

Transitional Housing Meeting
October 7, 2015
MIBOR Foundation

Attendance: Alan Witchey, Wendy Noe, Sandy Jeffers, Gabie Benson, Julie Kathary, Jenni White, Karin Thornburg, Audrey Nannenga, Shelley Landis, Cindy Thomas, Lori Casson, Jami Schnurpel, Stephanie Derrickson, Lara Chandler, Paul Harris, Michael Butler

Meeting began: 12:15

Introduction:

Alan provided opening remarks. Members went around the table and introduced themselves. Alan provided background on the meeting.

Realtor Foundation Overview:

The Realtor Foundation is the philanthropic arm of MIBOR. The Realtor Foundation has specifically targeted transitional housing for more than a decade and the issue of homelessness has been a great tie-in for us. Donations are then pulled in to grants and are made available annually and have grown by nearly \$100,000 in the last 10 years. Gabie approached Alan about convening and wanting to be an active part in this process because of The Realtor Foundation's support of Transitional Housing.

Transitional Housing (TH) Workgroup:

Jenni White and Sandy Jeffers are co-chairs of the workgroup. The group meets quarterly. Concern and frustration around HUD's definitions and the priorities exists because it opposes what our local Continuum considers to be a priority. This group is ready to look at different funding streams because it's very clear HUD does not want to fund TH anymore.

This group is aware of cost-effectiveness being a major talking point. Sandy has created a chart for everyone to fill out which will provide the cost per year of transitional housing for families. It is believed filling out these forms will show how important this group is.

Group members decided there needs to be a re-education of the public/funders about why transitional housing is important.

It was reiterated that HUD is just a piece of our continuum and cannot get totally caught up in HUD's definition. It appears that HUD is going to move TH in to an outside group, but that does not mean TH is not an important part of our continuum. We will just need to find other dollars to support these groups.

Data/Gaps

There was discussion about the Family Options Study and how this study showed that TH is not cost-effective.

There was discussion about the data around TH. Members said the data is like comparing apples to oranges because what is viewed as a positive in Permanent Supportive Housing is viewed as a negative in TH.

A gaps assessment is needed in this community to show what gaps in services truly exist in Indianapolis. CHIP is working with the Lilly Endowment to fund this.

Why is TH important?

Members discussed the difference between Permanent Supportive Housing and TH. People view TH as a stopover until someone moves in PSH. If someone is eligible for PSH, we do not want to bring them in to TH. TH is about making someone more self-sufficient.

There was discussion about how TH creates urgency in families and motivates them to create a better life. TH builds skills and motivation. The two years allows these organizations to provide a triage in a very deep way. To get funders on board, it is very important that we are able to describe the importance of these organizations simplistically.

Differences in other housing options

There was discussion about TH programs folding in to Rapid Re-Housing. Lori said Rapid Re-Housing would not serve Dayspring's populations well because they are dealing with people who have not been stably housed in more than a year and Rapid Re-Housing is for people who are stable. Lori added that her families would not even qualify for Permanent Supportive Housing because PSH usually requires a dual-diagnosis of substance abuse and mental health and her families do not have those issues.

Relieving the burden

Michael emphasized the importance of supportive services and how shelters are currently placed under a greater burden due to a lack of supportive services. The homeless system has taken a huge weight of resolving these other societal issues.

There was discussion on resolving the long waiting lists. Members said there needs to be an increase in immediate access to other housing options and Indianapolis needs to figure out how to get mobile.

Timeline?

It's expected HUD will cut funding for TH during next year's NOFA. At the maximum, it will be cut by 2017.

Leveraging funders

Members said that funders need to be at the table and a picture of what the landscape of homelessness looks like without TH programs. There will be an impact on the welfare and healthcare system.

There was discussion about the importance of the Reuben Engagement Center and how it can help create leverage in the city to show how we can have positive impacts around homelessness.

Next Steps:

Follow up meeting: November 4th, noon, Realtor's Foundation. Brown Bag Luncheon

Meeting adjourned: 1:30 p.m.