

Continuum of Care
Public Policy & Advocacy Committee Meeting
January 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes
CHIP Boardroom
10:30-12:00

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Christy Shepard welcomes group
 - Emma Douglas
 - Aaron Kalinowski
 - Julia Kathary
 - Jeri Warner
 - Michael Butler
 - Tahirah McCall
 - Matt Holland
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- Update on Blueprint Elections and CoC Process
 - Blueprint is seated
 - Explanation of each of the committees
 - NOFA rankings
 - Look for information on the www.indycoc.org
 - Discussion of public posting of notes—send to committee prior to posting on the website.

- Review of Blueprint 2.0 and implementation work to be addressed by Committee
 - Definitions that the group should consider:
 - What creative or proactive work will be done?
 - How can we advocate for policies that help homeless people?
 - Responsive or reactive work will we do?
 - Who will we concentrate on City council work,
 - What does impact and success look like?
 - Universal push to move homeless people from downtown areas (usually a law—like panhandling, or standing on sidewalks, laws that are pushed with tent cities)—Happen in every major city.

- Long term housing stability. What type of role this group could play regarding cliff effects. As they advance and get jobs, lose housing stability. Not about getting people housed but by keeping people housed. Advocating for funding on a policy level for supportive services to go with housing. Very little for supportive services—HUD has moved from wanting to pay for support services.
 - Report from Institute for Working Families---report on cliff effects. Need to get this group involved in this committee. Good resource for this group for education. They have a really great tool—self sufficiency tool (easy questions and calculate for you what income you need to be self sufficient). Use as a benchmark for Coburn Place clients—to determine what they are striving towards.
 - Report on the state of affordable housing and units available. Huge report talks about homelessness and poverty. Supply is decreasing for many reasons. Huge gap in affordable housing opportunities. Waitlist for public housing authorities.
 - Part of the dynamic is wage---how many of these people are working? Increase minimum wage. Can our folks get the jobs that
 - Shift public perception about what is homelessness. Majority of people we deal with at Julian Center are working two or three p/t jobs.
 - Processing on employers and how they impact homelessness. Birdges will do training in March or April.
 - Shifting the conversation from talking about “homelessness” to “housing” and “stability”. Influence the words we are using in the community, so that it relates to them.
 - Focus around the issues of social injustice.
 - Role of building relationships with legislators.
 - Poverty simulation was very well received.
- Information needed by committee moving forward
 - Is there an agency that monitors that monitors the legislature that effect the poor or homeless? Few groups that do that. We work with Barnes and Thornburg (CHIP). Second week of session. IACED is also a resource for things that are related to this. Indy Chamber of Commerce—just published their agenda. Pulled down all of the bills that are up for review. Get people to sign up.
 - What is the best way—to latch on to what they would want to support or block? Do you know if you can actually lobby?

- What is our role? Educate the CoC on policies—or is it to be reactive? How far do we go? Not good to presume that everyone is like minded in the CoC. If we can't make assumptions, how do we proceed?
- How do we communicate with the larger CoC to get input?
- Need to pick your battles—maybe pick a number of very narrow goals
- It can be very personality and agenda driven if not careful.
- Committee priority discussion items-
 - Panhandling—will go back on the table in February
 - Current panhandling ordinance includes if someone comes up and talks to you. If they have a sign, this is soft solicitation includes at interstate ramps (rarely enforced due to jurisdictional issues—who enforces?)
 - Connection btw Convention Center and issue
 - Indy is a small convention town—around industries and faith/community-based. Attenders have complained strongly against people coming up to them—and then with signs—over-abundance of panhandling.
 - Reaction is to focus on mile square downtown. Want to do away with soft or silent solicitation including all groups might consider getting a permit. Ticketing individuals that engage in this rather than arrest.
 - Sit, lie, lay law.
 - Councillor Miller (Jeff) wants caveat that you can do soft solicitation in the Broad Ripple area to make a cultural district.
 - CHIP conducted a survey to services providers---not in favor of the ordinance.
 - Has there been discussion about how this will be implemented beyond the square mile?
 - Need a coordinated community response to panhandling.
 - Is there a way to attract tourism dollars to respond?
 - Are there other cities who have dealt with this effectively?
 - Denver, San Antonio (where current bill is from)—Jerry to follow up with Jeff Miller. Put in front of Committee. Clarify the timeline and what bill they are considering and would they be willing to share info—and work with this group.
 - Christy to reach out to IDI on similar questions. Report back to group.
 - What are other cities doing?
 - Present strategies that are a win-win

- Bring in convention folks to see how we can work with them? Arms conference attendees with something other than cash.
 - Look at IMPD's efforts with DV serial offenders.
 - What is the policy on ticket scalpers?
 - Homeless camps-VA person. Tent cities and individual rights---continues to come up. Marzen Guser
 - Update on HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants increase
 - Email last week that budget passed last week. CoC should be good with tier 1 and tier 2 renewals. If there were new projects for CoC there were very specific requirements. Hopefully our grant should go through and we would be fully funded. Next NOFA supposed to drop in July.
 - Policies we want to influence in 2014
 - What is role and position?
 - Individual's perception on what the committee was formed to do?
 - Volunteered to be on committee because we want to do something. I want the group to have clear direction and purpose.
 - Has charged the CoC with action?
 - How do we filter the priorities? What is proactive vs. reactive priority? Need foundational guiding. What is our decision making model?
 - Process to identify issues that are "invisible"—process to make policy or to pursue.
 - Being mindful of un-intended consequences
 - Need a process in place
 - What are the benchmarks from other organizations?
 - Urgent priorities
 - Mass Transit
 - Expansion of Medicaid (not happening in Indiana)—is going to kick some people off of Medicaid.-Emma Douglas
 - Expongement law—Marzen
 - Human Trafficking-Tahira to keep in the loop. Keep on radar screen
 - Drug testing for SNAP
- Next steps
 - Put out a "vote" on panhandling to the CoC
 - Chair election
 - Next meeting