



## Minutes

### Blueprint Council

📅 Mon February 17th, 2020

🕒 3:30pm - 5:00pm EST

📍 Conference Room 2001, 200 E. Washington Street

#### 👥 In Attendance

Emily Bair, Jeff Bennett, William Bumphus, Virginia Caine, Angela Carr Klitzsch, David Greene, John Hall, Chelsea Haring-Cozzi, Ray Lay, Emily Mack, Breanca Merritt, Chris Ray, Rodney Stockment, Sara VanSlambrook, Kay Wiles, Amanda Wilkerson, Tamara Winfrey-Harris

#### I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Thank you to those who came in on a day off for the President's Day holiday!

#### II. **Elect Executive Committee**

Chelsea reviewed the roles and responsibilities of Executive Committee. Information and charter is available on the CoC website at: <https://www.indycoc.org/coc-structure-board/blueprint-council-minutes>

##### a. **Chair**

Nominations: Jeff Bennett

**Decision:** Jeff accepted the nomination.

##### b. **Vice Chair**

Nominations: Dr. Caine.

**Decision:** Dr. Caine accepted the position of Vice Chair.

##### c. **Second Vice Chair/Parliamentarian**

Nominations: Pastor Greene

**Decision:** Pastor Greene accepted the nomination.

#### III. **Nomination of Governance Workgroup**

Open seats: business representative, funders (2), systems representatives (2)

Governance Workgroup will identify individuals/agencies that would be appropriate to outreach to to join Blueprint Council.

Nominations: Amanda Wilkerson, Jeff Bennett, Kay Wiles, Tamara Winfrey Harris

**Decision:** All 4 members accepted and will serve as the 2020 Governance Workgroup.

#### IV. **Blueprint Council Operations (Quick Reminders)**

a. **Boardable**

Please be sure to login and familiarize yourself with Boardable. Agenda and associated materials will be available 10 days prior to each meeting.

Contact Emily Bair (ebair@chipindy.org) with any questions or for a tutorial.

b. **2020 Blueprint Council meeting dates and locations**

Meetings are held bi-monthly and will be at rotating locations. Next meeting is April 20 at 3:30p at CICF. All details are in Boardable Meetings.

c. **2020 Full CoC meeting dates and locations**

Meetings are being held quarterly at UWCI. All details are at [www.indycoc.org/calendar](http://www.indycoc.org/calendar)

#### V. **Level Setting**

a. **Infrastructure, Vision**

Chelsea reviewed the system vision that was created in 2019 by a diverse of CoC members, agencies, and advocates. This is not how our homeless response system currently operates, but is our ideal state that is being worked towards.

Every component of the system should focus on how to get individuals and families in our system into housing as fast as possible and how to help them maintain that housing.

CES (Coordinated Entry System) is not a way to get on a "housing list" but how to rapidly connect individuals and families to the correct intervention and supports. This means that we must also have sufficient resources available through each permanent housing intervention.

The Blueprint Council is not responsible for determining every step needed to get the system functioning in this new vision, but there are lines of work with dedicated project managers and practitioners working on the ground day to day to determine best practices and policies. Once tested and verified, these are lifted up to the Blueprint Council for approval and resource alignment.

Currently, the largest need is for Rapid ReHousing (RRH), but the largest amount of resource has been put into Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).

CoC identified 4 priority populations: veterans, chronically homeless, families, and youth & young adults.

While chronic homelessness is a small portion of the overall population, they utilize the highest amount of resources. Focusing on this population allows the general community to see higher cost savings and decrease in visible homelessness, further empowering the work of the CoC.

#### VI. **2020 Priorities: Veterans**

Veterans experience homelessness at a higher rate than the general population, and Indianapolis has double the national average for veterans experiencing homelessness. Federally, additional resources have been designated for veterans. Therefore, the Indianapolis CoC made veterans a priority population.

Ending veterans homelessness (referred to as reaching "functional zero" in other programs) does not mean that there will never be another veteran who experiences homelessness, but that when veterans enter our system we are able to prevent or end their homelessness as fast as possible and ensure they do not return to homelessness.

Currently, no decisions needed by the Blueprint Council. The veterans line of work have identified gaps in the system and are working to address them.

Nationally, veteran homelessness is decreasing. In Indianapolis' 2019 Point in Time (PIT) Count, there was a small increase (8 veteran households). Most veteran households in our city are in emergency shelter or transitional housing; only a small number of veterans are unsheltered.

We are utilizing USICH's (US Interagency Council on Homelessness) 4 criteria and benchmarks to know we have ended veterans homelessness.

More information is available online: <https://www.usich.gov/goals/veterans/>

The CoC has currently met one of four criteria and benchmarks - the number of veterans entering transitional housing (TH)/grant and per diem (GPD) is less than the number of veterans entering the system on a monthly basis.

System strengths:

1. partnership and support of VA, IHA, City, and faith based providers.
2. data sharing

Opportunities for improvement:

1. HUD-VASH process refinement
2. CES refinement
3. data sharing & analytics - currently there are two "by-name lists" of veterans experiencing homelessness
4. resource alignment

What can the leadership at this table (Blueprint Council) do to align priorities and elevate impact?

1. Where are there bottlenecks within the system causing the increased length of time from assessment to housing?
2. Shared definitions of veteran, homelessness, a shared mission.
3. Are there differences in housing location and/or request for services in the winter vs. summer?
4. Marion Co. Health Dept. has established a new department in 2019 for individuals experiencing homelessness and being released from incarceration.
5. Need to increase ability to share data across systems.

**Task:** Definition of a veteran: anyone who any discharge status other than dishonorable. Includes National Guard, if called to active duty of one day or more outside of training. Need to confirm with Veterans Leadership Workgroup.

 Chris Ray

## VII. **Wrap Up (Questions, Resources)**

Today's PowerPoint is available on Boardable. Please feel free to reach out with questions or data requests - start a discussion on Boardable.