



Candidate's Biography

Please provide the following information for the person you are nominating.

Name: Alice Merrifield
Race: Caucasian
Gender: Female

Agency: Beacon Therapeutic Diagnostic and Treatment Center
Address: 1912 W. 103rd Street, Chicago, IL
Phone: (773) 298-1243
Email: amerrifield@beacon-therapeutic.org

Please check the box(es) next to the committee(s) the nominee is being nominated for:

- The Chicago Alliance's SPC Executive Committee, At-Large Member
- The Chicago Alliance's SPC Executive Committee, Alternate
- The Chicago Alliance's Advocacy Committee
- Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness
- Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness, Alternate

Please briefly describe the nominee's level of participation with the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness (i.e., Board of Directors, SPC Executive Committees and Constituency Groups), the Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness, and/or other work and experience related to homelessness that makes the nominee qualified to be a representative to the committee(s) checked above.

With more than 26 years of clinical and administrative experience in social services, Alice Merrifield, LCSW, Chief Clinical Operations Officer, provides leadership and supervision to all of Beacon's clinical and educational programs. Prior to working at Beacon, she specialized in individual and family therapy for victims of physical and sexual abuse, as well as a general outpatient population. Her primary experience and focus has been on the treatment of trauma in all ages.

Ms. Merrifield has been at Beacon since 2000. Beacon Therapeutic is a multi-site, multi-service agency for some of the most high-risk, disadvantaged, children, teens and families living in Chicago. The agency has three core programs: (1) Therapeutic Day Schools – Elementary and Junior/Senior High School; (2) Homeless Outreach Services; and, (3) Mental Health Outpatient Services.

In January 2014, Ms. Merrifield will have completed two years on the Homeless McKinney Vento (HMV) Committee of the HUD Continuum of Care. While on that committee, Ms. Merrifield served on 4-5 sub-committees relating to evaluation tool development and other committees. Ms. Merrifield is also one of the HMV representatives to the Systems Performance Task Group and has recently agreed to be an HMV representative to the group planning the Consumer Engagement Sessions.



Candidate's Biography

Additionally, Ms. Merrifield's advocacy for homeless children and families spans to the Homeless Families Constituency Group as well as the Planning Coalition for Beacon's Family Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) program. The Planning Coalition consists of more than 33 member organizations and the goal is to identify and address barriers to resources and gaps in services that young homeless families in Chicago experience.

The planning coalition includes representatives from partner and resource agencies, consumers, members of the foundation community, and representatives from child development, housing, education, mental health, substance use, and vocational systems who can affect systems and policy change. Most impressive is that FACT is represented on 13 different entities across the city and state in which the needs of homeless families were NOT previously voiced.

Ms. Merrifield is a strong proponent and has an exemplary knowledge of Beacon's Philosophy of Care which is guided by the following pillars: Reflective Practice; Diversity and Affirmative Services; Trauma-Informed; Strengths-Based; and, Harm Reduction Principles.