

## **Community Assessment Approach:**

**Attendance: Crystal Haslett, Derwin Gary, Nicole Spacey, Paul Harris, Robert Ohlemiller and Laura Alvarado**

**The Support Services Task Force reflected and conversed about the following approach. It was agreed upon that the approach would be carried out knowing that some tasks may evolve and change as we go. Individuals assigned themselves to several beginning tasks. Those names are seen below next to tasks 1, 2 and 3. These individuals will follow-through on these tasks and bring any information on their research to the next meeting.**

**Synopsis:** The COC support services task force (under the Housing and Support Services Committee) seeks to better understand the needs of homeless individuals as well as those at-risk of homelessness living in all 9 Township areas in Marian County through a community needs assessment that will examine current support services, gaps in services and the diversity in types of and numbers of services available in all Township areas.

The support services task force will work with homeless providers and specific public entities/environments (Schools, Churches, Parks Departments, Hospitals/clinics, Community Centers, Legal Services, Re-entry Groups, Veterans Services) providing support services to deliver surveys and assist with the facilitation of focus groups. All providers will also participate in a survey to better understand the services being delivered by these providers.

Once surveys are received and summarized the task force will generate an awareness plan that will educate the homeless, at-risk community, and service providers about services available in his or her community. The task force will also strategize and come up with recommendations for each township on ideas/programming that may benefit the community. Presentations will be set up in each Township area to engage the larger community in conversation about those services and recommendations.

As for the at-risk population, in this assessment we will seek to target the following individuals to shed light on their needs and service information and provide us with a decent cross population of info. and data.

1. McKinney Vento defined homeless which are not considered homeless under HUD but do not have a house to call a home. They may be doubled or tripled up in housing.
2. Those currently seeing rental assistance.
3. Those that have received assistance through the Trustee's office over the last 3 months.

1) Identify a Community Needs Assessment being administered in the state and other COC groups in cities of similar population size in close proximity to Indianapolis:

- **Nicole Spacey:** Louisville, KY- COC
- **Paul Harris:** Cincinnati, OH- COC
- **Crystal Haslett:** Columbus, OH- COC – Crystal will also connect with the Children's Bureau

- **Derwin Gary:** Check in with Pam from the Health dept. to see how their assessments have been done

Nicole, Paul and Crystal to bring info. and findings to next task force meeting.

2) Connect with IUPUI: Public Policy Institute (Laura Littlepage) who is working with The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority conducting a 2014 statewide assessment of those experiencing poverty. This statewide Community Needs Assessment is conducted every 3 years.

- **Laura Alvarado:** Invite Laura Littlepage to our next meeting to discuss her work on the 2014 Community Needs Assessment that she is working on with the IHCDA.

3) Connect with 211- (Tour)

- Learn more about the types of calls they receive, what calls/needs for services do they see being unanswered
- Learn more about the providers (potential list of groups that we could target for surveys and survey delivery) and services they refer
- **Nicole Spacey:** Connect with 211 and see what is possible and will report to the task force at the next meeting.

4) Identify what specifics we want to gain from the population. Surveys may ask questions about services provided by homeless providers (non homeless providers) and types of barriers he or she has experienced accessing supportive services.

- Need to think about the length of the survey
- Who we are targeting- using the word homeless with those at risk or considered homeless under McKinney Vento Law may have a negative reaction to that.

5a) Create a survey targeted for the homeless population to answer as well as a survey/interview questions for providers about their support services

5b) Research and identify homeless providers and non homeless providers serving the homeless to assist in the distribution of this survey in each of the 9 townships (and potentially to serve on task force/committee):

- Shelters and Transitional Housing
- Parks
- Churches
- Schools
- Community Centers
- Hospitals/Mental Health Providers/Clinics
- Legal Service/reentry Groups
- Mayors Office- Veterans Services

6) Connect with and Interview designated provider list in each township to assess needs addressed and services offered

7) Receive all survey info., identify commonalities, differences between Townships, gaps in services, summary of services and so on. (Work with IUPUI: Laura Littlepage on review of data)

8) Create summary of findings and strategies (with support of participating parties) to address those needs for each township and distribute to all participating parties

9) Identify potential donors or groups with similar priorities to make them aware of some of the strategies and groups willing to follow through on agreed upon strategies

10) Present findings to the COC- receive input on awareness plan

11) Develop an awareness plan of current services in place (for each township area) that is both written and web-based (Mapping tool?)

12) Hold community presentations of findings and strategies in each township to generate discussion

13) Meet with Township officials in each Township to present on gaps

- Trustees Offices
- Superintendents of Schools

**This Task Force will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 1-3p.m. at School on Wheels**

**Next Meeting: Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-3p.m.**

**2605 East 62<sup>nd</sup> St., Suite 2005**

**Indianapolis, IN 46220**