

Indianapolis Housing Task Force

Tuesday, 1/26/15 noon to 3PM

Meeting minutes

Present: Scott Armstrong; Rebekah Bricker; Melissa Burgess; Michael Butler; Jennifer Coffey; Nathan Ferreira; Julie Fidler; Michaela Flash; Brianna Gates; Heather Hamm; Kalisha Hayes; Chris Holtz; William Hurd; Sandy Jeffers; Kelsey Kennedy; Shelley Landis; Dawn Miles; Cheveria Minor; Audrey Nannenga; Amanda Poston; David Price; Jami Schnurpel; Nicole Spacey; Amy Spinks; Tyler Stumm; Kirk Taylor; Karin Thornburg; Jeremy Turner; Jenni White; Chris Wynn; Maurice Young.

MINUTES

Calendar

- *Next meeting 2/23/16 12:10 until 1:30 at Near Eastside Legacy Center. We will meet the 4th Tuesday of each month since we have so much to work on.*

2016 Goals identified and how we get there/who responsible

- Reviewed Blueprint 2.0 Strategic priorities identified
 - Assessment of housing outcomes to determine community best practices for specific populations – *assigned to Transitional Housing Workgroup*
 - **Expand on inventory of housing with tiered supports** – *nobody is exactly sure what this means and we believe that it needs to go to a committee that can impact funding. Housing Committee needs to focus on what current housing needs are as identified from the wait list.*
 - Increase awareness of needs and services in Marion County – *assigned to Services Committee*
 - Implement Coordinated Access – *assigned to Coordinated Access Committee*
- Meet monthly – *Housing Committee will meet monthly on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Next meeting 2/23/16.*
- Determine housing needs and report to Blueprint Council and PATA so that we assure that what agencies are applying for in 2016 are what is needed – **Karin will bring statistics to February meeting** so Housing Committee can review prior to submission to Blueprint Council.
- **Kirk and Michael to find out more information on whether PSH renewal and new grants can utilize reallocation funds to fund program staff**
- *Chronic documentation – new HUD policy as of 1/15/16. One continuous year or 4 episodes in the past 3 years with the episodes equaling at least 12 months. Karin, Rebekah, Michael and Chris will work on City-wide policy on how we document.*

Possible Goals

PSH Turnover

- Moving On Initiative – need to review created assessment and implement; form collaborations with landlords that will work with our clients; develop a plan for housing providers to track scores so that we can see what range of scores we are looking at and correlate results. – **Karin will make changes to Moving ON Assessment and bring to February meeting for review**
- *Discuss rehousing (putting at top of list) for anyone who goes off of the program and returns to homelessness*
- *Discuss working with IHA on specifying a certain number of IHA units for those transitioning out of PSH.*
- *Development of a prevention group (see Retention/Evictions below) Jeremy to send out list of City-wide 30% AMI listing for those moving on from PSH*

Outcomes

- Look at benefits – SOAR participation – huge increase in zero income clients – **encourage all persons working with PSH residents or applicants to take training.** *This also is a question on the NOFA. Training is provided online at <http://soarworks.prainc.com/course/ssissdi-outreach-access-and-recovery-soar-online-training>*
- All PSH housing needs to view employment or increased income/earned income as a priority – *encouraged to partner with supported employment programs*

PHAs

- IHA Partnership – PIH IHA units from the wait list – *Alan is working on setting up a meeting with persons to open a conversation.*
- *Look at how other communities are partnering with the PHAs (Lafayette, Louisville)*
- *Request a number of units from IHA to transitional out of PSH for those that have demonstrated a history of stability*

Training 2016

- Training needs identified for 2016 – **CHIP may have funding for trainings** – *Julian Center will be offering Trauma Informed Training and Nathan will advise of when* – *mentioned that Adult & Child does motivational interviewing training*
- *Identified the following needs:*
 - *Trauma Informed Care (Julian Center)*
 - *Motivational Interviewing (Adult & Child?)*
 - *Client Centered Counseling*
 - *Housing First*
 - *Grants 101 to include housing inspection information*
 - *Mental Health (requested by PIH)*
 - *Addictions (requested by PIH)*
 - *Indiana Legal and Ethical Issues for Mental Health Clinicians (requested by PIH)*
- SOAR training – *see above (online training)*
- Education to shelters and outreach teams about rapid re-housing vs permanent supportive housing

