

Ellen G. Groh, Executive Director

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**Concord Coalition to End
Homelessness**

238 N. Main Street, Concord, NH 03301
<http://www.concordhomeless.org>

Dominic Geffken
William Gunn
Michael LaFontaine
Linda Newell
joanne st. hilaire
Tracy Scavarelli

To: Steering Committee for Concord Plan to End Homelessness
From: Ellen Groh
Date: September 16, 2016

RE: Update on Plan to End Homelessness

Permanent Housing Progress

Housing First Concord:

CCEH was sad to lose our Housing Stability Specialist (HSS) caseworker for this program as she moved on to other opportunities. The staff turnover caused a delay in making use of our recently awarded rental assistance for chronically homeless individuals, but we have hired a new HSS, Cyndi McGahan, and we are back on track. Cyndi was a volunteer at the Resource Center so she is familiar with many of the potential Housing First clients. Finding affordable rental units with willing landlords will continue to be a challenge.

Community Action Program (CAP)

At the June Homeless Provider Network meeting, the Homeless Outreach worker Andy Labrie reported that they were able to house 11 homeless families through their SHP program, all in Laconia, Franklin and Belmont. This is a transitional housing program which provides rental assistance for up to 2 years and if the families complete the New Start program, they become eligible for a preference for a Section 8 rental voucher.

Emergency Shelters:

Salvation Army McKenna House:

The expansion is essentially complete and they are waiting on the final Certificate of Occupancy! McKenna House will now be able to serve 42 individuals, and all the rooms are handicapped accessible. The Kiwanis Club and the Concord Rotary donated \$25,000 each, so the women's wing will be named after "The Service Clubs of Concord – Kiwanis and Rotary." Lorrie Dale has retired as the McKenna House Director, and Jenny Conner-Belcourt, and longtime caseworker at McKenna House, has become the new Director, so the transition should be smooth. We hope to be able to have our next Steering Committee meeting at the new facility so that everyone can get a chance to see it.

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Cold Weather Emergency Shelters for 2016-17 and beyond:

Recap of past events: While keeping the main focus under Concord's Plan to End Homelessness on permanent housing solutions using the Housing First model, CCEH recognized that there is a critical gap in Concord's crisis response system, which is a low barrier winter shelter that will serve people with active addictions. CCEH has identified a property that could be renovated so that the Resource Center could offer reliable space for such low barrier winter shelter. The shelter would have to be managed by an agency other than CCEH, but it would eliminate the need to seek out space from other organizations every winter to address this gap.

Current Update:

Attorney Richard Uchida and architect Jonathan Halle have both been providing pro bono assistance to CCEH as we work through preliminary site and construction questions and prepare to approach the zoning and planning boards. We intend to create a concept plan and approach the neighboring properties before making the proposed location public. We are also interviewing consultants who could assist with applying for financing, which might include CDBG, state tax credits, and/or Special Needs Housing funds. The Mayor also believes he may know a high-capacity donor who might contribute to a well-planned winter shelter. CCEH is not in a position to conduct a major capital campaign for this project (see below), so it will be essential to bring in some or all of the sources described above.

We are cautiously hopeful that this permanent space could be available by winter 2017-18, but that this is an aggressive timeline and many pieces would have to fall into place.

Upcoming Winter 2016-2017

Because the permanent space will not be ready by this coming winter, CCEH has been approaching faith communities and other organizations, asking them to consider hosting the shelter for just one month of the winter. One downtown church has agreed to host the month of January. Two other churches are in serious conversation about it. We would still need an agency to manage the shelter, as well as the funding. I have been in several conversations with Mayor Bouley and I am hopeful that he can bring the funding together. Either CCEH or the Mayor will approach Friends Emergency Shelter to see if they would be willing to manage it again.

Future Funding for Plan Implementation

CCEH has been receiving funding for our role in implementing Concord's Plan to End Homelessness through the Granite United Way (we are in our third year of funding) and New Hampshire Charitable

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Foundation (we are about to apply for our 3rd year of funding.) We are also receiving funding from Lincoln Financial Foundation specifically for the Housing First Concord program (we are in our second year of funding.) It would be uncommon for any of these grant sources to continue funding these initiatives indefinitely, and 3 years is a typical timeframe for the type of support they are providing. CCEH recognizes that to continue this work, we will need to develop a sustainable source of on-going funding, and we are in the early stages of planning a large/sustaining donor campaign to fund the on-going operations of CCEH.

Upcoming Events:

CCEH Donor Appreciation Event: Thursday October 13th 5:30 -7:30

We are so appreciative of all the efforts that this Steering Committee has given towards the Plan to End Homelessness. We would love to see all of you at this event and you'll be receiving a formal invitation shortly. Major donors to CCEH will be invited and I know they would love to hear your perspective on the implementation of Concord's Plan to End Homelessness.

SouperFest 2017 March 18, 2017

We are so thrilled that Claudia Walker has graciously agreed to serve as our Honorary Chair for this event, and so grateful that Merrimack County Savings Bank has just pledged \$5,000 Platinum Level Sponsor for the event!

Next Steering Committee Meetings:

We meet every other month on the Second Tuesday from 2-4 pm. (We were scheduled to meet in August but postponed until September.)

Would the Committee like to meet in October or wait until November?

Thank you all for your time and energy!

Ellen