

Community & Education Committee Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2015

Attendance: Laura Littlepage, Paul Harris, Joan Harvey, Lori Caisson, Jeri Warner, Rebekah Bricker, Matt Holland, Betsy Whaley

Laura Littlepage was guest at committee meeting to ask for feedback on focus areas for the 2015 Point In Time count report coming out in summer of 2015. The preliminary report was shared to that committee could assess the numbers and how those have fluctuated from last year's report. Good discussion on what the narrative should be not framing the data different but what subsets of the data really needed to get "higher" billing to impact future years work and advocacy for funding and resources. Narratives discussed included Youth/Aging out of Foster Care (18-24 yrs), LBGTQ, Criminal History & Felony convictions and families. Committee decided that since the family shelters have been overwhelmed with demand and need over the past year (even outside of winter contingency) that this was really a critical need for the community.

In addition, it was requested that the family subset be broken out further to see if we could find out what services had been received, medical conditions were barriers and other internal factors. The hope is that some additional gaps or creative strategies could be programmed from this information.

Betsy commented that it would be nice if the COC could find a way to track the top 50% hotels used for FEMA or emergency short term housing to see if additional families that are homeless in these hotels could be accounted for. Committee agreed that this would be challenging but that it is hard to quantify entire problem since those families might not be in count.

Lori commented that there has been a lot of recent dollars and funding/focus towards re-entry programs but families experiencing homelessness in Indianapolis are at a crisis point. The committee stated that HUD dollars understandably are important to focus on however other sources may be out there not being realized that could potentially help support families through their crisis.

Upcoming dates

July 6-30th Beyond Perceptions exhibit at Central Branch including some 70+ pieces of art. (collateral distributed for attendees to distribute)

July 9th CHIP hosting VIP event to help frame issues surrounding Beyond Perceptions exhibit. Cash bar, \$5 donation asked for entry and will include a guided tour of art with speakers

July 21st Mark Horvath and the director will screen his newest documentary at Central Branch called @HOME. Tables available for service providers to put down agency info. Auditorium holds 325 people and Joan hoping to pack the place. Matt to email some news contacts for help getting word out.

Michael Schwing had proposed an event possibly in November with poetry reading, art and music. Hopefully more to come on this proposed event.

Next meeting date: Doodle will be sent out for availability in next month or so.