

Steering Committee Meeting
Concord's Plan to End Homelessness
December 16, 2014
Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce
49 South Main Street, Concord NH

Minutes
Approved

Call to Order: Ellen Groh called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM

Attendance: Byron Champlin, Tim Sink, Claudia Walker, Bill Davis, Ruth Perencevich, Jackie Whatmough, Rob Hirschfeld, Peter Evers, Lew Feldstein, Steve Duprey, Ron White, Nicole Schultz-Price.

Facilitating: Ellen Groh, CCEH ED

Visitors: Maggie Fogarty, AFSC and CCEH Board Ellen Fries, CCEH Board,

Absent: Pamela Puleo

Discussion and Action Items

I. Structural Issues

Clarifying the role and structure of Steering Committee:

There was discussion about the role of the Steering Committee and the role of the CCEH and their interaction. Concerns were to be sure we are being open and transparent; to be clear about the role of each in terms of advising, decision making and the research and work to be done.

Group consensus reached:

General This Steering Committee provides oversight, advocacy, guidance, insight, connections and expertise.

- **The executive committee** of this Steering Committee is composed of Byron, Claudia, Tim and Bill and will meet with Ellen Groh to prepare agendas and consult on meeting planning.

- **Minutes and meeting schedule should be public** and posted on the City Website because this committee is a publicly appointed body.

- **Task Forces** If/When CCEH receives additional funding (currently waiting on grant application decision) Ellen Groh will have her time increased for work on the Plan and will take the steps necessary to create the needed Task Forces, inviting members, setting objectives, assigning duties, getting reports, seeking funding, etc. This will be a good place for affiliations to be gathered, funding possibilities to be increased, etc.

Approval of Minutes of October 28 meeting: the minutes of the last meeting were duly approved.

Concord Hospital representation was discussed. Pam Puleo has agreed to serve on this committee but has a very full schedule and is having trouble with this meeting time. Ellen Groh is meeting with her today and they will discuss meeting times, and possibly finding someone else to represent the Hospital if it doesn't work for Pam.

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Future Meeting dates/times:

Tuesday, February 17 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Tuesday, April 14 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Tuesday, June 16 2:00 to 4:00 PM
at the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce

II. Update from CCEH

Discussion

Friendly Kitchen site and the need for a zoning variance

- Very difficult to get.
- Must prove a *hardship*- that the requested use of the land the only viable one on that property. We probably don't meet that criteria.
- Could take years in Court if someone appealed.
- Better option is to discuss with the City a change in the zoning. But that would also be very difficult.
- It is a logical sight, with huge hurdles.

At the 140 North Main building, the zoning is correct. Would be a great site for Housing First/Permanent Supportive Housing apartments.

Discussion of several PSH models.

We could put Resource Center in N.Main site as interim loation, until we are able to move on with Housing First/Permanent Supportive Housing

- We need to show action and success early - good public relations, good for funders who are looking for results. PSH would be best, bring Cullen Ryan in.
- Alternatively, Resource Center is what people want to see - more robust action.
- Strategically - evidence based actions, funding, good outcomes - housing
- Pursue all = achieve nothing - spread too thin. Need to focus, show actual movement.
- CHOM come in - would this be stepping on toes? No; CATCH does not see this as their core mission; FIT would not feel their toes were stepped on

Public Education needed around the Housing First model.

Discussion about doing a community discussion/info session to follow up on the Monitor discussion this Thursday. Invite Cullen Ryan from Community Housing of Maine (CHOM), announce at Thursday's event, have sometime in January.

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III. Next Steps

Site for Expanded Resource Center discussion of how to find potential sites. If we give a list of our needs, a commercial real estate broker will know what sites fit. Claudia can send list of 4 major commercial brokers- send criteria to all of them. Ellen will also investigate if the State has any property that might be suitable. Steve provided contact for this info.

Cold Weather Shelters - RFP State Grant in Aid - 3 pieces

CCEH is not in a position to run a shelter. Will apply to use money for caseworker support, diversion, rather than physical shelter.

Ellen investigating what might be the best possible option for Concord for the future of the emergency shelter.

- discussion about what the community may fear, how Concord feels over burdened.
 - "if you build it they will come"
 - tax exempt properties, etc.
 - education needed.

- How does Concord get surrounding towns to participate in providing services, since Concord serves the homeless from outlying towns who have no services to offer?
We should go through County government structure
- Coordinated Assessment system plays into this.
- Steve Duprey and Ellen Groh will ask to meet with County Commissioners Bronwyn Aspen-Walsh and Tara Reardon to discuss options and possibilities.
- It's important that we be aware of Towns that are already assisting service providers in Concord such as McKenna House and acknowledge that.

Community SouperFest!

Ellen announced the Community SouperFest to be held on March 28, 2015 at Rundlett Middle School. This is a major fundraising event for the CCEH to aid in Plan implementation. The planning committee is seeking lead sponsors and will be in touch with Steering Committee members to seek sponsorships and suggestions for where else to seek sponsorships.

Byron Champlin committed a \$1000 sponsorship from Lincoln Financial and Rob Hirschfeld committed the same from the Episcopal Diocese.

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ellen Fries