

Community Education & Policy Committee Meeting

Minutes: January 8, 2018

Attendance: Amanda Wilkerson, Damien Center; Megan Henderson, Anthem; Emmy Hildebrand, HVAF; Zach Alexander, CHIP; Antonio Alexander, Purpose of Life Ministries; Don Sawyer, Bigger Vision; Michael Schwing; Erin Brown, School on Wheels; William Bumphus, Wheeler

Communication Plan Update: Rev. Alexander explained that our Communication Plan draft was approved by the Blueprint Council. New officers will be elected in the Executive Committee this year, so after those are completed the entire CoC will be notified of the new communication plan.

Veterans Classification: Emmy explained that USICH has a link that details strategies of approximately 60 cities/states that have ended veteran homelessness. Cities have prioritized resources and initiated different strategies to address veteran homelessness. Emmy will email the link to committee members. Rev. Alexander asked how we can share housing eligibility information with all CoC members. Zach is going to post it on the CoC website. Emmy offered for HVAF to host a lunch and learn. Amanda asked Emmy to schedule something on Wednesday, February 28. Zach is going to put information in this weeks' CoC newsletter. More info can be found <https://www.usich.gov/goals/veterans>.

Homeless Advocacy Council: Don has been elected to the Blueprint Council as the formerly homeless representative and is going to be active in this issue. We'll hold off until March to recruit participants. Don added that he is going to determine the best way to integrate these voices into the decision making process in the CoC. Zach mentioned that he has an interested participant and will get his info to Don. This Council will be a subcommittee of the Education and Policy Committee. Don intends to organize this to meet at camp locations and prove to participants that this will be an effective use of time. Rev. Alexander added that this initiative comes from the Blueprint Council and it will be important that Education and Policy continues to support it. Don asked for clarification on how the feedback will be utilized, he doesn't want these important voices to be dismissed. Zach responded that he envisioned a regular report as part of the Education and Policy report at Blueprint Council meetings. Rev. Alexander would like to solicit feedback from interested members in the homeless community regarding what they are interested in, what their goals are, etc. Don expressed concern that interested council participants will want to know how this will improve their situations. Rev. Alexander said we should be careful in sharing only what we know to be factual, and that we could enlist Council members in sharing accurate information about Coordinated Entry and interacting with Outreach workers, etc. Zach asked for best practices from other communities with similar councils.

Common MOU for CoC Communication: Rev. Alexander explained that the CoC has a membership statement and agencies have MOUs to work with specific organizations, which sometimes lead to confidentiality issues. He is interested in developing an MOU that covers multiple organizations/agencies (like PBSO and FBSO). Could we incorporate privacy language into the membership statement? Or, do we need to develop an MOU that covers all groups working in our CoC? Zach read aloud the current membership statement. Emmy suggested adding language to the existing Membership Statement to say organizations will adhere to appropriate professional confidentiality in regards to client information. Zach is not in favor of instituting a new MOU and foresees difficulty getting it signed, so he would like to clarify the membership statement. William suggested Blueprint Council develop an MOU that requires signatures. Zach thinks the membership statement will suffice and we should do annual reminders to sign the statements. Amanda and Megan stressed the difficulty is

in ensuring those who haven't been documented in outreach efforts are having difficulty proving homeless status. We need to be able to increase the qualified participants to input housing applications to ensure that everyone who is homeless is included. There was robust discussion regarding the role of outreach workers and the difficulty obtaining housing applications for camp residents. Zach asked if we needed to do an education portion at the next full CoC meeting to explain how Coordinated Entry works. Amanda would like to pursue this opportunity, but we discussed what is the best forum/time frame to share this information with targeted groups. Rev. Alexander asked for a working group to tackle this issue. Zach will coordinate with CHIP CES staff and Amanda will take the lead for this committee. Rev. Alexander also plans to bring this up with the Blueprint Council.

Letter to the Editor: Rev. Alexander explained the letter to the editor regarding the Mayor's 400 new units challenge was sent out. Rev. Alexander asked CHIP for the media distribution list so we have an idea where this information was shared. The Mayor has been focused on homicides lately, so we can use this letter to remind him of his commitment to homelessness. He is hosting the Mayor on his radio show in February. Zach asked if we'd asked for an update from the Mayor's office and Rev. Alexander would like Deputy Mayor Bennett and/or Rodney Stockment to provide that at the next Blueprint Council meeting.

Blueprint 3.0: Rev. Alexander explained this process is currently ongoing. It will be summer before it is finalized. There is a 2.0 on the CoC website we should reference to our committee and determine what the next version for us is. Zach anticipates a rough draft soon. Rev. Alexander asked how committee directives were formed and Michael explained that small working groups came up with committee directives. Zach added that a consultant added strategy grids in 2016 to help meet the goals of 2.0 and that provided the committee directives. Rev. Alexander directed everyone to review the Education and Public Policy tab on the CoC website to review Blueprint 2.0. He will email it to members.