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Concord Coalition to End Homelessness

<http://www.concordhomeless.org>

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To: Concord Plan to End Homelessness Steering Committee members
From: Ellen Groh, CCEH Director
Date: February 16, 2015

Re: Update on Plan

Community Forum: Thursday February 19th 5:30- 7 pm Delta Dental, 2 Delta Drive

Goal is to provide update on Plan to End Homelessness and give people a better understanding and appreciation of the Housing First strategy as a means to actually end homelessness, not just manage it. Cullen Ryan will speak. We also have a very short, very moving video clip with “before and after” pictures of people who have been permanently housed with the 100,000 Homes Housing First campaign.

Expanded Resource Center (Goal 1 of Plan)

Tom Fredenburg, former CCEH Board member, has purchased the North Main Street building and the plan is to relocate the Resource Center to the first floor of this building as an interim location, probably for a 2 year period. The ultimate goal is to develop this building into affordable housing which can be used with the Housing First strategy to permanently house former “long term stayers” from Concord shelters. (We are working with Cullen Ryan on the housing development aspect of this.)

Attorney Richard Uchida is representing CCEH *pro bono* in our request for a parking variance at the site. The public hearing date is **Wednesday, March 4th at 7 pm**. If any Steering Committee members are able to be present to voice support if necessary, that would be appreciated.

Once the parking variance is obtained, the City Code Enforcement department has said we are cleared to move in. We will be working through the churches to obtain donations of furnishings (chairs, tables, washer and dryer, cleaning supplies, etc.) and limited labor and materials (sheetrock, paint.) We do not expect to do any extensive renovations, just some minor alterations and hopefully the addition of a shower on the main floor for guest use.

Cold Weather Response Strategy/ Housing First (Goal 1 of Plan)

1. CCEH has submitted a request for State Grant in Aid Funds (SGIA) to support a full time “Housing Stabilization Caseworker” who could work with 12-30 “long term stayers” of the Concord shelters, and other chronically homeless individuals in Concord. The Stabilization Caseworker would identify, assess and prioritize individuals for Housing First units, using the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool.) The caseworker would continue to work with participants once they were housed, acting as a liaison to the landlord and helping the person become stabilized in their home.

2. CCEH met with Police and Fire chiefs to discuss the emergency protocol if a person is found on the streets on a very cold night, whether or not they are disturbing the peace. The police have not had to deal with this issue very often.

3. Coordinated Assessment: The first meeting of the key service provider agencies was held in February. There was clear consensus that the Concord area does not need a “single point of entry” like the Seacoast area because there are far fewer agencies in this area to coordinate, and because there are no currently available funds to support such a position. The second meeting is scheduled for next week to begin to work through the process of efficiently conducting intake and assessing people who are entering the homeless services system in a uniform manner.

4. Housing First Strategy Meeting: CCEH facilitated a meeting on February 12, 2015 with the key housing and service providers to hear from Cullen Ryan about the success of Housing First in Portland. There was a generally positive reaction to the strategy of focusing on “long term stayers” with a Housing First model to reduce the need for overflow shelters in Concord, but no concrete steps were agreed upon.

John Hoyt noted that his staff wanted to do more to serve this population, but his Board doesn’t feel as strongly and would have to be convinced. We would need to show the Concord Housing and Redevelopment Board a business/strategic plan on how this would work, and the Board could administratively decide to set aside Section 8 rental subsidy vouchers for this population. Bill Guinther from NH HFA also noted that an HUD 811 application has been pending since May, which would bring another 50 units of project based rental assistance to the state, which could be used for new or existing, mainstream affordable housing units.

Attendance at Strategy Meeting:

Bill Guinther	NHHFA
Brian Boyer	Harbor Homes
Peter Kelleher	Harbor Homes
Chris Miller	NHHFA
DeeAnne Pouliot	NHHFA
Jackie Whatmough	City Welfare
John Hoyt	CHRA
Lorrie Dale	Salvation Army McKenna House
Jenny Belacourt	Salvation Army McKenna House
Sam	Student job shadow SAMH
Maureen Beauregard	FIT
Maureen Ryan	NH DHHS
Peter Evers	Riverbend
Rosemary Heard	CATCH Housing
Kate Foley	CATCH Housing
Taylor Caswell	CDFA
Andy Labrie	CAP
Maggie Fogarty	CCEH
David Frydman	CCEH
Ellen Fries	CCEH
Ellen Groh	CCEH

Next Steps:

1. Approach individual churches about serving as host site for a much smaller cold weather emergency response next year
2. Continuing to create list of long term stayers/chronically homeless for prioritization
3. Approach Concord Housing and Redevelopment Board re: Section 8 set-aside (*Steering Committee advice and recommendations on this?*)
4. Creation of private fund similar to Nashua's ending homelessness fund
 - a. Need to work out structural details with key providers
 - b. *Role of Steering Committee in creation and promotion of Fund*

*Don't Forget: CCEH "**Souperfest Fundraiser**" **Saturday, March 28th** Rundlett Middle School to raise funding for Plan implementation, including consultants and staff time