



Bemidji Homeless Advisory Team

**Friday, May 30, 2014
District Board Room**

Members Present: Vince Beyl, Stephanie Hubbard, Angie Lauderbaugh, Greg Liedl, Kathy Palm, Tami Wesely

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00. Angie shared several scenarios of homeless students she is working with.
2. Angie discussed the Year-end McKinney Vento Report. The number of students served is up slightly compared to last year with 280 students so far. It looks like fewer American Indian students qualify for McKinney Vento, 60% compared to 75% before. This spring Angie has received a surplus of calls from people who are losing their homes. We have an increase in two-parent families becoming homeless. People seem more aware and comfortable calling transportation or the schools to let staff know they are homeless and are more receptive to receiving services.
3. Needs Assessment of Homeless Persons in Bemidji Area, April 2014 (created by Center City Housing Corporation, Duluth):
 - a. Bemidji Schools is 6th in the State for number of identified homeless students
 - b. Beltrami County showed 64% of homeless students were American Indian with 36% county wide
 - c. Statistics:
 - i. 60% of homeless students are doubled up
 - ii. 39% were sheltered
 - iii. 40% of families at Village of Hope had a high school diploma
 - iv. Only 32% moved to permanent housing
 - v. 39% moved in with family or friends
 - vi. 24% were unknown
 - vii. 7% went to transitional housing
 - viii. 3% went to a hotel
 - ix. 45% were considered to have moved into stable housing
 - x. 80% were long term or multiple homeless
 - xi. Village of Hope turned away 569 children in 2013
 - xii. Conifer Estates currently have 90 families on a waiting list
 - xiii. Section 8 has 170 families on a waiting list
 - d. Key Themes:
 - i. Affordable housing – five bedroom housing costs \$1,500 per month
 - ii. There is a mismatch between family size and vacant units
 - iii. Rental units are poor quality
 - e. Challenges to living independently:
 - i. Families with mental health issues



- ii. Domestic abuse
 - iii. Not enough resources
 - iv. Once housed, families need support and skill to remain stable
 - f. Evergreen Youth and Family Services (YFS)
 - i. 2010-2013 there were 1,600 unaccompanied homeless youth that were served with emergency food, clothing and hygiene products
 - ii. Students are younger and staying longer
 - g. Key Informant Themes:
 - i. There are limited emergency options
 - ii. Young teen parents
 - iii. Early intervention is important
- 4. The 2014-2015 McKinney Vento Grant application is submitted and we should hear any day whether it is approved.
- 5. Angie and Amy Merschman will have interns in the fall. The interns will have them work with them to better track services offered and better needs assessments. Angie, Amy, and Ashley are working together to meet the needs of students. One family takes so many interventions.
- 6. Angie appreciates this committee and our support.
- 7. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. We will schedule a meeting next fall. We should meet at Angie's office sometime to see the items she has organized to serve homeless families.