

## **Community Education & Policy Committee Meeting**

Minutes: September 18, 2017

**Attendance:** Amanda Wilkerson Damien Center, Megan Henderson Anthem, Emmy Hildebrand HVAF, Sandy Jeffers Pathway, Don Sawyer Bigger Vision, Zach Alexander CHIP, Danny Camacho, Erin Brown Schools on Wheels, Jeri Warner Trusted Mentors, Stephanie Fulk VOA, Caleb Sutton CHIP

**Crisis Communication Plan:** Our draft for a crisis communication plan was presented at the Blue Print Council in August. There was a lot of interest in the plan, but not much movement. Alan set up a meeting for late August, however because of the ACLU lawsuit the City was unable to participate. Councillor Robinson is interested in tweaking the homeless protections already enacted. Zach will share minutes from a recent meeting for emergency situations. Sandy expressed concern about ensuring there are immediate places for people who are unable to move into permanent housing. Jeri asked if the Blue Print Council was interested in a coordinated response. Zach indicated there was interest for creating and adhering to a communication plan. Sandy asked if our plan needs to be endorsed by the Blue Print Council. Sandy would like to put this on the next Blue Print Council agenda for approval. Amanda and Zach explained the plan was presented at the Blue Print Council meeting. Don said his take away was the only thing remaining was for the Blue Print Council to endorse it. Zach will ensure that approval of the Crisis Communication plan is an action item at the next Blue Print Council meeting.

Sandy shared that at a recent meeting she attended there was discussion about the negative portrayal of homeless individuals in the local media. She'd like this committee to undertake an effort to share a different story with the media. Stephanie agreed that she works with many clients that are not homeless for the reasons people think. Sandy would like to educate the community that there aren't enough emergency shelters and permanent housing. Erin asked what vehicle we should use—flyers, signs, etc? Sandy wants to create a message in this committee, get it approved by the Blue Print Council and the contact the newspaper and ask CHIP/agencies to promote it in their newsletters/social media. Stephanie mentioned that it may be helpful to interview homeless individuals. Caleb said he thought this issue links closely with our engagement of homeless/formerly homeless into the CoC. There was agreement in the committee that we would like to undertake this project.

**Spirit and Place Discussion:** Zach shared a timeline with the committee for the festival. We have 6 weeks until the festival opens. He received 5 display ideas from members of the Committee. He asked for deeper details from people to determine what exactly is needed from CHIP financially and volunteer wise by early next week. He'll schedule a phone call/meeting in the next week or two to work out the exhibit details. Zach reviewed the schedule and he will be the point of contact for any questions/concerns moving forward. The exhibit opens November 3 at the Tube Factory and will run through the month of November. Zach would prefer to have a few more submissions so please reach out to him if you have not yet submitted an idea. Several exhibit ideas were discussed. Zach will send out a PDF of exhibit ideas to everyone later this week.

**Increase Engagement with Homeless/Formerly Homeless:** The Blue Print Council challenged this committee to increase CoC engagement with homeless and formerly homeless individuals. Don asked if we are supposed to increase engagement with just this committee? Sandy indicated that it was to increase engagement across all CoC activities/committees. Don said to engage with homeless we need to go to where they are. It can be intimidating for individuals to be removed from their environment. Sandy agreed and asked how we can suggest this to make it happen. Amanda asked what the goal

would be if we held a meeting in a camp. Zach explained this idea originated after someone suggested hosting the next CoC meeting at the Central Library to be more accessible. That's why our committee meetings are at HVAF, for easy accessibility. Sandy proposes a subcommittee consisting of homeless/formerly homeless individuals to express their voice. Caleb mentioned that CHIP has created a Youth Advisory Board to receive the input of homeless/formerly homeless youth. Zach mentioned that there was a Homeless Advisory Council in years past but disbanded. The Committee thinks it would be a great idea restart the group with Danny as the chair person. This could then be fed up to the Blueprint Council to report out. Jeri also stated that the group will need have a goal and a work plan to function as a committee. Don mentioned that everyone has to be on board with the creation of the homeless council; he added that we have to meet homeless persons where they're at. Stephanie asked what the frequency of these meetings would be. Zach asked if service providers can bring a client with them to meetings. Sandy suggested creating opportunities for people to share their stories and express their concerns. Megan promoted the Community Partner Meeting on Friday, November 3 from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. at Marion County Public Department Community Room, 4012 N. Rural St., Indianapolis, IN 46205.