



# BLUEPRINT COUNCIL BOARD MINUTES

JUNE 15, 2020



**Members in Attendance:**

Jeff Bennett, Blueprint Council Chair, City of Indianapolis  
William Bumphus, Direct Service Provider (Crisis Response) Representative  
Dr. Virginia Caine, Vice Chair, Marion County Public Health Dept  
Pastor David Greene, Second Vice Chair, Purpose of Life Ministries  
John Hall, Indianapolis Housing Agency  
Ray Lay, Lived Experience Representative  
Emily Mack, City of Indianapolis- Department of Metropolitan Development  
Breanca Merritt, University/Research (IUPUI)  
Chris Ray, Dept of Veteran Affairs  
Kay Wiles, Direct Service Provider (Permanent Housing)  
Amanda Wilkerson, Lived Experience Representative  
Tamara Winfrey-Harris, Central Indiana Community Foundation

**Members Absent:**

Angela Carr Klitzsch, EmployIndy  
Sara VanSlambrook, United Way of Central Indiana

**CoC Leads Present:** Chelsea Haring-Cozzi (CHIP), Rodney Stockment (City of Indianapolis)

**Guests:** Danielle Bagg Wireman (CHIP- Coordinated Entry System), Amy Gibson (CHIP- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Prjoect), Mary Jones (United Way of Central Indiana), Rachael Sample (CHIP- Minutes)



**Jeff Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM via Zoom Conference and Webinar Service.**

**Chelsea Haring- Cozzi presented outstanding business items.**

- 1) Blueprint Council hosted on Zoom are recorded, and CHIP staff member is taking minutes.
- 2) Upcoming Blueprint Council Meetings:
  - a. August 17: Wheeler Mission, Shelter for Men (unless COVID-19 prevents in-person, and then we will be on Zoom)
  - b. October 19: VA (unless COVID-19 prevents, then Zoom)
  - c. December 12: location TBD (Chelsea will provide an update)
- 3) A full CoC meeting will be sometime in August/September, and will likely be a Zoom meeting.
- 4) Please join us on Thursday June 18 at 3 PM for a debrief call on the Coordinated Investment Plan and report.

**Action Item 1: Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Funding Recommendations (presented by Chelsea Haring-Cozzi and Amy Gibson)**

**Overview:**

Please note a full summary and description of the YHDP recommendations was provided to all Blueprint Council members in the Board Packet.

**Recommended Projects:**

The RFP workgroup is recommending the following projects be funded at the recommended funding levels indicated in Table 1 for a total of \$1.9 million in annual funding:

*Table 1: YHDP Project and Funding Recommendations*

<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Organization(s)</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>	<i>Recommended Amount</i>	<i>Units or Young People</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
<i>Diversion</i>	Outreach Inc.	\$140,492	\$150,000		Submitted two separate projects (one specific to minors and one specific for pregnant/parenting young adults. 1. Combining the projects and serve all young all people with 20% prioritized for minors. 2. Amend budget
<i>Host Homes</i>	Trinity Haven	\$422,109	\$130,000	10 Host homes	1. Amend budget



TH – RRH	City of Indianapolis	\$515,668	\$300,000	15 RRH units 8 TH units	1. City will re-issue RFP to meet this need
RRH	Project Prism (HIP and IYG)	\$948,933	\$842,500	45 units	1. Remove 2 outreach FTEs from proposal 2. Amend budget
RRH	Damien Center	\$597,313	\$350,000	22 units	1. Remove the 3 and 4 bedroom units as these would be difficult for a young person to afford on their own 2. Amend budget
System Navigation	Adult & Child and Outreach Inc.	\$184,132	\$130,000		1. Remove 1 FTE to align with the Coordinated Community Plan

*(Note: All projects are eligible for renewal under CoC NOFA, per YHDP HUD TA guidance)*

**Blueprint Council Action:**

The Blueprint Council is being asked to approve the recommendations put forth by the YHDP RFP workgroup, as required by HUD for a July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 submission deadline. Please note the recommendation for the TH-RRH funding is for the City to be the recipient in order to provide time for an RFP to be reissued because the selected applicant was not able to accommodate the budget changes requested by the RFP work group.

**Discussion:**

Any conflicted agency representatives cannot vote. Kay Wiles informed the group that she is conflicted and will not be voting.

The RFP was sent out to our CoC community listserv (about 3,000 people) three times during the month of May. It was posted on CoC social media several times, and was announced in the weekly COVID-19 provider calls during the month of May (four total calls).

**Vote:**

Jeff Bennett made a motion to approve the recommendations put forward by the RFP Work Group, and Tamara Winfrey-Harris seconded it.

The Council voted, and it was approved unanimously with Kay Wiles abstaining from voting.

**Action Item 2: Coordinated Entry (CES) COVID-19 Prioritization Policy Addendum (Presented by Chelsea Haring-Cozzi and Danielle Bagg-Wireman)**



### **Overview:**

Please note a full summary and description of the CES COVID-19 Prioritization Policy Addendum recommendations was provided to all Blueprint Council members in the Board Packet.

