A Unified Response for Minor Youth Experiencing Homelessness
This workshop is for you if ...

- You either suspect or know there are unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness in your community,
- You provide services to these young people, or
- You wish your agency had more capacity to meet the needs of these young people.
Youth Goal:
- Prevent and end homelessness among unaccompanied youth by the end of 2020

Strategy:
- Ensure an appropriate response for older minor youth who are homeless

Actions:
- Build authority and capacity to assist older minors (age 15 - 17) who are homeless
- Design and establish a response system to meet the specific needs of older minor youth who are homeless
Minor Connect

Develop a pilot program
Find common ground
Have hard conversations

Diagram:
- Youth
- Tribe
- State
- County
- Shared interests
- Community providers
- Tribal providers
Minor Connect

• Child protection is changing how it works with youth opening up new pathways to meet the needs of youth

• Can incorporate best practices within child welfare with best practices within homeless youth services

• Create a response owned jointly by the state, tribe, county and nonprofits
Access to mental health assessments
Community Responses

9 evidence-based, guiding principles to help youth overcome homelessness

- Journey Oriented
- Trauma-Informed
- Non-Judgmental
- Harm Reduction
- Trusting Youth-Adult Relationships
- Strengths-Based
- Positive Youth Development
- Holistic
- Collaborative
START

15-17 year old homeless risk of homelessness

Receive Report

Additional Safety Concerns?

Other safety concerns

Initiate Investigation

Open CP Case

Homelessness risk of homelessness only safety concern

Minor Connect
Minor Connect

Hennepin County Navigators

1. Identify Existing Resources
2. Collaborate with Current Provider
3. Determine Needed Resources
4. Provide Services
5. Youth, Navigator Community Case Manager meeting
   - Emphasize Voluntary Youth-Driven Services
   - Youth Preference Contract Requirements
6. Refer to Community Case Manager
Minor Connect in action
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Youth referred to Minor Connect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Youth who worked with a Navigator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Youth who worked with a community provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Youth exited from Minor Connect</td>
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## The Numbers (2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing at Entry</th>
<th>Housing at Exit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45 couch hopping</td>
<td>13 reunited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 shelter</td>
<td>11 living with friend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 living with parents</td>
<td>10 living with relative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 transitional living program</td>
<td>2 site-based permanent housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 outside without shelter</td>
<td>5 other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 other</td>
<td>5 unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideas</td>
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<td>------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Check-Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Build Community among Homeless Minors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secure Housing without Parental Involvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify Schools with Part-Time Status</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase Viability of Family Reunification</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase Youth Worker Accessibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase Host Home Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stronger Agency to Agency Relationships</td>
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</table>
What have we learned?

• Taking risks together requires trust
• Change by degrees allows new relationships to develop
• Even small amounts of funding can create opportunity
What can you do right now?

- Quantify how many unaccompanied youth under age 18 are experiencing homelessness in your community
- Breakdown the number by demographics
- Connect your community to your county and your county to your community
- Connect with your Continuum of Care regional coordinator
DHS is available to consult
Thank you!

Paul can connect you with any of today’s presenters if you wish more information.

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