

Steering Committee for Plan to End Homelessness
Tuesday, October 28, 2014
8 am – 10 am
Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room

MEETING MINUTES- Approved December 16, 2014

General overview of meeting: (See also meeting powerpoint slides.) Ellen Groh, Director of the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, (CCEH) presented background information on CCEH, an overview of the 5 goals of the Plan and the role of the Steering Committee.

Ellen presented 2 priorities for the coming year, based on circumstances in Concord, and most of the discussion focused on these 2 priorities. The first is addressing the closing of the Cold Weather Shelters after 2014/15 and the need to have some kind of emergency response, yet not lose focus on the true goal of creating permanent housing solutions using a Housing First Model. Statistics from the cold weather shelters were reviewed, as well as the successes of the Housing First model. Coordinated Assessment was presented as another tool to reduce the demand on the shelters through diversion and prevention services. The application for State funding for the shelters should be available soon and due approximately 4 weeks later. If an applicant is not identified, CCEH will apply to “hold” the funds, but CCEH is not able to run a shelter.

The second priority is the expansion of the Resource Center, given that it must move from its current location in the coming year. The Friendly Kitchen site as a potential location was discussed. The deadline for CDBG funding is January and Building on Hope funding deadline will be in December or January.

It was also noted that a detailed workplan was submitted by CCEH with an application for funding from the NH Charitable Foundation, and this workplan will be emailed to the Steering Committee members. The workplan calls for the creation of task forces around key issues and goals: the closing of the cold weather shelters; expansion of the Resource Center, Education, and increasing Affordable Housing and Funding. Execution of the workplan is contingent on obtaining the funding.

Given the deadlines for potential funding sources, the Steering Committee decided it should meet again the second week in December.

Meeting Minutes:

Present: Tim Sink, Byron Champlin, Ruth Perencevich, Peter Evers, Bill Davis, Claudia Walker, Jackie Whatmough, Rob Hirschfeld, Nicole Shultz-Price

Absent: Steve Duprey, Lew Feldstein, Pamela Puleo, Ron White

CCEH: Ellen Groh, Maggie Fogarty, Ellen Fries (Ellen Fries taking minutes)

Called to order at 8:10 AM (Peter and Byron will need to leave early)

Introductions around the room

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Thanks for your time from CCEH and the City. We can lead to solve the problem of homelessness in this community.

All signed City oath.

(See handouts and slides for more information.)

History of CCEH
Overview of Plan to End Homelessness
(Byron: is a 5 day RC adequate?)

5 Broad Goals

Role of Steering Committee – Ellen Groh’s understanding of this – the Plan is vague about the structure and authority of the Steering Committee.

Role is described on powerpoint slide, and Steering Committee should also offer alternative ideas for strategies

Discussion on Strategies for Implementation:

Housing Tim -Housing First strategy – the mission statement of CCEH includes **eliminating the causes of homelessness**- will these strategies get to the causes?

Huge issues in causes-substance abuse/mental health

Byron –Increasing Affordable Housing: How much can Concord sustain? What is tipping point in the balance of housing?

Clarification: Community Housing of Maine- is a non-profit organization, develops housing and brings in other agencies to provide services.

Also Preble Street organization in Maine- develops housing and provides services, so it has to do much more fundraising more than CHOM.

Priorities for coming year:

Cold Weather Shelters closing

Housing first: Providing permanent housing to people who stay the longest at the shelters will change dynamic of shelters – Shelter is not the solution, shelters are a treadmill. Housing the most chronically homeless will lower the need for shelter space
Neighborhood resistance - drug use/behaviors/crowds/etc. The messaging about this will be critical. (Byron)

With HF, do cities see more homeless moving in as others are housed?

Coordinated Assessment: work with shelters from day 1 to move people on.

Interim Response: CCEH to apply for funding to ‘hold’ for 15/16 season., but CCEH is not in a position to run a shelter.

Why do those who are homeless choose to go where they go? McKenna House, Friendly Kitchen, tenting, shelters, library, young vs old, etc. What are people’s behaviors, routes, etc?

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Family Promise questions:

Shifting focus from shelter to housing.

