a year and I know she needs to be enrolled ASAP, please help!

Group 2 - UHY - Scenario 1

- As the district's homeless liaison, I have a question concerning the request from the Department of Health (DOH) for my photo I.D. because I certified a 17-year-old student as an Unaccompanied Youth for obtaining his birth certificate. I was not aware of their (DOH) policy for me to produce a photo I.D. I did send a copy of my ABC County School District badge. I also asked the DOH for the name and number of those in Jacksonville requiring the I.D. for the certifying agent (me, the homeless liaison) in the district. I received the following response:

“The department in Jacksonville would be the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the Office of Issuance. The person that I was corresponding with was ... She said it is a requirement with all birth records issued that a valid photo ID be presented. In this case you are the applicant for this child that is being certified as an unaccompanied homeless youth.”

- Is this a new process that  I am not aware of?

Group 1 - UHY - Scenario 2

I had an interesting scenario last week and I am hoping for guidance. With the introduction of SB 7026 and recent action taken by the State Board of Education, our county has hired mental health specialists to be at many of our schools. Last week I received a call from a mental health counselor who is working with a 16-year-old UHY. The parent is not in the picture, but parental rights are intact.

The young man does not speak with his mother and is requesting some counseling. The therapist has left the parent a message on the # we have on file but has not heard back. Is there a way that the therapist can proceed legally without parental consent? I am looking at the UHY Certificate for the Purpose of Accessing Health Services, but want to ensure this will be sufficient or will additional consent be needed?

Group 2 - UHY - Scenario 2

- Here's the situation: Two young women, who are now high school seniors, were determined to be unaccompanied homeless youth about five years back. The mom has been in and out of jail and out of the picture for some time as well as the dad. While initially declared to be UHY a few years ago, the young women have been living with grandma since then and so were deemed to have a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and, therefore, not McKinney-Vento.
- The young ladies are now hoping to apply for federal financial aid, but aren't sure how to go about it. Grandma is low income and doesn't have legal guardianship. We don't think these girls have been formally part of foster care or any other category of independent student. Grandma, due to her lack of legal standing and also low-income status, is unlikely to be able to help with high education expenses, and also can't serve as a parent for FAFSA purposes per the FSA definition of parent (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/resources/fafsa-parent-text>).
- How might these young women proceed in a way that hopefully will be supportive of their higher education aspirations and ability to obtain fed fin aid? Any recommendations you can provide are greatly appreciated!



Questions?



Some Quick Contact Information

Homeless Education Program

325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400
850-245-0479

fldoe.org/policy/federal-edu-programs/title-x-homeless-edu-program-hep.shtml

Lorraine Husum Allen
Program Planner/Analyst
Phone: (850) 245-0723
Lorraine.Allen@fldoe.org

Skip Forsyth
Director
Phone: (850) 245-0089
Skip.Forsyth@fldoe.org

Courtney Walker
Program Specialist
Phone: (850) 245-9946
Courtney.Walker@fldoe.org



A Quick Thanks and Evaluation Reminder

Thank You!

Be sure to complete and submit the session evaluation.