

Buffalo McKinney-Vento Workshop | November 15, 2017

Session Descriptions

First Block of Sessions (9:00 – 11:00)

McKinney-Vento Overview for New Liaisons, School District Administrators & Staff, and Service Providers (Avant Ballroom)

Presented by: Michelle Frank, NYS-TEACHS

Are you new to the McKinney-Vento Liaison role, or looking to refresh your knowledge? Are you a school administrator, school staff member, or local service provider who works with students in temporary housing? Join us for an overview of McKinney-Vento, with an eye toward navigating some of the most common situations and conversations. This session will review the definition of homelessness and core services provided under the McKinney-Vento Act, including immediate enrollment, transportation, free meals, and Title I services. The session will also provide an opportunity to learn and practice creative strategies for identifying and supporting students who qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Updates for Experienced McKinney-Vento Liaisons (Encore Ballroom)

Presented by: Jennifer Pringle, NYS-TEACHS

NY State Education Law § 3209 was amended in April 2017 to reflect the changes made to the McKinney-Vento Act under ESSA. This session will provide information about the new laws, regulations, and related guidance, addressing: McKinney-Vento eligibility, expanded liaison responsibilities, school selection and best interest determinations, transportation protections and reimbursement, access to preschool, the dispute resolution process, supporting unaccompanied youth, and additional topics.

Second Block of Sessions (11:15 – 12:30)

Supporting College Access (Avant Ballroom – I)

Presented by: Tiffany Rush, On Point for College

The recent changes to the McKinney-Vento Act now require that school districts provide college counseling and college readiness supports for students experiencing homelessness. This session will provide strategies for how districts can meet these new requirements and explore how to better support students experiencing homelessness in accessing higher education.

Helping Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Navigate the Needs and Wants of Daily Life

(Avant Ballroom – II/III)

Presented by: Judith Gerber, Attorney, Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo

Unaccompanied homeless youth want the same simple things that other teenagers do: a driver's license, a first job, maybe a latte at Starbucks. They also need access to safe housing, three square meals (at least), and medical, dental, and mental health care. This session will explore the laws and legal principles in New York State that impede or help homeless minors such as:

- the concept of emancipation, parental consent requirements and confidentiality rules
- access to essential and meaningful documents (e.g. birth certificates)
- access to medical care and government benefits

Taking a Trauma-Sensitive Approach with Students and Families (Encore Ballroom)

Presented by: Arijia Linauts, NYS-TEACHS with guest, Victoria Gashlin, Gorham-Middlesex CSD (Marcus Whitman)

Students in temporary housing often face challenges that go beyond everyday stress and cross the line into toxic stress and trauma. These experiences can significantly affect a person's brain, body, and behavior, but can also be mitigated by using a trauma-sensitive approach. This session will discuss the effects of trauma as well as the concept of trauma-sensitivity. Additionally, we will be joined by guest, Victoria Gashlin, from Gorham-Middlesex CSD for an "on the ground" look at what trauma-sensitivity can look like within a school district.