Youth Subcommittee Minutes
February 19th, 2026 3:30-5 PM

Present: Jim Perlaki, Melissa Shilling, Angel Wilkins, Daniel Klink, Ashley Sellnow, Jenn Rogers, Ben Moe, Lakena Hammond, Anton Moungkhoun, Luce Abela, Penny Denis, Nicole Gittinger, Alyssa Kauppila, Allison Mortl, Sarah Carstens, Tay Herron, Rhonda Pagel, Windy Badder, Shyanne Rickley, Savannah Eldridge, Sarah Dye, Grant Card, Gretchen Spedowske, Linda Beemer, Heather Burley, Emma Lentini, Irma Lopez Barajas, Lynn Nee, Colleen Cartwright, Joy Williams, Logan Snider, Pam Cornell-Allen

I. **Welcome.** Logan S. welcomed everyone, led introductions and shared the consensus statement and community agreements.

II. **Updates.**

New Youth Co-Chair - Pam C-A. shared that Logan S., Youth Advisory Board Member, is the new youth co-chair for the Subcommittee. Jim P. from Reach Resource Services is the other co-chair. For the next year, they will work together to plan and lead the monthly meetings.

Notice of Funding Opportunity & YHDP Funding - Pam C-A. updated that all outreach/ navigation projects under Michigan State Housing Development Agency were submitted for renewal. Three of 5 housing projects (Community Action Agency, Thumb Region Youth Partnership and Northeast Community Services Agency) have extensions until 2027 so no action was needed for the FY25 cycle. Community Action Alger Marquette (including their subrecipient Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action Agency) submitted for renewal. As long as the current court order remains in effect, it is anticipated that renewals will be processed. The FY26 NOFO must be issued no later than June 1st with awards announced no later than December 1st.

Foster Youth to Independence Vouchers - Lynn N. noted that of the 53 vouchers received, 15 youth have been leased up. The program is expanding into counties that border the Balance of State. MSHDA is starting quarterly FYI meetings (like office hours) for sharing and trouble-shooting. Parkwest Foundation is hosting a webinar on FYI vouchers next week but neither MSHDA nor Michigan Department of Health & Human Services are involved.

YHDP projects - Daniel K. reported that Community Action Agency housed 3 youth in the last week. They now have at least one youth housed through Rapid ReHousing in every county but are still working on Transitional Housing.

For Thumb Region Youth Partnership, Melissa S. commented that 7 youth have been pulled for Housing Choice Vouchers and 1 for a FYI voucher (with an additional 2 youth on the waitlist). They also launched a feedback survey for participants and already have a couple of responses.

Tay H. from 8Cap said they are having more engagement with youth in Gratiot County. After attending the upcoming diversion training, he would like to present about engagement and

outreach strategies to the Subcommittee. Rhonda P. added that they have 6 youth enrolled in outreach with one exiting to FYI. Another was just issued a voucher.

III. **Lighthouse Youth Homeless Systems Improvement.** Colleen Cartwright from Lighthouse introduced the YHSI project, a 10-county initiative based in Oakland County that received close to $1.5M in funding. (BOS counties encompassed in the YHSI project are Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac, Shiawassee and Lapeer.) YHSI objectives are building a youth action board, establishing regional committees, collecting and using data and improving coordination across homeless assistance projects. The Lighthouse project aims to create a more coordinated system of care for youth experiencing homelessness through cross-sector partnerships, improved data collection and use and coordinated entry policy and practice improvement. Accomplishments and activities so far include establishment of a 5-member Youth Advisory Board (paid as employees), focus groups and interviews and engaging community partners. There is regular communication and collaboration with another YHSI project in out Wayne and Monroe counties.

IV. **Goal: Increasing access to services for youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in the BOS through Michigan 211.** Jim reminded everyone about the MIBOSCOC's existing relationship with Michigan 211 for afterhours support. This partnership provides a foundation for expanded collaboration to increase youth's access to resources in the BOS. In prior conversations, Emma Lentinni from 211 has acknowledged some of the limitations, including a lack of resources, but also expressed a willingness to work together for improvements. In recent months, the Subcommittee has identified three objectives (ensuring the full continuum of services/ resources are included in 211, enhancing 211 search functionality and increasing awareness of 211 among youth and youth providers) and some initial strategies and action steps. Ad hoc committees focused on each objective will meet in March and April during the Subcommittee's regular meeting time. All Subcommittee members will be asked to join one of the ad hoc groups. Jim asked for volunteers to help champion the objectives and lead an ad hoc committee. Lakena and Melissa offered to be champions. One more champion is needed.

V. **Next Steps & Closing.** Logan S. closed out by announcing that the next meeting, will be held on March 19th. Attendees are encouraged to invite additional people who they believe should be at the table.

MIBOSCOC Youth Subcommittee 2026 Calendar

January 15, 2026	**Education & Employment** Youth and Young Adults (YYA) are connected to opportunities to fulfill their education and employment goals and youth experiencing homelessness while in school are connected to appropriate services. Objective 3.1 - Youth Navigators connect YYA to educational and trade opportunities. Objective 3.2 - Youth Navigators connect YYA to employment opportunities
February 19, 2026	**Stable Housing** YYA are provided immediate access to their choice in housing without pre-conditions and are supported while in housing. Objective 1.1 - Increase the supply of housing in order to provide options to youth for low-barrier options that center youth choice and need. Objective 1.2 - Youth Navigators successfully connect young people to their choice of housing and support them while in housing.
March 19, 2026	**Permanent Connections/ Social & Emotional Wellbeing** Young people are connected with people and programs outside of the homeless response system to help them gain permanent connections that help them thrive in their community. Objective 2.1 - YYA are connected to opportunities to support one another through peer mentorship and YAB participation. Objective 2.2 - YYA receive supportive services and opportunities for personal development outside of the homeless response system.
April 16, 2026	Education & Employment
May 21, 2026	Stable Housing
June 18, 2026	Permanent Connections/ Social & Emotional Wellbeing
July 16, 2026	Education & Employment
August 20, 2026	Stable Housing
September 17, 2026	Permanent Connections/ Social & Emotional Wellbeing
October 15, 2026	Education & Employment
November 19, 2026	Stable Housing
December 17, 2026	Permanent Connections/ Social & Emotional Wellbeing