

**Present:** Bill Curtis, Charlie Castleman, Suzanne Draper, Luzada Hayes, Barbara Bennett, Barbara Jessen, Sharon Taylor, Crystal Sisson, Randy Lewis, Birdie Harrison, Jennifer Overley, Charles Sutton, Kat Isbell, Patty Avery

#### **Committee Updates:**

The Services Committee is preparing to assist in grant preparation. They currently have scheduled a bus trip to Louisville and Jeffersonville to visit working youth shelters on either Feb. 26 or 27. They have decided to form a Homeward Bound team that will benefit the Homeless Youth Coalition, They are discussing a presence at Vanderburgh Homeless Connect on March 12, and they have made the decision to meet monthly.

#### Awareness Committee

- Planning to send someone to attend a Leadership Evansville meeting to discuss mentoring on January 22 at 11:30.
- The GattiTown event raised \$41.00 and was coordinated by a Reitz High School DECA student.
- Added to the discussion on a Homeward Bound team by saying that many employers match employee contributions or become event sponsors when employees join a team. They suggested contacting Vectren, Kohl's and Wal-Mart in particular. Homeward Bound--Southwest is June 13, 2009 – [www.homewardboundindiana.org](http://www.homewardboundindiana.org)
- Asked for someone to assist with a presentation Charles is hosting with EVPL reference desk staff on Feb. 19 at 8:30 a.m.
- Added new members and are planning to set new meeting times.
- Dr. Statham is working on planning for focus groups and interviews as part of her research for a Young Adult Survey.
- Vanderburgh Homeless Connect is March 12, 2009 at the Coliseum. The HYC is invited to staff a booth in the Young Adult Services area.

The Prevention Committee was not represented at the meeting. We discussed the need to locate services that help prevent youth homelessness and help agencies understand their role in preventing youth homelessness.

#### **Discussion of Strategy:**

Patty then led a discussion around what needs to happen if we want to see real progress on a drop in center/emergency shelter in 2009.

- Engage in grant writing
- Fund Raising
- Feasibility Study (Already have commitments on preliminary studies for asbestos and architectural services)
- Networking
- Location of a facility
- Developing a service model
- Outline funding strategy
- Law enforcement collaboration

We discussed at length what areas of expertise are represented in the HYC that can help an agency once it determines to take on the project:

- |                                  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| • GLBT youth issues              | • DCS                                     | • We're a part of <i>Destination: Home</i> |
| • Residential                    | • Media contacts and expertise            | • Financial Literacy                       |
| • Courts                         | • Special Needs services                  | • Bank on Evansville account services      |
| • Church                         | • Prevention                              | • Volunteer base/youth                     |
| • Independent Living Services    | • Strengthening Families                  | • USI connection                           |
| • Relationships in the community | • Political understanding and connections |  |
| • United Way 211                 |   |  |

#### **Other discussion items:**

- For more info on Vanderburgh Homeless Connect, Kat recommended the website [www.destination-home.info/vhc.htm](http://www.destination-home.info/vhc.htm) and other location's sites, such as [www.sfconnect.org](http://www.sfconnect.org) and videos on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (search for "homeless connect" or "project homeless connect").
- We need to determine how to reach out to and ID our target youth. Luzada asked whether focus groups could help us identify them and wondered whether talking with the youth Charles works with could be a low-cost way to begin to identify the needs of homeless youth in our area and to identify the youth.
- We discussed creating a virtual drop-in center via a website with links to help. Web-based packages can run \$20 - \$60 a month, but we could potentially work with an agency to host it on their server. Creating a separate domain name can run around \$17-\$20 for two years.
- Patty and Cynthia have discussed attending an EVSC School Board meeting to highlight Barb Bennett's work.

**As the group has decided to meet monthly, the next meeting will be held at 4:00 on Feb. 17 in the Blue and Gold Room at ONB.**