Retention/Evictions

- Create a sub-committee to address individuals facing eviction in an effort to support our housing programs who are struggling with clients, to assure that we are truly wrapping around the clients when they are struggling in housing. Committee would serve as a “last chance” option and the resident would see that our community is willing to wrap around them and try to give them all of the support that they need.
- Look at how we do evictions – question: Are tenants able to be evicted for not following through on their services and/or treatment plan? Is every effort made to transfer a tenant from one housing situation to another if they are in jeopardy of eviction? - *Discussion that we appear to be doing well in this regard (City-wide approximately 85%) but want everyone to keep on their radar and continue to monitor ourselves and look for improvements.*
- Flexibility in paying tenant portion of rent. Offer financial management education? Payment plan for arrears?
- *Development of a prevention group to support residents and housing providers and look more thoroughly at a solution prior to eviction. Clients referred at 2nd write up. Meet after Tuesday Housing Committee meetings. Clients invited/encouraged to attend. Brianna will head group. Brianna, Chris and Heather have agreed to sit on Retention Committee.*

Priority List – HUD identified

- Ending veteran homelessness – prioritize veterans and their families who cannot be assisted through VA services – *there is now a Veteran sub-committee that is/will be addressing this*
- Ending Youth Homelessness – develop resources for special populations LGBTQ; Reach out to youth serving organizations to increase participation in PSH programs – *need to get more youth serving organizations involved to include:*
 - *School McKinney Vento liaisons*
 - *Outreach, Inc.*
 - *Stopover*
 - *IYG*
 - *DCS*
 - *Connect to 25*
 - *Children's Bureau*

Karin will reach out to organizations. Please send her any persons you may know who would be a contact.

- Increase involvement of PBSO in completing applications and not determining who is housing ready
 - *Discussion that it is difficult to get disability documentation when on the streets and must have trusting relationship with doctor to provide diagnosis – who is willing to work on resolving this issue?*
- Analysis of reliability of VI tool – *Family homelessness and coordinated access may be looking at this but need a reliability study*
- Making chronic a priority on list – two methods
 - Each individual program can request a grant amendment indicating they would like to make chronic a priority
 - As a Housing Committee/CoC, we can establish policy that gives priority to chronic persons
 - *We will discuss this further at the February meeting after review statistics and look at how we will be documenting chronic homelessness*

Evaluate ourselves

- Use a Housing First Approach – remove barriers; centralized or coordinated assessment system; client centered service delivery; prioritize households in most need; inclusive decision making – are we Housing First? Anything we can or need to do differently?
- Reduce barriers to housing – 75% of applicants are low barrier projects (low or no income; current or past SA; criminal records with exception of federal, state and local ordinance). – Are we low barrier? Anything we can do differently to assure that we are?
- Housing First – 75% of PSH and RRH applicants are Housing First
- System Performance – including reducing the number of homeless individuals and families; decrease number of sheltered; decrease number of unsheltered; reduction in number of first time homeless; reduction in length of time homeless; successful PSH placement and retention; reduction in returns to homelessness; jobs and income growth; thoroughness of outreach – how are we, or are we, measuring this? (Eric)
- Is the VI doing what we want and serving its purpose. Can we use it to identify housing needs by level of service need?

Prevention

- Discharge planning – coordinate with State or Local discharge planning efforts to ensure that offenders and those institutionalized over 90 days are not released directly to the streets, emergency shelters or McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance programs. Including health care, mental health care and correctional facilities. – *Did not discuss but needs to be assigned to somewhere in the CoC, not necessarily Housing Committee – BIG task*

Coordinated Access

- Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System – covers entire geographic area to ensure identification, engagement and assistance for homeless and appropriate housing and services based on their level of need. Easy access; standardized assessment process; Work with Coordinated Access Task Force in developing a tool – *Coordinated Access Task Force will be working on but Housing Committee would like to be involved.*

Application and New Projects

- Leveraging – minimum of 150% in leverage where the project applicants have attached the commitment letter to their application – *Kirk found out that 150% leverage can come from one organization for the entire City (example from Eskenazi, Pedigo Clinic or HIP Healthcare for the Homeless can look at entirety of what they spend on homeless, not just individuals covered by the grant) – need clarification on what can be used for leverage (costs vs billing, etc. and determine how we will do this).*
- Increase ADA units and accommodations. – *will look at February meeting when discuss statistics and needs*
- Discuss and determine community needs in permanent supportive housing and encourage applicants that will address those needs to apply in 2016 - *will look at February meeting when discuss statistics and needs*
- Housing crisis with persons with sex offense - *will look at February meeting when discuss statistics and needs*

Whew!!!!!! Thanks everyone and see you in February.