

Steering Committee
Concord's Plan to End Homelessness
Meeting June 16, 2015
2 pm- 4 p m
Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce
49 South Main Street, Concord

Minutes
DRAFT

Call to Order: Ellen Groh called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM

Attendance: Jackie Whatmough, Tim Sink, Lew Feldstein, Bill Davis, Ruth Perencevich, Claudia Walker, j st.hilaire, Nicole Schultz-Price, Peter Evers, Pamela Puleo, Rob Hirschfeld

Facilitating: Ellen Groh, CCEH ED

Visitors: Ellen Fries, CCEH Board, (taking minutes), Maggie Fogarty, CCEH Board/AFSC, Sandy and Bill Boulanger, Corbin Center.

Absent: Ron White, Byron Champlin, Steve Duprey

Discussion and Action Items:

1. Approval of Minutes: April 14, 2015 Meeting: Motion made, duly seconded and approved with no discussion.
 2. Welcome! to new member, j st.hilaire
 3. Pick meeting dates: Tuesday, August 25, October 20, December 15 2:00 PM at the Chamber of Commerce
 4. Updates/Report from CCEH - Ellen sent updates.
- a. Housing First initiative update - will make announcement in paper about agreement with CH+R, caseworker, etc.(in cooperation with John Hoyt)
- b. Shelter diversion strategy update - City Funding that used to go to the Cold Weather Shelters was put into contingency; City Manager's budget did not recommend funding CCEH's application for increased diversion capacity. CCEH has been in rigorous contact with service providers, faith communities, others who might take on the sheltering in the winter. No one sees a way to take this on given their other commitments. CCEH feels running a shelter is outside our core mission and would take derail our work on the Plan if we committed the time and resources necessary to manage a shelter. CCEH will make a request for funding at City Budget hearing June 25.
Discussion about possible \$ for hotel rooms? Possibility of the Gymnasium @ Heights Community Center as a location? The contingency budget \$ is separate from hotel \$ which is in Human Services Budget.
- c. Successful move on May 1st to new Resource Center location - laundry and shower in today!

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d. Subgroup meeting on how to approach to County Commissioners. Ellen will gather data on money spent by Concord on folks from other towns.

e. Letter sent to Steering Committee members from John Andrews. Often people with ideas will contact CCEH, they don't always have all the background facts (i.e., site next to Friendly Kithcen is not zoned to allow a shelter.) Feel free to talk to such folks, or to send them to Ellen to discuss/vet ideas.

f. Meeting with Condcord Police Dept – the holding cells not available for people to stay in overnight- a security issue. Two or 3 people could sit in the lobby on a really cold night, but people shouldn't be sent to police station as a "shelter." Police would like us to see if they can have \$ for bus/cab to get people to Manchester for shelter in emergency, or voucher for hotel for some instances? Ellen will work on this with CAP agency and City Welfare.

- 5. Discussion:** Small Cold Weather Overflow Shelter and messaging to public
Byron, Maggie and Ellen met with Jayme and Laura Simoes yesterday. Create a positive message about ending homelessness, reducing need for shelter - ENDING, not band-aid. We do have a back up safety plan. Need to keep our focus on ENDING activities, not managing homelessness. Also - we have reached out to all we can think of for CWS. Unlikely. Send message to all in State that we will NOT have a CWS.

Our current list has 14 people who have been out for a long time, used shelter. We will join our list with CAP and McKenna's lists.

12 units of Housing 1st - FIT - Chris Pond case worker – to be used in the Balance Of State (everywhere but Manchester and Nashua.) No success yet getting someone on our list housed. Will consider sex offenders if on 10 year list, not lifetime list. Getting people/agencies to remove the barriers to receiving their services is our greatest challenge. Need to build relationships.

Message - our responsibility to let broader community know CWS of any size does not seem to be coming together. Working on strategies, communications. Hard for community to see lack of this focus which we are used to. Respond to questions thoughtfully, effectively.

Cannot promise that there will be no incidents of people out in the cold this winter, but Cold Weather Shelters never could promise this either. Have protocols. Individualized solutions for the most vulnerable. Woman died in car at Walmart Parking lot this past winter. There WAS a shelter. Someone will always be vulnerable, be out there.

Our energy is on Housing First. Don't worry about what people will say. do our mission. This is a community problem and everyone has a roll in solving this issue. Danger of leaving the door open- do not let people rely on idea that a shelter will appear next winter.

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We need to educate the public on all the barriers - not one solution - some barriers are because of the people we're trying to serve themselves, some are due to sex offenses, substance use... need multiple approaches.

If some organization does open a Cold Weather Shelter, how will they ever close it?

We're doing the job we were chosen to do - ending homelessness. Can't do the other job, which is managing homelessness. It is a community problem for all to be aware of and to work on.

Message - do we need a community conversation on this issue?

Does Steering Committee report to City Council? Ask that we be allowed to report at the July 13 meeting. EG out of town. Bishop Hirschfeld will report at the meeting. Byron Councilor - respond with more info.

Article in Monitor from meeting with Editorial board.

CCEH should do an update in the sidebar of Monitor every month? updates on action. People asking what's happening.

Have Steering Committee submit something to My Turn in July? Lew will Draft for all to review and sign on.

Tension between need for safety net and the enabling that a shelter can create.

McKenna, Salvation Army will be very soon rolling out the expansion, fundraising \$675,000, etc. - it's time to message about CWS. Open the discussion.

Ellen will send Message created by Karno out to Steering Committee.

State Budget: Committee of Conference not convinced to level fund homeless services in State Budget. Today and tomorrow the days to contact. Neal Kurk, Speaker Jasper, Lynne Ober.

Immaculate Heart of Mary - Family Promise Resource Center will move in there. Have their 13 parishes.

Adjourned- approximately 4 pm.

Save the Date: Wednesday, June 24th CCEH Open House and Annual Meeting
4:00 pm- 6:30 pm (brief Annual Meeting at 5:30 pm.) Light refreshments.