



Homeless Youth Coalition

May 18, 2009

Present: Jan Davies, Charles Sutton, Barbara Jessen, Bill Curtis, Kat Isbell, Kathy Samovitz Greaney, Jennifer Overley, Molly Coulsten, Sidney Hargrave, Kathy Fulkerson, Patty Roedel, Randy Lewis, Crystal Sisson, Lyneve Scott, Luzada Hayes, Gwen Rode, Ursula Anderson, Birdie Harrison, Wyeth Hatfield, Patty Avery

Committee Updates:

Prevention

The group continues to catalogue agencies' services. They are now up to "J," and once their work is finalized they will share it with the group. They will continue to meet just prior to the HYC meetings.

Community Awareness

- Postal notices will go out in the next few weeks to verify continued interest of those without email addresses. Jan Davies has offered to help cover the postage.
- Plans are underway for a summer and a fall "Lunch and Learn," with the summer program to feature an out-of-town speaker and the fall event being an update on local progress toward our goals.
- Homeward Bound will have a kickoff on Saturday, May 23 from noon – 1:00 at Schnuck's West. They need volunteers. Let Patty know if you're available.
- Bobbi Bell, (who can no longer attend awareness committee meetings, yet wants to stay involved), is willing to involve next year's marketing class at Reitz High School in focusing on homeless youth for their projects and when they do presentations to businesses next spring. At least one of the group's meetings will be held during their class time.

Services

- Bill Curtis has visited the Jeffersonville, Indiana, shelter and reported that they have 14 beds and are licensed for 10. They serve approximately 30 youth a year, and Bill feels that is a good indication of the number of youth we would serve. Their organizational budget doesn't specifically separate out the costs of that program.
- His next site visit will be Outreach in Indianapolis, and he is in contact with another Indianapolis program he may visit that day. He may visit the Bloomington program prior to our next meeting, too.

USI presentation

- Luzada Hayes reported that the report is still being finalized and that she will forward it to the group for comments and suggestions for further study. The report focused on the impact of early life experiences, the experience of homelessness, individuals' efforts to change, and suggestions for a drop in center/shelter.
- The students come from a variety of majors, and reported that working on the project radically changed their views of homelessness and homeless individuals.
- Bill Curtis said that while there was not "new information" in the report, it was "good to hear directly from young adults who are homeless" about their experiences.

Who's not at our table?

- Churches and faith-based organizations
- In-home services providers
- Carver (Serita Cabell and Stephanie Terry)
- Youth-serving groups like Boy Scouts
- Dream Center
- IMPACT Ministries
- Greater St. James Education & Recreation Center
- Memorial Baptist Church

Bill Curtis will meet with the Downtown Ministerial Association in July.

Discussion with Ursula Anderson of the Boom Squad

Charles Sutton invited Ursula to the meeting, and she shared about youth she serves who are currently doubled up not because of family conflict, but because their parents are facing financial challenges. In some cases, the family has moved in with friends and relatives, and there's not room for the older youth. She estimated that 10-15 of the children and youth she works with are doubled up.

Next meetings:

June 29, 2009 – 12:00 at the new Boys and Girls Club, 700 Bellemeade Ave.

August 24, 2009 – 12:00 at United Way, 501 NW 4th St.