

Youth Advisory Board Minutes

May 29th, 2018

In attendance: Erika Villacrez, Marlee Sickinger, Tashryana Evans, Kyle LaHart, Steve Rivera, Daisy Bohm, Johnathan Ervin

Pizza, soda, and other miscellaneous snacks were provided

1. Welcome and Introductions of youth at the table. Completed Sign In sheet.
2. Discussion of what the Balance of State is
3. Discussion of why the BOS needs the youth and YAB
4. Discussion of what the PIT is
5. Discussion of where to find youth in the PIT count and what the youth think of the PIT count – Think the PIT count should be done once during the day and once at night to get a more accurate reflection of the youth; Just ask the youth and talk to the schools; Youth are more likely to disclose homelessness to school counselors and not strangers that are doing the PIT count; Discussed McKinney Vento versus PIT; Locations that were suggested for finding youth during the PIT in Brown County include: Blackstone, Walmart parking lots (in cars), the woods, parking garages downtown, local bridges (over Fox River in De Pere, by the Railroad Museum, and the Dousman bridge in Green Bay), around the library due to free wifi, Pamperin Park, parking lots at parks, park benches, woods near parks, slides, shelters at parks, Save-A-Lot parking lot, West High School parking lot, and other parking lots off of Dousman near Save-A-Lot.
6. Asked youth for advice on how the BOS can make sure youth voices are heard at a state level – participants suggested that the BOS partner with schools more to bring awareness to youth homelessness; participants also talked about having youth write letters to our elected officials about youth homelessness, specifically referencing personal experiences
7. Discussed Housing First and asked for suggestions as to how programs can better implement the Housing First model
 - a. Youth suggested bringing more awareness to the positives of utilizing the Housing First concept. Youth said that awareness can be brought to Housing First by using fliers, websites, and social media to get the word out there about Housing First
 - b. Youth said that programs can implement Housing First more effectively by having more one on one discussions with youth to find out the root to different problems that youth might be having; there was discussion that finding out the root problem and treating that root problem will allow the youth to remained housed more successfully and longer
8. Asked what community services are needed for youth that we do not currently have
 - a. Programs that specifically work with people under the age of 18
 - b. Shelter for minors – discussed the foster care system and shelter; participants understand that the foster care system is supposed to be working with youth under the age of 18 but participants acknowledged that the foster care system has many gaps and needs for teenagers; stated that the foster care system only focuses on money and not what is in the best interest of the youth; talked about how shelter can provided better case management services for youth that are homeless
 - c. Talked about how these programs that are needed for youth may not be supported by elected officials – participants said that youth should write statements and sign

petitions in order to show elected officials that there is a need for youth homeless services

9. What services help you the most in your day to day life?
 - a. Green Bay Metro
 - b. Job Center
 - c. Family Services Counseling
 - d. House of Hope after care services
 - e. McKinney Vento
 - f. Love Life
 - g. WIC
 - h. Foodshare
 - i. Medical Assistance
 - j. Childcare Assistance
10. Discussed the barriers and successes of employment as a homeless youth
 - a. Youth identified the following list as areas of barriers in employment for homeless youth: Reliable transportation, Childcare facilities, Childcare Assistance, SSI/SSDI work/income limitations
 - b. Youth identified the following list as areas of success in employment as a homeless youth: Job Center programs/services such as FSET and W2, Temp Service agencies because they hire anyone
11. Discussed the barriers and successes of education as a homeless youth
 - a. Youth identified the following list of barriers in regards to education for homeless youth: transportation and school supplies (follow-up discussion of McKinney Vento services and Back to School store); Youth then identified McKinney Vento as a program that is not well known amongst homeless youth and that it is not always offered to homeless youth by the schools
 - b. Youth identified the following list as area of successes when it comes to education for homeless youth: McKinney Vento services and the city partnering with GBAPS to provide free city bussing for any student in the GBAPS
12. Talked about potentially doing a mural to bring awareness to youth homelessness
 - a. Youth stated that they would consider assisting with the mural if it was in Green Bay
 - b. Youth do not think that a mural will be impactful for our elected officials but did discuss the fact that a mural would start conversations among the citizens of the city
13. Handed out gift cards and a t-shirt as a thank you for participating and supporting YAB.
14. Took a picture of the group