

McKinney-Vento Resource Group Meeting

January 20, 2016 CHIP

Attendance: Tracy Beer, Michael Butler, Bruce Carter, Charie Gibson, Crystal Haslett, Courtney Modisette, Rachael Coleman, Louis Norris

The meeting opened with introductions.

There was discussion about what the CoC (Continuum of Care) is and why it is important for McKinney-Vento Liaisons to be at the table as the voice of the schools and the homeless students.

There was discussion about the 2015 Blueprint Council election and process, and the need to redo the elections. Crystal Haslett will continue in her seat as McKinney-Vento representative until the elections are re-held and someone elected for a full 3 year term.

There were comments about how important it is that we are at the table and how lucky we were to be invited with the wise words "If you're not invited to the table, you're part of the meal".

We were reminded that the Letter of Support we request for our McKinney-Vento grant applications to DOE are written by the Blueprint Council of the CoC.

There was conversation about how to ensure these meetings are meaningful not just to the CoC but equally as importantly to the Liaisons. Several suggestions were made:

- Use part of the time for professional development
 - NCHE (National Center for Homeless Education) online tutorials
 - FAFSA training
- Invite IHA to attend to discuss accessing public housing
- Invite FSSA to discuss food stamps, Medicaid, debunk the myths, and family referrals
 - Kenny Kelly kkelly@indianapca.org spoke with Lawrence township about accessing foods stamps
- Invite NACS to talk about their programs, Satin has been a great resource to some of the districts

Courtney from Stopover, Inc spoke about their programs and asked the questions how do they increase access to schools and general awareness about their emergency shelter programs? Courtney also identified herself as the contact at Stopover for any questions about the program cmodisette@stopoverinc.org.

There was general conversation about unaccompanied youth and the lack of resources to serve them.

Louis Norris spoke about a heroin problem on the South side of Indy which really is from about 16th & Meridian to County Line Road. There is a substance abuse treatment center proposed for Shelby & Hanna however the school district opposes it.

IPS currently has a shortage of school bus drivers. If you know of anyone seeking a job who applies, please send their contact info to Charie Gibson and she will work with HR to get their applications fast tracked. They have hired homeless parents in the past.