

Indianapolis Continuum of Care

Making homelessness in Indianapolis rare, short-lived and recoverable

Community Education and Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes

9.14.15

Members present: Matt Holland, Joan Harvey, Lindsay Leonhard, Rebekah Bricker, Jeri Warner, Nicole Watkins, Amy Nelson, & Paul Harris

- List of board members for the new Engagement Center slated to open March 2016 will be distributed via email to committee members
- Discussion on CIT training came up due to recent Indy Star article
- Amy Nelson brought a Letter of Organizational Support and information on upcoming Bias Crimes Statute legislation for committee discussion and approval. After discussion among those present a request will be made via email to the Blue Print Council to add the topic to the agenda for the next CoC meeting on 10/21
- Policy strategies for 2016 by the committee are to be presented at the next CoC meeting; items discussed included reformatting Prop 291 by Councillors Robinson and Miller, Brewer and Hogsett forum at last Housing Spectrum meeting, and Medicaid funding to be used for permanent supportive housing http://usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Medicaid-PSH-quick-guide.pdf
- Review of the PITC and how to work family homelessness issues into committee policy statement discussion – discussion included mention of the Children’s Bureau and NACS, counting people in hotels if provider is paying rent, couples fall through the cracks as family units are usually too big for a couple but couples count as families, information on families that doesn’t make it into PITC etc.
- As discussion on policy strategies for 2016 continued a suggestion was made to email Blue Print Council to establish role of the committee – are we only information referral? Can we speak out, support and advocate on policy issues ever? Those present feel we need further clarification on committee role
- Discussion on registering people to vote in the municipal election (deadline is October 5, 2015) and continuing effort into 2016 for next election – **Joan** will investigate library resources already in place and to be added, details of various barriers facing those who wish to vote etc. and developing a plan to inform and educate potential voters about absentee voting and proof of address issues
- Discussion on installation of the “kids” signs for National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 14-22) – the group came up with a different idea for the display; instead of all of the “kids” at one location with a

giant banner the suggestion was made to group a smaller numbers of the “kids” at the family shelters and community centers that are part of the Center for Working Families network with a yard sign; each “kid” would represent a certain number of homeless children in the Indy community. **Paul** will check on the cost of yard signs, **Nicole and Matt** will draft a flyer for the community centers and **Joan** will contact the family shelters.

- Committee members will be contacted via email about policy issues to be presented at October CoC meeting. Volunteers are welcome to help draft information and take part in the presentation at that meeting
- Planning quarterly projects and engaging new active members were the final items mentioned at the meeting

Reminder: Full Indy CoC meeting on 10/21 at 9 a.m. at the Indiana Interfaith Center, 1100 West 42nd Street

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Harvey
Committee Co-chair