

BPC Minutes – May 20, 2015

Attendance: Jeremy Turner, Mary Jones, Phil Smith, Michael Butler, Laura Alvarado, Courtney Purnell, Dr. Aaron Kalinowski, Samantha Spergel, Sandy Jeffers, Christy Shepard, Leslie Kelly, Julia Kathary, Crystal Haslett, Betsy Whaley, Paul Harris, Stephanie Phillips-Tompkins

AGENDA

Welcome and Introduction

Phil introduced the Fall Creek View apartments and gave background on the building. Members went around and introduced themselves.

Minutes

Leslie motioned to accept the minutes. Mary seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

Community Education

Christy said work has been focused on legislation at the City-County Council. She added that Joan emailed earlier in the week that the Central Library secured filmmaker Mark Horvath to discuss homelessness.

Members expressed testimony about interacting with Mr. Horvath.

- Dr. Kalinowski said that Mr. Horvath has an extremely inspirational story. He travels around the world and interviews homeless people. He's really led the way with social media to create activism around homelessness.
- Laura mentioned that Mr. Horvath did some work with School on Wheels. Worked closely with development director and to collaboratively approach homelessness.

Michael said CHIP gave Joan and Matt the tables from the Point-in-time count. The committee will look at data and figure out narrative based on numbers at June meeting. Date has not been set for early June meeting.

Filmmakers /Media

Leslie said Horizon House was contacted by filmmakers. Leslie wondered if anyone else had been contacted.

Julia said Matt Holland reported at the last Community Education and Public Policy committee meeting about a photographer who was telling story about homelessness.

Christy mentioned that CHIP had been contacted previously.

Phil mentioned that he wrote and submitted an op-ed about Housing First. It appeared online. I was able to respond to some of the comments to clarify the point of the article. You can find the article by searching 'Housing First' on the Indy Star website.

Housing and Services

Michael said The Housing Task Force meets 4th Tuesday of each month. And also gave a brief introduction on meeting items discussed:

- How do we better engage IHA in our efforts to get people housed?
 - Phil met with Bud.
- Housing committee has also discussed would be interested in inviting Mayoral candidates to discuss homelessness. Have not tightened any details on that. Would like to do it sometime before Fall.

Discussion with IHA

Phil has sat down with Bud Myers of IHA and gave his impression of the meeting with IHA. There will not be a policy change in short run. IHA does not see itself as a policy organization, but see themselves as housing provider.

Transitional Housing Workgroup

Sandy said the Transitional Housing meets the first Monday of every month.

Discussion about Transitional Housing:

Betsy presented a series of discussion topics that are being discussed at the committee.

- How do we rank projects if transitional housing is not a HUD priority and what does that look like moving forward?
- If we come up with solutions, who is body to take those suggestions too?
- Christy – our community ranked low on HUD's priorities because how we rank transitional housing. When they say transitional housing for special populations, we need to clarify who HUD is discussing.
- Jeremy – HUD's priorities are permanent supportive housing for chronic homeless and rapid rehousing for families. We've asked existing transitional housing project to switch to rapid rehousing projects. Some projects are looking at that switch.

Planning and Investment

Mary said planning and investment committee met two weeks ago. Committee will meet Wednesday, May 27. The meeting will cover the reallocation process. Jeremy will send an email out.

Support Services

Laura discussed that her committee is analyzing the nine township areas and looking at what services exist and what those gaps look like. The group established specific goals and outlines for March and currently has 7-10 active members and those members are clustered into township workgroups. Our next steps are connecting with different organizations that are working with homeless. Those organizations would take a survey and then pass along to constituents. The end goal would be to release data and strategize to provide better services. Laura has been meeting regularly with others to create a survey, which is close to being finished. The larger task force will weigh in on survey. HIP is coming on board to do street outreach on all townships and the survey will be in electronic and paper format. Surveys to be delivered in September and we will strategize in December.

Discussion about how many townships can be completed

Christy asked if covering nine townships is doable?

Laura said nine townships will be difficult to complete and that there are currently six townships covered.

Leslie asked which townships?

Laura said Center, Warren, Wayne, Washington, Pike, and Lawrence are currently covered.

Mary mentioned she has an intern who could help cover another townships, but would also help with collecting and compiling the survey.

Motion to complete six townships

Christy made a motion to move to six townships.

Mary seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The task force will do six townships and then move on to cover the last three in the second phase of the project.

Coordinated Access

Christy mentioned that the group will meet in a week or two to assess the data collected during the first phase of coordinated access. The one problem found is: the survey is not capturing how successful people were in getting services. So the next steps are to capture that and get a better idea of the flow of assessment to getting in to services.

Jeremy informed the council on the upcoming meeting to discuss reallocation, which has become a priority for his group. The committee has looked at innovative ways to reallocate the money, but have not come up with a solution. He invited everyone to attend the upcoming joint committee meeting with PATA.

Phil said new projects are being brought in. It would be impossible to fund those projects without reallocation.

Members discussed what reallocation would look like and the rationale for reallocation.

Mary said on average our CoC returns too much money. We have returned on average \$600,000 each year for the past 12 years.

Phil said that, based on information gained at the recent CSH conference, some cities have flexible rental assistance, which is something as a continuum we could push for. It saves us money to get people in to housing. Phil added that he was impressed by a couple of communities which he saw at the CSH conference.

Program Application and Technical Assistance

Christy mentioned a document in the members' packets, which showcased the talking points during the presenter and ranker trainings. Christy then discussed the steps for reallocation and that there was around \$400,000 currently on the table for reallocation to new projects. The applications for new projects will be reviewed for threshold.

Election Schedule

Phil said the Blueprint Council will be holding elections for first time since forming and that they are looking to put together a committee. A majority of those on the committee cannot be on the Blueprint Council, according to the Governance Charter. Michael Butler and Phil will contact those folks. The elections to elect a new chair and vice chair will be held in October.

Mary asked which seat rotates off?

Phil said two members at-large, one direct homeless service provider, formerly homeless person, McKinney-Vento liaison, healthcare institutional provider, and committee chairs. Committees elect their own chairs – committees will go through process and new Blueprint Council members will be seated in January.

Members discussed when elections should take place.

Phil said elections for committee chairs should take place in November or December.

Other people to add?

Christy said CHIP has been approached a few times to have a faith-based provider.

Betsy added that it would be important to have more integration.

Mary said faith-based providers can sit in the members at-large spots and could really sit in any spot.

It was also discussed to add IHA to the council.

Engagement Center

Christy gave a rundown of recent additions to the Engagement Center. She said Val and Margie are committed to making the engagement center a therapeutic process and if you have any questions you can contact them.

Restoration Center

Mary said there will be a de-briefing session for the Restoration Center before presenting their findings with the general public. She added that there have been preliminary discussions with Judge Crawford to establish a mental health court.

Celebration

Christy said CHIP has decided to invite the Mayoral candidates to speak on the issues of homelessness at the upcoming Celebration in September. Sandy and Leslie thought it would be a wonderful presentation and very powerful.

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:36.