

CoC Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2017 – 10am – 11:30am

Ounce of Prevention – 33 W. Monroe

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Present in-person: Keith Richardson (LEC), Carie Bires (Ounce of Prevention), Barbara Shaw (IHDC), Joshua Brollier (Thresholds), Consuella Brown (All Chicago), Gail Schechter (All Chicago), Jenna Temkin (All Chicago)
 - b. Present via phone: Jim LoBianco (Teen Living Programs), Jennifer Nelson-Seals (The Blvd.), Tedd Peso (Night Ministry), Angela Hicks (Margaret's Village), Erika Cornelisen (Baum Family Fund), Aaron Eldridge (SHPA-IL), Tamela Milan (ACHN)
- II. Review and Approval of Agenda and Minutes
 - a. Unanimously approved
- III. SPC Update
 - a. Jennifer provided a recap of the Jan. 25 SPC meeting
 - i. 30-35 agencies attended. They approved and signed a document outlining the group's strategic priorities and mission. One of their priorities is coming together around advocacy issues that impact service providers
 - b. Discussion of the CoC Advocacy Committee's scope
 - i. The CoC Advocacy Committee is supposed to support Plan 2.0 and systems-level work.
- IV. Policy Updates
 - a. Consuella emailed the Indivisible Guide that Barbara had recommended to the group
 - b. Gail recommended we sign up for Housing Action Illinois' (HAI) webinar, "Federal Advocacy Priorities for Housing in the New Political Landscape," on Monday, Feb. 6 from 11am to noon. She will report back on her Feb. 10 call with HAI about federal housing advocacy.
 - c. Consuella voiced concern about the administration's threat to withhold funding the sanctuary cities. Will this apply to HUD funding?
 - d. Consuella went over Chicago Coalition for the Homeless' (CCH) 2017 legislative agenda
 - e. Carie: Shriver Center is working on a bill to provide a diaper allowance to low-income families
 - f. Tedd: CCH is planning to expand into federal advocacy arena. We should talk to them about their plans. The Night Ministry is working with IDHS to expand food stamps to city college students. There's work happening around municipal IDs, and Tedd sits on one of the committees; he's the only homeless services voice at the table.
 - g. Jenna will create a federal, state, and local policy landscape grid for the next meeting
- V. Leadership Nominations & Vote
 - a. Carie Bires, Jim LoBianco, and Barbara Shaw have been nominated to serve as co-chairs
 - b. Jennifer Nelson-Seals moved to vote; Josh Brollier seconded
 - i. Vote: all in favor except for one abstention
 - ii. Co-chairs are approved
- VI. Committee Member Nominations and Vote

- a. Reviewed roster and got confirmation from the following members that they would remain on committee
 - i. SPC Seats: Jennifer Nelson-Seals, Joshua Broilier, Jim LoBianco
 - ii. LEC Seats: Keith Richardson, Chris O'Hara
 - iii. Other stakeholder seats: Carie Bires, Barbara Shaw, Angela Hicks, Erika Cornelisen, Aaron Eldridge
 - a. Seats we need filled: One from LEC and one from city would be great
 - b. We will go through the "mailing list" to see who wants to be a member and who wants to be removed
 - c. All Chicago staff support: Jenna will track policy news and provide general administrative support (i.e. taking minutes, maintaining lists, scheduling calls). Gail and Consuella will switch off in being the lead All Chicago representative at the meeting, but eventually Consuella will step out. Gail will help committee with advocacy strategies.
 - d. All agreed to keep meeting scheduled for first Weds. of month from 10am to 11:30am.
- VII. Committee Goals 2017 Brainstorm– *Each member was asked to list their policy priorities. Policy items listed in bold were brought up by three or more members.*
- a. Local
 - i. Improve CRS referral system (this will get phased out as Coordinated Entry gets put in place)
 - ii. Get funding for a program that provides on-site mental health services to youth at drop-in programs and overnight shelters
 - 1. A group of youth providers worked on this program; it failed to get city funding, but the mayor is interested
 - iii. Increase Crisis Intervention Training and create mental health unit response team in Chicago Police Department
 - iv. Advocate for landlords that understand and support mission of supportive housing
 - v. Amend Cook County Human Rights Ordinance to ban discrimination in real estate transactions based on criminal history
 - 1. "Just Housing Initiative" is working on this
 - b. State
 - i. **Get a state budget**
 - ii. Increase state funding for mental health programs
 - iii. Stabilize Managed Care Organizations
 - c. Federal
 - i. Renew Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
 - 1. The act expired a few years ago and was not reauthorized by Congress. It funds housing for minors and youth street outreach.
 - ii. Preserve the ACA
 - 1. Ensure Medicaid isn't funded through block grants
 - 2. Advocate for Illinois' 1115 waiver
 - iii. Preserve Head Start program
 - iv. Address children and families that don't fit into HUD's definition of homelessness

- d. Local, State, or Federal
 - i. **Increase stock/availability of affordable housing**
 - ii. **Increase funding for Permanent Supportive Housing**
 - iii. Engage with child welfare
 - iv. Promote racial equity in homeless services
 - v. Ex-offender/criminal justice support
- e. *Potential strategies*
 - i. Implement a tax or fee for luxury rental units that would go toward PSH
 - ii. Ex. of campaign we could take on: current law allows local residents to raise property tax in a district by small amount to generate money for mental health services in that community
 - iii. Increase awareness of the CoC among DFSS, aldermen, and other elected officials, so they will have to go through the CoC to get work done
 - 1. The CoC should be framing the conversation around homelessness
 - iv. Promote affordable housing as an infrastructure issue

VIII. Next Steps

- a. Next meeting: March 1 from 10am to 11:30am at All Chicago's office
- b. Planning call with co-chairs in mid-February
- c. Agenda for next meeting
 - i. Present reports from other groups – Housing Action IL call, etc.
 - ii. Jenna will present policy landscape
 - iii. Review our policy priorities brainstorm against the full policy landscape to see who we can support and where we might spearhead our own campaign
 - iv. Discuss committee membership and any collaborations with other groups

IX. Meeting Adjourned: 11:35am