How does the taskforce avoid having all energy and attention drawn to winter shelter?
Will Housing First solutions be able to drastically reduce need for shelters by next year?
No, so we need an interim response.

What agencies could be part of a Housing First response?

CATCH help w/real estate?

CHA?

Community Loan Fund -

Former fund through churches - put people up in hotels while connecting w/services

Sacred Heart and St. Peters

Bureau of Homeless and Housing

network with landlord community? Need connections to landlords, share ideas...

Association of landlords?

focus on larger rental property owners?

Expanded Resource Center:

CCHE is committed to keeping it up and running

Must move from current location w/in about a year

Building on Hope – would provide \$, publicity that could help build support

Location: Pros and Cons

Does RC affect it's neighbors at its current location? yes - smoking, arguments, loud talking, swearing

It needs to be somewhere accessible – the key question is WHERE?

The public wants it “out of sight out of mind” – but if it's far on fringe, It's not accessible to guests and won't serve its function.

Near CAVEs, etc. – expensive property, very far to walk, would affect NHTI

Former Child and Family group home on N Main – even higher visibility than FK site, near other businesses, homes

Very challenging to find - FK area may be best compromise.(RP)

#s of those who use FK and RC? Probably most people who go to RC also go to FK.

Many others use FK who are not homeless and do not go to RC.

“Campus” - what will people see as they drive by? What numbers are we talking about?—it varies at RC, see about 500 different people in a year, maybe average of 20 people a day.

Jayne Simoes will work on messaging - Byron will set up meeting

-Next to FK may be best place (BC) It might reduce the effect on Marriott - showers, place to be all day.

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But also could have a negative effect on new business corridor.

-RC would not really be adding numbers of people – they are already going to FK - but would be there for a longer time during the day.

-Kimball Jenkins - weddings, sex offenders on property during children's art classes.

-Be attentive to neighbors, be listening to and addressing their concerns, find real solutions that work.

-Claudia: – the sticker price of Halle plan is high: \$200/sq ft. There will be community pushback. Could be part of the 'uphill' on community support.

-Bill Davis asks: once built - programs, ongoing, overhead.... how will this be managed? how be paid for? CCEH/community? City itself? What is long term, backup plan to pay? Sustainability.

-Flatly Co against.

CCEH-We can keep Operating Budget similar to current one for operations of case workers, and grow the services over time, but the building costs will increase.

How is Manchester resource center funded? Primarily United Way funding- and G UW does not want to repeat that model.

General agreement on FK site. With caveats on working with the neighbors, addressing the high costs.

Oil company down there - RR police - others will crop up with concerns.

When we know where homeless people are, it makes it easier in some ways. Have a place to go at least. Easier to police the area.

Does overnight capacity at RC change your opinion?

Important to gain support of Steve Duprey as an abutter, have him help

How to best use Steering Committee? Suggestion to have small executive committee to help shape agenda. Tell Ellen Groh if you'd like to be on exec. Committee.

8- 10 am meeting time ok? Yes. Will meet 4-6 times/year, more in beginning.

Amount of written communications? Frequency?

CDFA, Building on Hope, etc. - other funding apps due.

When do we need to decide on location?

Soft deadline from South Church on when we need to move.

Space at St.Paul's for interim space for RC??

What is relationship w/City Council? What is Ellen's role? The Plan is vague on these details. At this point having Ellen as ex officio seems appropriate.

Look at pieces, cost, go to city to get their buy in. Cannot be entirely volunteer.

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Steering committee to meet 2nd week of December, reach a consensus on pursuing the FK site for Resource Center, applying for Building on Hope and CDBG.

Subgroup should meet w/Steve Duprey prior to Dec meeting to address his concerns

Who join wants to join this meeting?

FK Board also?

Sue Buxton is the new FK Board President – she wants to continue this conversation with a group of people to work through the issues .

Task Forces that Steering Committee members are invited to join:

Cold weather shelter response

Expanded Resource Center

Affordable Housing/Funding task force

Education Task Force

Let Ellen know if you are interested in a task force

Tall Granite Jazz, 11/21 First Church Fundraiser for CWS

- Asking Tim to send out more information with details