



Bemidji Homeless Advisory Team

1:00 – 2:30 p.m., Thursday, September 25, 2014
District Board Room

Members Present: Vince Beyl, Jolene Enerson, Michael Erickson, Angie Lauderbaugh, Greg Liedl, Kathy Palm, Tami Wesely, Intern Sally

Minutes:

1. Angie introduced her intern Sally and explained the duties that she is completing. Michael Erickson, school psychologist, attended the Homeless Advisory Team meeting for the first time and said he would like to become a member.
2. Angie and Kathy reviewed the 2014-2015 McKinney Vento Grant Application, which was approved for \$40,000. We left \$5,595.44 unused from the last grant and those dollars did not carry over.
3. Angie provided an overview of the Safe at Home program. Angie attended this training. This is for people who do not want their address given out for safety reasons. They use a PO box in St. Paul instead. Angie will inform the buildings not to give out the Safe at Home addresses to anyone.
4. Angie provided an update of the Annual Homeless Awareness Week (Nov. 17-21) and chicken dinner planned for November 18. She will post a Food Challenge on the First Class News, challenging people to eat for \$3.68 per day for one week. District art students are making placemats for the dinner. Last year BMS donated air beds for homeless families.
5. We discussed the following issues:
 - a. If a child starts the year as 'homeless' and then the family finds permanent housing within the first month or two of school, when is the best time to transition that child to their new school? We decided this needs to be decided on a student by student basis.
 - b. There is a piece of McKinney Vento that covers children while their parents are in jail. Each year, we have kids missing school when this happens because the school isn't notified if the children are staying with someone while their parent is in jail. We discussed that the jail should be notified to call the school where the student attends, and we should invite jailers to the homeless training.
6. We discussed training needs. Angie will attend staff meetings to provide quick pointers for how to serve homeless students. She will also provide refresher training for "Point People" in each building. Roberto Reyes (MDE) would like the rest of the NW region to come together for a meeting, and we can provide this training at the same time the week of Nov. 10-14. Kathy can request administrator and teacher CEUs for the event.
7. Our next meeting date is Thursday, October 23, at 1:00 at the district office.
8. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.