

Steering Committee
Concord's Plan to End Homelessness
September 21, 2016 2 pm- 4 p m
49 South Main Street, Concord

Minutes
DRAFT

Call to Order: Ellen Groh called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm

Attendance : Steve Duprey (20 minutes), Bill Davis, j st.hilaire, Byron Champlin, Ron White (late), Claudia Walker (late), Jackie Whatmough (late)

Absent: Nicole Schultz-Price, Rob Hirschfeld, Pam Puleo, Peter Evers, Lew Feldstein, Tim Sink

Facilitating: Ellen Groh, CCEH ED

Visitors: Ellen Fries, CCEH Board

Discussion and Action Items

Approval of Minutes last meeting - minutes of June Meeting - Consent approval - MSA

Updates/Reports

Salvation Army McKenna House - Bill Davis - shovel in ground to completion took only 3 months! All but punch list is done. Will fundraise for remaining funds needed. Questions often posed: Why more men than women? Homeless population at this time has fewer women. All handicap accessible? Bathrooms are and bottom bunks are. Have shelter for those able to take that step of sobriety. Will need a low barrier Cold Weather Shelter for those not able to take that step. Bill shared some wonderful stories of people assisted by McKenna House. **Ribbon Cutting coming soon!**

Cold Weather Shelter update/discussion - Ellen G

Permanent Space: still quiet about location - need full plan and then approach neighbors before going public.

Jonathan Halle and Richard Uchida doing a lot of pro-bono work.

Asking about CDBG, Tax Credits, other funding

Hopeful that it will be in place for winter 2017/18

Tax Credits - very few Concord businesses to buy them any more, very competitive. Need connections on the Steering Committee to assist and advise on this. Group suggests we consult with Tim Sink about Chamber of Commerce involvement/selling TC's. Chamber business leaders may be able to help.

Bottom Line: CCEH may be able to provide reliable space. Cannot manage it, pay for it, etc.

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Temporary Shelter: some movement on church spaces

The idea of a modular on some piece of land was very complex, it really wasn't feasible. CCEH is seeking church space instead.

Centerpoint will take month of January! Other churches may be willing now - in conversation with several.

Next missing piece is a management entity - Will Friends do it again? Asking Mayor to ask... If not Friends, FIT?? Start talking now with agencies from Nashua, Manchester.

Concord Monitor - Megan Doyle's replacement is Mike Reid - he will talk with EG about this. We would like a message, but no ducks in a row yet.

Housing First:

It was very difficult when our HSS caseworker left us just as 10 vouchers were coming in.

Have hired Cyndi McGahan, former RC volunteer, very knowledgeable, calm, has clients ready to go - no vacancies

Calling contacts with landlords. Putting info out there.

Ellen F. points out that Ellen G went above and beyond during the interim, working with housed clients to keep people housed. "Learned a lot!"

Byron points out that CCEH is challenged to meet its core mission of HOUSING while dealing with the shelter - this is a problem. All agree. Doing what we can. Better now that we have Cyndi on board, allows Ellen to step back from direct client interaction and work on the big picture.

2 clients in private housing, 2 in CH Authority. Both still in.

SouperFest March 18, 2017: Claudia Walker will be Honorary Chair, MCSBNH will be our Platinum Sponsor!

Bill Davis retiring from some of his public service as of December. November will be his last Steering Committee meeting. Need to get new people assigned by the City Council.

Recommendations needed. Ask whole group. Some landlords?

Suggestions:

Steve/Dan Arndt

Newton Kershaw (Claudia will contact) - landlord, professional, buying properties

Miles Tarbell, Rosemary Heard

All others present agreed to continue on Committee another year.

Next Meeting November 15 2:00 pm at SA McKenna House! Take a tour of the new wing!

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

(Post meeting note: the November meeting needs to be rescheduled to a different date in November.)