



Bemidji Homeless Advisory Team

Friday September 13, 2013
District Board Room

Members Present: Vince Beyl, Jolene Enerson, Angie Lauderbaugh, Kathy Palm, Tami Wesely

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00. We discussed the Year 2 McKinney Vento Grant. We have \$40,000 plus \$3,000 carryover funding available for 2013-2014. Title I also provides \$40,000, in addition to the chicken dinner money.
2. We discussed Angie's role in the schools. Angie provided a Framework that outlines her priorities:
 - a. Help students become stable at home and in school according to McKinney Vento Framework, setting up transportation is always first.
 - b. Train the building Point People to be the contact for homeless students in their schools.
 - c. Schedule her visits to the schools.
3. New programs? Oshki has not yet started their shelter program.
4. Training opportunities - Each year Angie attends one staff meeting at each building to bring awareness to the homeless program. This year, since most are aware of the McKinney Vento Act and the homeless program, she would like to give a few ideas to staff based on research that may be helpful with transitioning students in and out as the year is underway. Angie shared the following information about mobility:
 - a. Research states that students who frequently change schools score lower on standardized tests by as much as 20 points compared to the non-mobile students.
 - b. Research states that mobility also hurts non-mobile students. The average test score of non-mobile students went down when in settings of highly mobile students.
 - c. It takes children an average of 4-6 months to recover academically after changing schools.
 - d. In one study, mobility during high school greatly diminished the likelihood of graduation. This study showed that students who changed high schools even once were less than half as likely as stable students to graduate.
5. Homeless Awareness Week is in November, and Angie would like more school involvement. She shared the following ideas:
 - a. Challenge students to read books that are based on true stories of people who were once homeless.
 - b. Watch movies such as the *Blind Side* that was based on a homeless high school boy who became a great football player.



- c. Research song writers or actors/actresses who were once homeless. Make sure students find in their research what the turning point to their homeless situation was.
 - d. Invite different groups such as National Junior Honor Society and Peer Leaders to volunteer at the homeless awareness dinner.
6. Children's Mental Health Conference – Angie presented at this last year. There has been interest expressed with other support staff and wondering if it would be possible to apply to present again this coming spring. It is a great deal for those who present because it gives them a free day of CEU training in the area of mental health.
7. This year's PLCs are supposed to help close the achievement gaps. Angie thinks that with a lot of the research presented and what we already know about students, this is a great year to help provide some resources to schools.
8. We discussed transportation for events outside the academic day. Angie has provided transportation each year to students who could not otherwise attend events at the school. Parents greatly appreciate this service, but there is only one Angie, and many families who need transportation. Can the PTOs help get students to events such as conferences, movie nights, family fun nights, etc.? We can waive fees for kids to participate in sports, but there is no transportation. It appears that most kids living in poverty are unable to participate in after-school sports and activities.
9. We adjourned at 2:30. The next meeting date is October 25, at 1:00 in the district office.