

INDY COC - COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting notes, 9/24/14

Members present: Matt Holland, Joan Harvey, Shelley Landis, Pam Fleck, Carolyn Harkin-Brinton, Julia Kathary, Christy Shepard, Paul Harris, Jen Hunt, Sue Reed, Tahriah McCall

Andrew Cullen, Director of Public Policy at the United Way, joined to the group to discuss advocacy and lobbying. He made these points:

- Lobbying vs. advocacy – many negative perceptions surrounding lobbying
- Non-profits CAN lobby but cannot use non-profit money to do so
- Keep track of money spent on lobbying
- Lobbying = talking to a legislator/council member or their staff about a **specific** piece of **legislation**, not just a **topic**
- “we need more non-profits lobbying”
- If you send out an action alert the cost of staff time needs to be counted as \$\$ spent
- To lobby at the State House you must register as a lobbying group – a simple process and Andrew can help with that
- Mentioned the Marion County Re-entry Coalition (Jed McMillan) in regard to our policy statement about addiction issues. Ex-offenders are eligible for ACA and need to be signed up upon re-entry
- Said our policy statement needs to be more specific. Always need to be VERY specific with legislators – narrow down the issues as much as possible; figure out what policy or law needs to change
- Follow up on Councillor Leroy Robinsons proposal (#291)
- Develop very specific details on the issues we wish to work on and Andrew will be glad to come back and help guide us through the process