Indianapolis Continuum of Care

Making homelessness in Indianapolis rare, short-lived and recoverable

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2016

Present: Joan Harvey, Matt Holland, Rebekah Bricker, Freddy Crawford, Emmy Hildebrand, Lena White, Lindsay Leonhard, Jennifer Fults, Mary Stickelmeier, Kevin Hillman, and Alan Wichey

- Discussion on Prop 12 (on agenda for Feb. 8 City-County Council meeting) – clarification on a few items of concern: no "jumping" of the housing wait list if a camp is closed (camp can't close if there is nowhere for people to go), IHA is the city entity responsible for housing displaced camp dwellers. Councilor Robinson plans to introduce a homeless bill of rights piece to CCC in the future – was waiting to see if Prop 12 passed
- Alan reports there are some hang-ups in the buildout of the Engagement Center which may delay the opening
- State legislation – LGBT bill dead, Hate Crime Bias bill out of the Senate and referred to the House, Food Stamp felony restriction bill in the House (CHIP trying to get drug testing every two weeks part of it removed due to cost of testing – who pays?), Housing Trust Fund bill is dead too
- Workgroup discussion – going forward the committee will also have two work groups: **Public Policy** (Michael Schwing, Jeri Warner, Rebekah Bricker, Lena White, Emmy Hildebrand, Nicole Spacey, Amy Nelson & Freddy Crawford) and **Community Education/Awareness** (Joan Harvey, LaToya Lester, Jen Hunt & Mary Stickelmeier). **Public Policy** will focus on legislation at the local, state and federal level and **Community Awareness/Education** will focus on ways to educate and raise awareness in the community. Each group needs to appoint a chair and send minutes of all meetings to Zach at CHIP.   Zach will convene the Public Policy workgroup and Mary will convene the Community Awareness/Education work group. Both groups will report back to the full committee at the next meeting on March 14. Work group members may come from the full CoC, not just from committee roster. Discussion on how to advocate on specific issues and how to endorse (with a "caveat", individual & group communications, via individual agencies in an "advocacy group", opting in or out on certain issues)
- Reuben Engagement Center updates will be part of our committee updates going forward
- Program Application and Technical Assistance Committee hosted Mary Frances Schafer from the Louisville Coalition for the Homeless at a recent meeting to discuss their success strategies with HUD funding. Discussion at that meeting on where we (Indianapolis CoC) left money and where we can grow it. Matt and Kirk Taylor of the PATA Committee will be discussing ways the two committees can collaborate. Matt referenced a NOFA document and "Opening Doors" from HUD and he will send those out to committee members via email. PATA may be recommending that some

transitional housing programs currently in existence that don't comply with HUD priorities may not be eligible for funding in 2016.

- A recent webinar dealing with the new HUD definition of chronic homelessness was referenced by several who viewed it. Matt will share the PowerPoint slides. Here are links to further info:

  http://www.endhomelessness.org/blog/entry/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-huds-new-chronic-homelessness-definition#.VrvDv7QrKUk

  https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/DefiningChronicHomeless.pdf

  Here's a link to the Opening Doors document mentioned above:

  https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_OpeningDoors_Amendment2015_FINAL.pdf

- Alan mentioned the Coordinated Entry workgroup is forming and a consultant will be helping that group get started.

- See the calendar on the CoC web site for all committee, workgroup and task force meetings: http://indycoc.org/events/

  Next committee meeting is Monday, March 14 from 3-4:30 p.m., location TBD

  Respectfully submitted,
  Joan Harvey