

Indianapolis Continuum of Care

October 21, 2015

Meeting started at 9:08 AM.

Review of CoC and Blueprint Council Priorities and Issues

There are vacancies that need to be filled on Blueprint Council. Our formerly homeless person resigned and we need to fill that position. The Blueprint Council will elect someone to fill this seat. In the governance charter it states that the Blueprint Council will fill any seats that are left in interim.

Phil introduced his replacement at Partners in Housing, Scott Armstrong.

Items to review:

The Blueprint Council will review the governance charter.

The Blueprint Council will also have to elect new officers and that process will happen at organizational meeting. The date is specified in the governance charter.

The year-end report is to be published and will be presented to the community. This will show what we accomplished, but will also focus on the challenges.

Our annual review of our collaborative applicant and HMIS lead also needs to be completed. We will have to officially review those applications although it's expected for those organizations (the City of Indianapolis and CHIP) to stay in place.

Committee action plans need to be adjusted and organized.

The council is still searching for a chair for the PATA committee. It is preferred that the chair is someone who's not receiving any CoC funds. Phil then discussed the importance and role PATA plays in the Continuum.

Coordinated entry was discussed. Phil said the process has plateaued and it needs to be revived.

It was also discussed that the chronically homeless need to be prioritized. Strategies to address unaccompanied homeless youth also need to be discussed.

There also needs to be a continued discussion about transitional housing.

ESG Funding Recommendations

The action plan was released recently by the city. Convened in a sub-committee for ESG Funds. Award around \$607,000. It is posted to the city's website. Most people are aware of the money they have been awarded.

Transitional Housing Workgroup

Jenni and Sandy discussed the purpose of the group, which is to make people aware of the differences between transitional housing and permanent housing. They added that although HUD is a funding mechanism, Indianapolis needs to do what is best for itself. Transitional housing is for very specific

clientele and very specific sub-populations such as homeless families, domestic violence, veterans, and chronic substance abusers.

Jenni and Sandy addressed the issues of transitional housing being cost-effective. From data provided by the transitional housing providers, it cost \$2,375 to provide care to one person.

This committee will meet again on November 4th. During this meeting, this group will identify key stakeholders and potential funding sources. If transitional housing is not funded then there will be more than \$700,000 available for other programs.

Family Housing Workgroup

This group meets the second Tuesday of every month at Horizon House and will resume meeting in January 2016. This group has focused on the issue of families who cannot access shelter. This group is tracking data because many of the organizations who provide services to these families are not in HMIS.

Through this data, this group established that June and July are the busiest months for families seeking shelter. If families cannot access shelter they are moved in to overflow, which is comprised of motel rooms.

There is still a large need for overflow spaces. 50 percent of calls coming in to those shelters are not met.

This group is looking at an assessment tool. This tool would move people in to a rapid re-housing program. HIP is currently piloting several RRH programs and hoping this has a domino effect and lowers families seeking shelter.

Housing committee – meet every week to go over openings and applications

This group reviewed statistics on housing people. Since February 2014, this group has housed 210 people and 182 of those people are still housed or have moved in to stable housing.

There are 19 applications received per month and around 13 openings. There is a shortfall of 6 people per month who are added on to the waitlist. The current wait time on the waiting list is around 9 months.

There are still very few opportunities for families.

This group is working on a standard orientation for housing providers.

Community Education and Policy

This group reviewed the activities it has put on over the past year including several awareness events throughout downtown. Currently this group is working on registering homeless voters.

This group discussed legislation it reviewed over the past year. Currently, they are focusing House Bill 1330, a Bias Crimes Legislation and have recommended this committee and the BPC to support.

They will also be following the construction of the Reuben Engagement Center, which is set to open in March 2016. They will be doing another installation of the “kids” during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week and are looking for other educational and awareness opportunities.

This group is seeking members who are action-focused.

Planning and Investment

This group is meeting jointly with the Program Application and Technical Assistance committee.

This group discussed recent accomplishments and how it has worked to better align Indianapolis with HUD's priorities.

A new development is that HUD has said that you could serve more people with the same funding. Jeremy said this should help people with spending down their grant money.

Jeremy asked for continued engagement. He added that transitional housing could use the funding matrix to fill in gaps and he understands that TH serves an important role in the homeless community.

Jeremy also encouraged the continuum to continue to look at new projects especially with a possible \$700,000 in play for the next couple years.

Presentation of Slate

Community Solutions is facilitating the BPC elections again. CHIP has done all of the background work until now.

In the 2013 election, this group received 225 online votes and 50 paper ballots.

To vote, you must either be currently or formerly homeless or signed the CoC Membership Statement.

The voting will close November 20th and the results will be announced December 1st.

Bios of the candidates are posted in the lobby and will be posted on the CoC website by the end of day, Wednesday.

The link will be opened to the public later today. Final version will be sent to Michael who will distribute the final ballots. If you need ballots to be printed out, please let Community Solutions know.

There are 21 nominees and six vacancies.

Can we change the election process?

Sandy asked about changing the governance charter to adjust the election process during the interim.

Phil said the charter could not be changed today but could be changed in the future. For a change to occur, the Blueprint Council must make a recommendation for it to be presented to the full Continuum of Care.

CoC Ranking and Funding

There was a conference call on Monday between Blueprint Council members. There were some changes within the NOFA, including 15 percent of project funding must be placed in Tier 2. These projects have a chance to not be funded, but from everything we have heard it is not expected for this to happen.

Two projects –a RRH project from Coburn Place and Healthnet - were recommended for two years of funding.

The rankings need to be finalized and then presented to the city and the mayor. Another conference call is scheduled to address these issues.

Indianapolis is seeking \$5 million in funding, which is larger than last year's ask.

Faith-based partnerships

There was discussion about including a faith-based seat on the Blueprint Council and how faith-based organizations can be better supported.

Matching with HUD's priorities

There was a discussion about how Indianapolis matches up with other cities on their HUD asks and how continued focus on HUD's priorities will allow Indianapolis to seek more money.

Wrap-up

This is Phil's last CoC meeting. There is no requirement that he steps down from the council.

He expressed thanks to the community for allowing him to lead.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.