

Homeless Youth Coalition

June 29, 2009

www.destination-home.info/hyc.htm



Those in attendance: Charles Sutton, John Casavant, Birdie Harrison, Barbara Jessen, Kat Isbell, Patty Avery, Anne Statham, Cynthia Smith, Tonya Staup, Crystal Sisson, Lyneve Scott, Gail Knight Williams, Bill Curtis, Patricia Roedel, Wanda McCarter, and Linda Walters

Introductions were made. Committee reports were offered.

Community Awareness

- Homeward Bound walk took place on June 13. The Homeless Youth Coalition will receive 1/8 of the money raised by the walk.
- On Sept. 28, Indiana Youth Institute will co-host a lunch and learn with a speaker focusing on homeless youth issues.
- In December, the Commission on Homelessness will host the 5th Anniversary Celebration of *Destination: Home*, including an update on the HYC activities.
- The Community Awareness committee will be working with Bobbi Bell and the Reitz High School marketing class on a project in fall 2009.
- Dr. Miser, Dr. Opatrny, Dr. Statham, and Kat Isbell are working on a "New Yorker"-like magazine that will focus on *Destination: Home* & homelessness issues.
- Jan Davies provided funding for mailings to update individuals on the HYC contact list who do not use email. Thank you Jan!!!

Prevention Committee

- Has been drafting a community services document that will be distributed to youth serving organizations in early 2010 listing services available for youth at risk or currently homeless.
- Reviewed the curriculum from the 1-800-National Runaway project and hopes to have select modules available as training opportunities soon.

Services Committee - Bill Curtis, Hillcrest Washington Youth Home, provided an update on the visits he and Gail Knight Williams have made to five youth shelters in the region.

- Bill provided a detailed description of four of the homeless youth centers: Covenant House (St. Louis), Outreach, Inc (Indy), Restoring Lives West (Indy), and Clark County Shelter (Jeffersonville). All of the programs relied on volunteers, and most were faith-based. A start-up operation could be a Monday-Friday program (10 am to 7 pm) serving 14 to 18 year olds.
- Staff would consist of full-time director/case manager and two part-time case managers/outreach workers.
- Bill's goal is to have clear definition and focus by the end of October.
- Bill and Gail, thank you so much for the information!

Data Committee – We need to get an update on the legislation ruling to provide homeless youth data statewide by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. Information from the Homeless Youth Planning Survey has been limited. We need to find out if local shelters are housing 16 to 17 year olds. EVSC identified 503 students as experiencing homelessness in the 2008/09 school year.

Legislation updates –

Do we need to think about asking the state legislature to consider any additional legislation or updating in spring 2010?

Has the Indiana Department of Education formed the Office/Coordination for Education of Homeless Youth?

On the federal level, will there be any funds allocated through the federal stimulus dollars for homeless prevention projects to focus on homeless youth? We need to follow up with the Prevention Committee on the Commission on Homelessness to find out how appropriations will be allocated.

Congressman Ellsworth has asked for appropriations for a foster care therapeutic service, Kids Peace, for the Evansville area.

Next meeting: August 24 at noon at the United Way of Southwestern Indiana offices.

Respectfully submitted, Cynthia Smith