

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,
HELD A WORK SESSION IN THE THIRD FLOOR ASSEMBLY ROOM OF THE
CITY/COUNTY BUILDING ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting of the **New Albany City Council** was called to order by President Pat McLaughlin at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Coffey, Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps, Mrs. Benedetti, Mr. Blair, Mrs. Baird, Mr. Gonder, Mr. Zurschmiede and Mr. McLaughlin.

OTHERS PRESENT: Stan Robison, Matthew Lorch, and Mindy Milburn

Melissa Fry, Director of the Applied Research and Education Center at IUS, stated that she has been working as a facilitator to Jeffersonville Homeless Task Force and the Floyd/Clark Community Planning Committee to develop a strategic plan to end/reduce homelessness in these counties. She explained that she is here tonight to update them on what the process has been so far with this plan and why and stated that they have on their desks a draft of the Strategic Plan for reference. She explained that it is still a work in progress and doesn't reflect feedback they have received from public in the last few weeks at their public forums. She stated that those edits will be made over the next few weeks and will be posted for public comment again and they will hold another public forum before they reach their final plan. She explained that they would love feedback from the council as well.

Background of the Strategic Plan

She gave a brief background on how they arrived with this plan and stated that they have taken a horizontal approach to get as many people involved as possible in this process and stated that they worked to make it a diverse group of individuals working on it. She explained that they worked with the Jeffersonville Task Force and formed the Community Plan Committee that includes people from Clark and Floyd Counties. She stated that they conducted some focus groups as well to get a wide variety of input from the communities. She explained that the draft plan was a result of four community planning meetings, focusing on housing, substance abuse, economic security, and economic development which was then presented at six community forums where they received public input. She explained that the planning committee will review input from public forums and revise the strategic plan to incorporate that input and they hope to finalize the plan in February.

Strengths in the Community.

She identified strengths for this such as NAHA who prioritize the homeless as well as social services for those moving up and out family self-sufficiency program, Churches providing meals in both Jeffersonville and New Albany, Phoenix Health Care in Louisville, Center for Women and Families emergency shelter and rapid rehousing, St. Elizabeth's for emergency transitional and affordable housing, Salvation Army transitional housing and programs to become independent and the Family Health Centers in Clark and New Albany.

Areas of Need

She stated that a few areas of need are insufficient health care, effectiveness of moving those in shelters to long term housing, need for more family shelters to include men, overcrowding of general population at emergency shelters, financial stability of those that do exist, not in my backyard concerns, insufficient options for non-compliant homeless, Long waiting lists for section 8, the need for more permanent supportive housing units than what LifeSprings has to offer, and the need for options for those that aren't part of

the targeted populations such as 18 year old male who find themselves in the homeless population.

Roles for Municipalities

She stated that the roles that the municipalities could take are to provide rental units for rapid rehousing, developing affordable housing options, public transportation, and offer low rent spaces.

Strategic Plan Highlights

- HUDD and Indiana Community Housing Development Authority are working on centralized intake process.
- Functional assessments
- Education to maintain focus on homelessness
- Attract additional public funding
- Build cost sharing agreements with surrounding counties
- Increase access to stable and affordable housing, increase economic security and improve health and stability
- Retool the homeless crisis response system

Mr. Blair asked about the numbers compared to surrounding communities

Ms. Fry stated that she hasn't done the numbers on that.

Mr. Blair asked how many homeless are transient

Ms. Fry stated that she thinks it is a large number and explained that one of the things that has happened over the years is that people have been brought from other communities to use our shelters. She explained that she has heard that people are getting dropped off by police in surrounding counties because we have the only general population shelter in 13 counties.

Mr. Gonder stated that it is his belief that the mental illness care is underfunding at the state level and that pushes more people on the streets and that dissipates the resources available to those that are situationally homeless and he wondered how that could be addressed

Ms. Fry explained that the mentally ill are largely a part of the chronic homeless population, harder to deal with, and more expensive and if they could do a better job of identifying who needs what then they could funnel those people to the services that they need.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7: p.m.

Pat McLaughlin, President

Mindy Milburn, Deputy City Clerk

