

Indianapolis Continuum of Care

Making homelessness in Indianapolis rare, short-lived and recoverable

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes 4.21.15

Present: Matt Holland, Joan Harvey, Paul Harris, Lindsay Leonhard, Pam Fleckman, Tahirah McCall, Julia Kathary and Betsy Whaley

- Housing Task Force meeting report – Lindsay told us that the group has decided to approach the IHA board members on a one-on-one basis instead of showing up as a large group at an IHA board meeting. Lindsay will ask Karin about members of our committee coming to one of their meetings to give additional input. The task force wants IHA to prioritize homeless individuals with disabilities who are seeking housing
- Matt spoke to us about a former HIP client that is interested in doing some photo essay work on people experiencing homelessness. She is the spouse of a veteran and has a family and would like to concentrate on veteran issues, family shelters, and people doubled up with friends/relatives. Matt spoke to her about role of the CoC, the various committees and what they do and how her project could be an opportunity for community education and raising awareness. Matt asked us for input – Julia suggested she might want to speak to the Family Shelter workgroup that meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Horizon House. Colleen Gore is a contact for that group. Paul said her own story and perspective would probably be the most valuable. Matt thought he could refer her to NAMI for perspectives, info etc. on post-traumatic stress syndrome.
- Matt met some staff from NAMI recently at an event and told them about the COC, the various committees and invited them to join our committee. One of the folks was the NAMI social media administrator.
- The July screening of **@Home** is still on although Joan reported the library has not set a date yet for the screening. One idea Joan mentioned was asking the audience to discuss the film in small groups after the screening and perhaps calling on various CoC members to help facilitate the discussions. Joan asked the group to look ahead to the fall and decide what awareness activities we might be able to launch. The display of the “kids” signs like the display at Roberts Park last November was mentioned and Matt said he would look into if there any monies around to pay for the creation of a banner to promote the display. Julia suggested a series of film screenings of events in July and then continuing through the calendar to build momentum with local media etc. on awareness issues

- It was mentioned that a suggestion was made at the Housing Task Force meeting to add a faith-based group member as a new addition to the Blueprint Council. Discussion took place about drawing in more faith-based groups to the CoC. A workshop for faith-based groups (summit on homelessness) that would be transformational not just transactional was one idea mentioned. Perhaps calling on faith-based community leaders such as Hope Hampton and partnering with CTS or a similar group was mentioned.
- HB 1300 passed the Indiana Senate on April 9 – this is the bill that Amy discussed with the committee earlier this year that restricts the ability of Indiana cities and counties to add or enforce source of income housing discrimination protections under their City/County Human Relations Ordinances. Another legislative item mentioned was HB 1352 (welfare & drug testing) and the changes coming to SNAP benefits.
- Meeting adjourned early – next meeting date, location & time TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Harvey
Committee Co-Chair