

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2023 WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION FOR HOMELESS AND RUNAWAY SERVICES SUMMIT

United to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness in Wisconsin

September 26-27, Stone Harbor Resort, Sturgeon Bay, WI

Monday

3:00-5:00 Registration in lobby

Tuesday

8:30-9:30 Welcome*
(breakfast provided)

*Includes breakout for
AmeriCorps members

9:30-11:30 Safe Harbor: Building
Protective Responses
for Survivors of Child
Sex Trafficking

11:30-12:30 Breakouts
A: Focus Discussion: WI
Law and Voluntary
Youth Shelter
B: Street Outreach
Practices I*

12:30-1:15 Youth Keynote
(lunch provided)

2:00-4:30 Street Outreach
Practices II*

(or)

2:00-4:30 Identifying Priorities
and Setting Policy Goals

6:30 Dinner, Evening
Awards, Celebration



Wednesday

8:15-9:00

Breakfast

9:00-10:30

Breakouts

A: Client Confidentiality
for Youth Services*

B: Developing Advocacy
Strategies (NN4Y, SHC,
and ABA)

C: Option: Youth Focus
National Runaway
Safeline Updates and
Advocacy Planning and
Awareness discussion
Round Table

10:30-12:00

Discussions (lunch
provided) : Meet up with your
colleagues and peers to
discuss challenges and
solutions in Youth Services

12:00

Vote Riders – Youth
Essential Documents

Access Support

Breakouts

A: Conflict Resolution &
Volunteer Recruitment*

B: AmeriCorps Site

Supervisors meeting

C: Option: Youth Focus

1:00-2:00

2:00 -4:00

Register at [this link](#)

This is a draft agenda, subject to change slightly

Cost: \$250 WAHRS members/\$325 Non-members
Includes all listed meals Breakfast (2), Lunch (2), and dinner (1)

Workshop Descriptions

Safe Harbor: Building Protective Responses for Survivors of Child Sex Trafficking

States have made significant advancements in identifying and responding to child sex trafficking, including through the enactment of critical legislation to support survivors. However, 22 states have failed to provide one of the most fundamental protections for children who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. The lack of Safe Harbor laws results in children being vulnerable to arrest, charges, and prosecution for prostitution offenses; not only does this punish minors for the very crime committed against them, it hinders states' ability to connect impacted young people with the services and care necessary for short term safety and long-term success and healing.

This session will discuss what a successful and effective Safe Harbor response looks like, common barriers to passing legislation and in implementation, and lessons learned to better support lawmakers and advocates who are interested in pursuing legislation that lays the groundwork for and/or builds out protective responses for survivors. This session is geared towards those positioned to impact policy change—lawmakers, legislative aids, agency personnel, and policy advocates. However, we warmly welcome all who are interested in the necessary laws that ensure children are protected, not punished.

Breakout I 11:30 – 12:30

Street and Rural Outreach Practices I (11:30-12:30)

This workshop is appropriate for all youth outreach workers and is required for all WAHRS first year, AmeriCorps members. Objectives will include effective outreach strategies, working from your individual space as an outreach worker, safety for youth and workers, and culturally respectful and informed approaches to youth outreach work in both urban and rural settings.

Adrienne Strelcheck has been a youth outreach specialist in Milwaukee, WI since 2005. Over the last 13 years she has provided outreach services through Pathfinders' Street Beat Program. She got her start in youth care work and Street Beat through AmeriCorps WAHRS service. Adrienne has a background in Art Therapy and Theology from Mount Mary College. She has a passion for providing support and hope to youth who struggle on their journey to adulthood while honoring their resiliency. Adrienne is also passionate about helping new youth care workers get their start with practical skills, boundaries and self-care.

Tanya Nelson currently supervises a runaway, homeless & at-risk youth advocacy program in Superior, WI called Project Reach Out. Project Reach Out provides basic center programming as well as street outreach services. Since 2013 her positions at Project Reach Out have included, a year-long internship, a year serving as a WAHRS AmeriCorps member, three years as the RHY Senior Coordinator and her current position as the supervisor. Tanya

has a background in Human Services from University of WI- Superior and Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College. She enjoys providing supportive services to teens and young adults through her crisis intervention work but realized she has a passion for prevention work as well. Through her position, she has earned a certification as a QPR Suicide Prevention Instructor and a WI State Prevention Specialist IT license.

Focus Discussion: Wisconsin Law and Voluntary Youth Shelter (11:30 to 12:30)

What are the barriers and solutions associated with providing shelter under Wisconsin's statutes 48.227 and 48.9875 as a shelter service providers for youth experiencing homelessness? What does "unaccompanied" minor really mean as defined by 42 USC 11432 McKinney Vento legislation? This focused discussion among agency professionals will offer an opportunity to dive into the actual language and requirements of these statutes to allow agencies and communities to develop policies and procedures that will allow an appropriate legal response to the challenges of voluntary shelter provision to youth in Wisconsin. This discussion will also be used to guide additional work in identifying priorities and setting policy goals and developing Advocacy Strategies later in this conference. The purpose of this session will not be to provide a legal opinion on the reviewed statutes; however, it will allow agencies an opportunity to support each other in developing their practices and policies.

