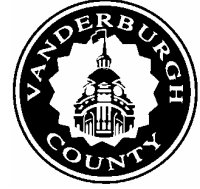




**City of Evansville/Vanderburgh County**  
*Jonathan Weinzapfel, Mayor, City of Evansville*  
*Jeff Korb, President, Vanderburgh County Board of Commissioners*  
*Bill Nix, Vice-President, Vanderburgh County Board of Commissioners*  
*Troy Tornatta, Vanderburgh County Board of Commissioners*  
Civic Center Complex  
1 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Evansville, Indiana 47708  
Phone 812-435-5000



July 23, 2008  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Mindy Niehaus  
[homelink@destination-home.info](mailto:homelink@destination-home.info)  
(812) 774-1480

## **Commission<sup>on</sup> Homelessness**

Kat Isbell  
[housingmatters@destination-home.info](mailto:housingmatters@destination-home.info)  
(812) 428-4975 ext. 30

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

(EVANSVILLE, IN)- Today the city-county Commission on Homelessness launched today its new effort to address strategies in *Destination: Home* (the ten-year plan to end and prevent homelessness in Evansville and Vanderburgh County). The Discharge Planning Coalition's primary goal is the prevention of homelessness among those who are released from institutions in the fields of health care, community corrections, and foster care.

This new public/private partnership was formed as a result of the work of the Commission's Discharge Planning Committee. In September 2006, the Committee created a Discharge Planning Policy, which was subsequently approved by the Commission on Homelessness.

The Discharge Planning Committee also involved community partners in raising support for a coordinator position and inspiring initial interest in an ongoing coalition. Mindy Niehaus has been named the Coalition Coordinator. Initial financial support for her position is coming from the City of Evansville, Deaconess Hospital, St. Mary's Medical Center, and the Vanderburgh County Department of Corrections.

Research has shown that effective discharge planning can contribute significantly to preventing homelessness. Health care and treatment providers, community corrections, and foster care services often wrestle with issues related to releasing people from their facilities or programs into stable housing. The new Discharge Planning Coalition is being formed to create a plan for helping support institutions in order to prevent homelessness for their special populations.

The Coalition will focus upon children aging out of foster care, adult and teen offenders being released from incarceration, patients and clients discharged from health care and treatment centers, and elderly adults displaced from residential care. Those needing follow-up care or support are of special concern.

“The Homeless Youth Coalition is looking forward to working with the Discharge Planning Coalition to help us address the needs of youth aging out of the foster care system or being released from juvenile detention with no permanent home,” states Cynthia Smith, Co-chair of the Homeless Youth Coalition. “We know those youth exist in our community and are all working to address their needs.”

Discharge planning identifies and coordinates housing and supportive services for successful transition back into the community. As part of a larger continuum of care, this process can help people reach goals of stable housing, recovery, self-sufficiency and increased quality of life in the community.

The Discharge Planning Coalition invites interested community members and leaders to help create and implement a plan to carry out the prevention strategies of *Destination: Home*, which are related to the above mentioned special populations.

For more information or to get involved, contact Mindy Niehaus at [homelink@destination-home.info](mailto:homelink@destination-home.info) or 812.774.1480.

To learn more about *Destination: Home*, visit [www.destination-home.info](http://www.destination-home.info) or call 812.428.4975 x 28.

###

**PLANNING**  
*Discharge*  
**COALITION**

Destination: Home  
PO Box 74  
Evansville, IN 47701-0074  
812.428.4975 x 28  
[info@destination-home.info](mailto:info@destination-home.info)  
[www.destination-home.info](http://www.destination-home.info)