### **Recommended Policy Addendum:**

The Coordinated Entry Leadership Workgroup examined guidance from HUD, the Marion County Public Health Department, and prioritization addendums from three peer CoC's to guide the following time-limited policy recommendations:

- **First Priority Population:**

*Households containing a person 60 years of age or older **who also has** one or more of the qualifying health conditions described in the Marion County Public Health Order No. 8.*

- **Second Priority Population:**

*Households containing a person 60 years of age or older **OR** an individual one or more of the qualifying health conditions described in the Marion County Public Health Order No. 8.*

- **Racial Equity:**

*The CES Leadership Team will review disaggregated data to ensure Black people and people of color are identified, tested, assessed and housed at a rate that is proportionate to their makeup of homeless households in Indianapolis. This team will make adjustments to the CES prioritization plan as needed to make certain it is racially equitable.*

**Note:** The next levels of prioritization for households within each priority population will be based on vulnerability and length of time homeless as outlined in the Indianapolis CoC Written Standards and CES Policies and Procedures.

### **Blueprint Council Action:**

The Blueprint Council is being asked to approve the policy addendum put forth by the Coordinated Entry Leadership workgroup in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis.

### **Discussion:**

The COVID-19 Coordinated Investment Plan (CIP) that is being reviewed on Thursday June 18 will support and come along side this prioritization work.

ESG COVID-19 funding will be for COVID-19 at-risk populations, which will allow other funding (ex: CoC funding) to serve families with children or other populations.

Additional group discussion centered on accountability to spend funding and serve households rapidly to address the crisis. The decision was to provide monthly updates to the Blueprint Council about the response and housing outcomes.

The CES Leadership Work Group will use their monthly meeting and to discover opportunities to pivot or make changes as the response develops.

### **Vote:**

Dr. Caine moved to adopt the CES prioritization addendum, and Ray Lay seconded it.



The vote was taken, and approval was unanimous.

**Action item 3: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Quality Plan (Presented by Chelsea Haring-Cozzi).**

**Overview:**

Please note a full summary and description of the CES COVID-19 Prioritization Policy Addendum recommendations was provided to all Blueprint Council members in the Board Packet.

**Blueprint Council Action:**

The Blueprint Council is being asked to approve the Data Quality Plan, inclusive of the standard operating procedures and HMIS checklist as supporting materials referenced in the HMIS Data Quality Plan.

**Discussion:**

The data quality plan is only about improving data quality, and does not take ownership of improving project service delivery that would lead to improved outcomes. The data deep dives are meant to provide more peer support and direction in this area, but this is not a holistic strategy. There was consensus that more direction given to the system on where the issue of performance improvement (as it relates to service delivery) ultimately lies.

**The action was amended to include language in the Data Quality Plan that if an agency failed to meet data quality standards over time that the Blueprint Council would review the issue.**

Amanda Wilkerson made a motion to approve the Data Quality Plan, with the added language, including the data checklist, and Dr. Cain seconded it.

The Council voted, and it was approved unanimously.

**Action Item 4: Adoption of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Definition of Veteran (Presented by Chelsea Haring-Cozzi and Chris Ray, Dept of Veteran Affairs)**

**Overview:**

Please note a full summary and description of the CES COVID-19 Prioritization Policy Addendum recommendations was provided to all Blueprint Council members in the Board Packet. Information from USICH is also available here:

[https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Criteria\\_and\\_Benchmarks\\_for\\_Ending\\_Veteran\\_Homelessness\\_June\\_2019\\_Update.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Criteria_and_Benchmarks_for_Ending_Veteran_Homelessness_June_2019_Update.pdf)

**Blueprint Council Action:**

The Blueprint Council is being asked to approve the adoption of the USICH definition of veteran for purposes of aligning the definition with the USICH criteria and benchmarks for measuring and assessing progress on ending veterans homelessness.

**Discussion:**

The importance of this definition is more about how we are measuring progress to address veteran homelessness, and whether we are being efficient or effective.



Amanda Wilkerson asked whether this definitional issue would influence our community's priority of granting ESG funding for individuals that are not veterans under this definition, but were under the broader definition. Rodney suggested that the Blueprint Council recommend that ESG funding still be prioritized for this population, regardless of the definitional change.

A new motion was proposed:

The Blueprint Council approved the adoption of the USICH definition of a veteran, and recommends that the City of Indianapolis continue to support funding (through ESG) that can assist guard and reserve members that did not deploy to active duty.

**Vote:**

Amanda Wilkerson made a motion to approve the USICH adoption including updated language regarding ESG funding. Tamara Winfrey- Harris seconded it.

The Council voted, and it was approved unanimously.

**Other Business:**

The Coordinated Investment Planning (CIP) tool will help us understand who we are doing and will be doing to respond to COVID-19. We will also be making sure that individuals at the quarantine/isolation sites transitioning between FSSA/MCPHD remain safe and have access to permanent housing.

Rapid Rehousing will be prioritized as permanent supportive housing continues to lag, and we know that individuals referred may transition to PSH.

The discussion returned to the issue of accountability. Pastor Greene suggests that the executive committee think through this more and bring back to the full council.

The meeting ended at 5:13 PM.