Youth Keynote Speaker: Rachel Litchman

Rachel Litchman (racheldl.com) is a disabled artist, writer, and member of the Dane County Youth Action Board in Madison, Wisconsin and a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a BA in Gender & Women's Studies and Sociology with a certificate (minor) in Health Humanities. Her artistic work is rooted firmly in her identities as a queer, disabled survivor of child sexual abuse and her commitment to bringing awareness to silenced and stigmatized issues faced broadly by the disability community through personal narrative and research-based storytelling. She will share from her experiences as a disabled survivor of sexual violence who navigated the healthcare system largely on her own as a homeless and formerly homeless youth. Rachel was recently recognized by the National Safe Place Network for the Youth in Action Award. She is a 2023 alum of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) summer internship program where she worked with the National Disability Rights Network. She also serves on the National Runaway Safeline's Youth Advisory Board. Her extensive list of articles and narratives have been published by the Washington Post, The Century Foundation, The Nib, Capitol Times, and many more. She a national partner in supporting the efforts of Youth Collaboratory, National Runaway Safeline, and other agencies addressing the rights and needs of young people experiencing homelessness.

Breakout II

Street Outreach Practices II

Required for first year WAHRS AmeriCorps members and appropriate for all youth outreach workers, continue the work from the morning's session with additional resources, scenarios, and sharing of practices in rural and urban settings.

Identifying Priorities & Setting Policy Goals (National Network for Youth, Schoolhouse Connection and American Bar Association)

In this session, attendees will learn about key issues and barriers impacting youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. Presenters will review recently enacted state laws aimed at addressing some of the barriers and the work involved in achieving those reforms. Attendees will then engage in a discussion to identify barriers and gaps facing Wisconsin youth. By the end of the session, attendees will have collectively developed a list of policy goals to guide the follow up session on advocacy strategies. Attendees will also leave the session with resources from national experts.

Breakout III

Confidentiality in Youth Services

Confidentiality for youth and families is governed by legislation, agency policies, and ethical considerations. Knowing what is ok to share and with whom is an essential skill requirement of professional youth workers. This workshop is a requirement for first year AmeriCorps WAHRS AmeriCorps members and appropriate for all professionals who want to better understand the complexity of confidentiality in working with young people experiencing homelessness.

Julie Bock holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin where she completed her bachelor's degree in social welfare and psychology. She also holds certificates in women's studies as well as trauma intervention. She is a graduate of the CDC's Institute for HIV Prevention Leadership as well as the Executive Leadership Institute from the University of Michigan. She has been an active member of the National Association of Social Workers for over 25 years. Ms. Bock is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker by the state of Wisconsin and currently is an Adjunct Lecturer at both the UWM Helen Bader School of Social Welfare as well as the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work at UW-Madison. Ms. Bock has a deep understanding of both leadership as well as management philosophy and practice which allows her to share her expert knowledge of public health education, child welfare, homelessness, gender and sexuality, LGBTQ+ populations, cultural humility, and opportunity youth subject matter. Additionally, over 15 years of nonprofit administration gives her expertise in building and support of staff teams; federal, state, and local funding processes; program design, monitoring & evaluation; and translation of research into practice. Ms. Bock is a community leader and has led nonprofit boards, community councils/coalitions, and initiatives locally, regionally, and nationally.

Developing Advocacy Strategies (National Network for Youth, Schoolhouse Connection, American Bar Association)

Attendees will hear from national experts on strategies and lessons learned from advocacy efforts in Wisconsin and beyond. Attendees will work together to develop an advocacy strategy for at least two policy goals. You will also leave this session knowing what your role is in advancing the advocacy strategy in the short and long-term, who else should be involved, potential pitfalls to avoid, and the resources that will be needed to ensure your success.

Vote Riders - Youth Essential Documents Access Support

VoteRiders is a national, non-partisan resource to obtain accurate information about Voter ID requirements, as well as practical, legal, and financial support if you need it. This session is appropriate for youth, outreach and direct service workers, and youth service professionals who want to learn more about removing barriers to accessing vital documents in Wisconsin.

Conflict Resolution and Volunteer Management

Presented by UW Madison Social Work Adjunct Professor, Julie Bock (bio above), this two part workshop will provide important resources for AmeriCorps members in their year of service in the community. Conflict resolution is an important professional skill in working with families, co-workers, and community members. This workshop will provide tools and resources to support members and youth service professionals in managing the conflicts that arise in our community work. Volunteer management and supervision will provide tools and considerations to creating an impact through volunteers in your agency.

AmeriCorps Supervisor Breakout Session

Wondering what in-kind match is exactly? How do document it? How can you create a meaningful year of service for your members that will support retention and build your program? Bring your questions for this one on one breakout with WAHRS staff and experienced supervisors.

Option: Youth Focus

While these workshops have not been determined, at this time we are holding space at our event during multiple breakout sessions to allow youth to engage in ways that are meaningful to them during the conference. If you have ideas for this and want to be involved, please reach out to shanadumbleton@gmail.com or joli@wahrs.org