

Indianapolis Continuum of Care

Making homelessness in Indianapolis rare, short-lived and recoverable

Community Education and Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2016 3pm @HIP

Present: Matt Holland, Joan Harvey, Lindsay Leonhard, Fredrick Crawford, Emmy Hildebrand, Lena White, Jeri Warner, Amy Nelson, Courtney Glover, Jen Hunt, Kevin Hillman, Jennifer Coffey, Zachary Alexander, Mike Mooney, Michelle Winfield, Chuck Kern and Cynthia Cunningham of *Community Solutions*

- Jen gave an update on the Spirit and Place event coming up November 4-13. Spirit and Place is sponsored by the Polis Center and each year has a theme – this year’s theme is “Home”. The intent of the festival is to create awareness and civic engagement. CHIP is planning both a film event and a workshop called “A Place to Call Home” which will be held November 10 from 9-3 at the Interchurch Center. This will be a kick-off event for Blueprint 3.0 and hopefully will attract new people and new perspectives. The speaker will be Dennis Culhane, a professor at the School of Social Policy and Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Culhane's primary area of research is homelessness and assisted housing policy. He has recently focused on veterans, youth and the aged population among people experiencing homelessness. The day will begin with an overview and then facilitated breakout sessions in the afternoon. Jeri commented that vets and youth are popular topics that will draw people to the event. Matt mentioned using PITC data for the speaker’s topic. Matt also volunteered the Community Education workgroup members to help CHIP with the event. He will send out the outline of the event recently emailed by Jen to committee members.
- The rest of the meeting was spent going over the committee’s developing strategic plan and focusing on three main strategies. Discussion occurred over some of the action steps associated with strategies: Lindsay questioned whether the CoC would support the committee developing a relationship with the Chamber of Commerce, hotels, Visit Indy and Downtown Indy. Tahirah said she didn’t think that there would be pushback from the CoC but that the committee’s role has not been clearly defined in regard to that strategy/action steps. Jennifer suggested developing something for the next quarterly CoC meeting about developing a relationship with the Chamber of Commerce. It was mentioned that some committee members attended community breakfasts held by the Chamber until they began to charge for them. Mike asked if the committee considered concentrating on issues in the city such as panhandling which is again coming before the City-County Council spearheaded by Visit Indy and downtown businesses.

- After additional discussion the committee decided to focus on these three strategies:
 - Follow and advocate relevant state and local legislation
 - Develop community awareness events and exhibits
 - Develop cohesive strategy to find other non-profits/organizations to partner with for education and awareness
- The committee felt the strategy “increase participant base and volunteer pool for both permanent members and episodic volunteer involvement” was important and could be rolled into the 2nd strategy mentioned above. Some mentioned this strategy would hopefully occur as a process of successful community awareness events and exhibits.
- The strategy “create a brand and market the CoC to the broader community” fell to the bottom of the strategy list. One person mentioned that this strategy is really the greater responsibility of the greater CoC
- Matt, Alan Wichey, and Lena Hackett of Community Solutions will meet to go over the committee’s strategic plan – Matt will update the group after the meeting
- The Policy/Advocacy workgroup hopes to have an Advocacy 101 piece ready for the fall meeting of the full CoC
- The next meeting of the Policy Workgroup is July 19 at 3 p.m. at HIP (please RSVP to Lindsay Leonhard if you plan to attend)
- The next meeting of the Education Workgroup is June 29 at 3 p.m. at Partners in Housing, Mozingo Building, 2811 East 10th, Suite F. Please email Heather Hamm (hhamm@partnersinhousing.org) if you wish to attend. **THIS HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO OTHER EFFORTS TO PARTNER WITH CITY ADMINISTRATION PLAYERS. A DOODLE HAS BEEN SENT TO THOSE THAT RECORDED THEIR NAMES AS INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKGROUP. (Freddy, Zach, Courtney, Lindsay, Joan, Chuck, Jennifer, Jen)**
- The next committee meeting is July 11 at 3 p.m. at HIP

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Harvey

