

Steering Committee Notes  
December 15, 2015  
Chamber of Commerce

Present: Lew Feldstein, Jackie Whatmough, Bill Davis, Ruth Perencevich, Rob Hirschfeld, Tim Sink, Peter Evers, Byron Champlin, Pamela Puleo  
Ellen Groh - Facilitating  
Ellen Fries, Megan Doyle (Concord Monitor), Maggie Fogarty

Meeting called to order at 2:10 pm  
Welcome - thanks to all for their support.

Approval of October 20, 2015 Minutes: moved, seconded, approved

Report from CCEH on response this winter:

Now have a SHELTER in place for winter! Run by Friends Program. Volunteers to spend the night. Paid employees to run. City funding and a private donor. GUW will accept financial gifts. This is a temporary, one year solution in location and perhaps scale.

- Letter to the Editor from CCEH and/or Steering Committee
  - We are in partnership with Mayor, on parallel tracks.
  - Want permanent housing to remain the main goal
  - **Steering and/or CCEH Board** write letter - not Ellen Groh this time
  - Mayor has been amazing to pull this together!!
  - Messaging problem to those in need of shelter? Message has been "NO shelter" ...now that is not true.
  - Messaging on the strain of having a shelter in town - cost to PD, Hospital, FD
  - Will have others come in from out of town.
  - Intake at new Shelter? Get them coordinated w/CHRC? We need info to assess who was here, what the need is, where people came from...etc.
  - About 35 a day still showing up at CHRC
  - Still working on diversion, housing those we can who have some income

**Let Public understand what the barriers have been to getting Housing First in place. Can't happen so quickly.**

Change in thinking over time:

- There actually IS nowhere to go in an emergency. Public agencies like police station, fire station, hospital were not able to act as safety net of last resort during the winter. **We have a gap - no final safety net for those with active addictions.**
- **Nowhere for those who are on a list and awaiting** their apartment or entrance to other program.
- **Extremely low vacancy rate in Concord** – even those with limited income, or with rental assistance voucher, still no rooms available.

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- **We don't have vouchers yet- hoping to have 10 by next September.**
- Primary goal remains **Housing First.**
- No appetite in Concord for a warming center.
- **need more investment in construction of affordable housing**
- **Help public understand who needs assistance, what kind of assistance**
- **barriers/roadblocks - point to solutions, not despair**
- **separate classrooms at Shelter for families? Couples?**

**Talk now about the need for a low barrier shelter for the future - don't wait.**

There is a permanent structural gap in our continuum of care.

COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS should have very little to do with shelter! (P.E.)  
This project takes away from our mission, takes our time and energy and effort.  
Who can take this project on? Invite Harbor Homes, SWCS, New Horizons to come open a satellite? Ellen will explore this idea.

Don't use term "warming center" – too many negative connotations, but we do need some kind of "over flow" capacity.

Celebrate the successes we are having - McKenna has 80% to permanent housing , (CHRC has successfully housed 10 this year. Added by Ellen F.)

Meeting Adjourned 3:25pm

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 16 2:00 PM

Notes submitted by Ellen Fries