Big Journeys; Small Steps: Taking Early Childhood Education to the Next Level

Washoe County School District- Reno, NV

Jenny Espeland- Homeless Liaison
Megan Bronk- Early Childhood Pre-K Teacher
Agenda

- ECE Homeless statistics
- Emphasis through ESSA
- Collaboration/ connections
- Effects of Homelessness
- WCSD experiences
- Interview videos
51% of all homeless individuals are under the age of 6; 8% are served in an early childhood program.

24,139,090
Total population under 6 years old

1,211,348
Number of children under 6 identified as homeless

1 in 20 children
Early Childhood Homelessness in Nevada

Total population under 6: 214,028

Identified as homeless: 16,068

1 in 13 children in Nevada experience homelessness

7% are served in an ECE program

Washoe County School District
Every Child, By Name And Face, To Graduation™
Early Childhood Homelessness in Illinois

944,173
Total population under 6

49,305
Identified as Homeless

1 in 19 experience homelessness

10%
Served in an ECE program
ESSA & Early Childhood Education

State McKinney-Vento plans must describe procedures that ensure that homeless children have access to public preschool programs administered by the SEA or LEAs.

Liaisons must ensure access to Head Start

Preschools are included in the school of origin definition.

Liaisons must ensure access to Head Start, early intervention (IDEA Part C), and other preschool programs administered by the LEA
ESSA & Early Childhood Education - Strategies

Facilitate enrollment: include homelessness in needs assessments and priorities; put McKinney-Vento families at the top of waiting lists; provide enrollment forms on-site at shelters and motels.

Expedite records by working together: joint release forms; share records within a family.

Develop joint/streamlined procedures and forms: joint intake forms; provide uninterrupted services as children move.

Work with families and providers to meet school of origin and comparable transportation requirements appropriately for young children.

Cross-train preschool, school, and service providers.
Cole
Barriers that Affect Homeless Children and Youth's Education

- Unable to meet enrollment requirements
- Poor health, fatigue, and hunger
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of school supplies and clothing
- Lack available slots for all eligible children
- Stereotypes and lack of awareness
- High Mobility

- Lack of parent or guardian
Why Should You Collaborate

Because you have to! (thank you ESSA)

Over 80% of all homeless children under 6 do not have the privilege to go to school

Consistency in education helps overcome academic barriers
Who Should You Collaborate With?

- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Public Pre-Ks
- School District Pre-Ks
- Child Find
- Community Agencies
Effects of Homelessness on Preschoolers

- 75% - at least one major developmental delay
- 40% - two or more major developmental delays
- More than half of all homeless preschoolers tested were at or below the first percentile for speech
- 35% - emotional or behavioral problems
  - Cry more easily
  - Intense reactions to “minor events”
  - Anxiety
  - Withdrawal
  - Aggression and hostility
  - Hoarding of food and possessions
EOW Vocabulary Scores

Student A

Student B

Student C

Pre Score

Post Score
Building a Team

- Bus driver
- School Counselor
- Family
- Teacher
- Liaison
One Teacher’s Journey: Liaison

**Scenario:** Pre-K teacher is meeting with parents for parent teacher conferences. She is trying to find the best way to meet with a family that live at the shelter and do not have transportation. The teacher is also trying to make contact with the family, who she does not see because the student is transported by bus and the family does not have a personal phone.

**Question:** Who can the teacher collaborate with and get help from? How can they work together to communicate with the family, as well as arrange a conference? What is the best case scenario?
Personal Experience
One Teacher’s Journey: Kitchen Manager

**Scenario:** Students experiencing homelessness, living at a shelter are in Pre-K all day and need breakfast and lunch at school.

**Question:** How can the teacher, school kitchen manager, and other school personnel collaborate to ensure students are receiving meals at school? What is the best case scenario?
Personal Experience
Scenario: A Pre-K student and her family are living in a hotel and need assistance with meals. The school counselor works with a local food bank that provides food for the weekends to students in need. The family has to pick the food up from the school, but do not have transportation.

Question: How can the school counselor, teacher, and family collaborate to find a solution for getting food to the family? What is the best case scenario?
Personal Experience
One Teacher's Journey: Bus Driver

**Scenario:** A four year old boy is picked up at the family shelter at 6:30 am by school bus. He is taken to school where his teacher is waiting for him to be dropped off at 7:00.

**Question:** How can the teacher and bus driver collaborate to provide a successful and positive morning routine for this child? What is the best case scenario?
Personal Experience
## Communication Log

### Student: [Name]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother:</th>
<th>Jessica</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell #:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work #:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Communication:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Person:</th>
<th>Method:</th>
<th>Concern:</th>
<th>Notes:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>mom</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Behavior</td>
<td>Friday Folder, note folder - picture day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>mom</td>
<td>Phone Call, Note Home Meeting</td>
<td>Academic Routines, Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>mom</td>
<td>Email Phone Call Note Home Meeting</td>
<td>Behavior Academic Routines, Other</td>
<td>Fall Conference - check in, additional resource</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>mom</td>
<td>Email Phone Call Note Home Meeting</td>
<td>Behavior Academic Routines, Other</td>
<td>Bus schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>mom</td>
<td>Email Phone Call Note Home Meeting</td>
<td>Behavior Academic Routines, Other</td>
<td>Holiday needs food/christmas, holiday school schedule</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Communication Log

### Date: | Person: | Method: | Concern: | Notes: |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>mom</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Behavior Academic Routines, Other</td>
<td>Update on holiday resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>mom</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Behavior Academic Routines, Other</td>
<td>Holiday schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 15</td>
<td>mom</td>
<td>Email Phone Call Note Home Meeting</td>
<td>Behavior Academic Routines, Other</td>
<td>Check in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 12</td>
<td>mom</td>
<td>Email Phone Call Note Home Meeting</td>
<td>Behavior Academic Routines, Other</td>
<td>School Schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>mom</td>
<td>Email Phone Call Note Home Meeting</td>
<td>Behavior Academic Routines, Other</td>
<td>Check in, new shoes, other needs?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>mom</td>
<td>Email Phone Call Note Home Meeting</td>
<td>Behavior Academic Routines, Other</td>
<td>Spring calendar events, spring conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/2</td>
<td>sister &amp; mom</td>
<td>Email Phone Call Note Home Meeting</td>
<td>Behavior Academic Routines, Other</td>
<td>New contact info: call phone number, call hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/31</td>
<td>mom</td>
<td>Email Phone Call Note Home Meeting</td>
<td>Behavior Academic Routines, Other</td>
<td>Spring conference</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you!!!!!!

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Happy Sunday