

INDY COC COMMUNITY EDUCATION & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES 12/16/14

Present: Joan Harvey, Mary Stickelmaier, Amy Nelson, Paul Harris, Christy Shepard, Jen Hunt, Lindsay Leonard, Jeri Warner, Pamela Fleck, Rebekah Bricker, Jennifer Fults, Derek Reinbold, Chris Holtz, Tahirah McCall, Julia Kathary (observing-Sharon Stark)

AGENDA ITEM - Policy Issues: steps for integrating the Blueprint Council and full CoC

Discussion –

Matt distributed a policy issue clarification document for the group to discuss. At the December 8 Blueprint Council meeting some members expressed concerns about process when addressing policy issues. Matt reminded the group of our policy sheet for 2015 where we identified three topics to focus on in the next year: substance abuse, fair housing issues and an investigation into establishing an engagement center.

Amy Nelson had a question about the definition of “recommend” in the clarification document. She feels the meaning should be clarified (“additional fact gathering to come to a better judgment”); “recommend” could mean adopting a neutral position. Amy also asked about 2 votes in the process – she asked if the first vote could be a bit more informal and if steps 2 & 3 could occur at the same meeting. No one seemed to object to this.

Jennifer Fults mentioned the Housing Trust Fund as an example of a policy issue that could begin in committee; HTF funding has been lost so if the committee, BP Council and CoC wanted to pursue legislation to restore funding the committee could take that on.

Julia spoke about the different viewpoints of different CoC members and raising awareness by distributing information. Amy suggested emails such as that could have a disclaimer “ALERT – FYI” and/or “no position by BP Council / CoC” included. Jennifer said any individual group, person or agency can support legislation on their own. Julia said it’s also okay to disagree publicly. Christy mentioned that the controversy surrounding Proposal #291 is a big challenge to a young CoC and that dissent is seen by legislators as a signal to move on to another issue.

Julia thinks it is beneficial to have a sit down between providers / CoC members and legislators to educate the latter. Jennifer suggested that it is important that we look at the true intent and language of each piece of legislation. Christy mentioned the lack of feedback from any recipient after the ACTION REQUESTED email was sent to BP Council and committee members about proposal #291. Jeri feels the policy issue clarification document has too many roadblocks and limits the action of the committee. Amy and Matt feel the policy document does not limit the committee to **inform** CoC members about pending legislation via email blasts. The suggestion was made to add language to clarify that the committee has the ability to inform CoC / BP Council members through email of relevant pending legislation, either at the local or state level. Christy mentioned adding an emergency clause. Matt said he would send

out the policy process document by email and ask for feedback on the document – deadline is December 23rd.

AGENDA ITEM – Proposal 215 – Fair Housing Discrimination proposal (Amy Nelson to review)

Amy said that the landlord size might be clarified in the amended proposal. Some of the councilors want certain groups to testify – persons of color are being asked to testify about discrimination in order to get the vote passed. Jennifer said that the City of Indianapolis is not opposing but not supporting proposal 215; she mentioned studying further to get more input.

AGENDA ITEM – Proposal 291 – Protections for the Homeless

Jeri stated that some of the committee members attended the Chamber of Commerce event Pancakes and Politics and spoke to Christina Hale) and Senator Jim Merritt who has visited Recycle Force. Marx is interested in legislation concerning addiction issues and the resulting positive effect on Indiana communities. Representative Hale and Senator Merritt have collaborated on several other committees and issues in the past and seem to have the ability to work on issues from a non-partisan point of view. When questioned on re-entry and addiction issues and the relation to homelessness, both gave responses that lead the members of the Community Education & Policy Committee to see possible future collaborations and partners in strengthening our communities and positively affecting the homeless through legislative possibilities.

Lindsay made a point of talking about the diversity of our committee and the value for councilors etc. to talk to us. Derek mentioned legislation funding new heroin programs.

Matt asked how people felt about inviting Councilor Robinson to our next meeting. Julia suggested we invite other councilors to come to our meeting as we move into 2015. Christy mentioned that the CCRH group invited Robinson to come to their meeting but he wants 4-5 providers to come up with specific proposed language changes for proposal 291 – CCRH is still trying to nail down a specific date for him to speak to them. At this point Robinson does not want to hear concerns or answer questions Christy said. She also said that a meeting with Robinson is coming up – the group decided to wait until after that meeting takes place to make a decision about inviting Robinson to a future committing meeting.

AGENDA ITEM – UIndy Community Partner Fair

Matt will send out an email to committee members to see if anyone wants to volunteer to attend the Fair to represent committee or CoC:

- Any interest in representing either committee or COC? Available dates below (All dates 11am to 1pm)
 - Tuesday January 13th
 - Thursday January 15th

- Wednesday January 21st
- Thursday January 22nd

City County Council Rules Committee meeting Tuesday January 27th

- **Agenda items include discussion of Proposals 215 and 291**

Next Meeting:

- **Proposed meeting date Tuesday January 13th 9am to 10:30am**

DRAFT