



# Concord Coalition to End Homelessness

P.O. Box 3933, Concord, NH 03302-3933  
(603) 290-3375  
www.concordhomeless.org

**Ellen G. Groh**  
Executive Director  
ellen@concordhomeless.org

To: Steering Committee for Concord Plan to End Homelessness

From: Ellen Groh

Date: November 20, 2016

## Board of Directors

**Ellen H. Fries**  
Chair

Re: Update on Plan to End Homelessness

**Michael LaFontaine**  
Vice Chair

**David Keller**  
Secretary

**Tracy A. Scavarelli**  
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**Maggie Fogarty**  
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**William Gunn**

**John Jauhola-Straight**

**Michael Leuchtenberger**  
joanne.st.hilaire

## Permanent Housing Progress

### Housing First Concord:

CCEH has been able to place 2 chronically homeless households (1 individual and one couple) in private apartments in Concord, and a third individual is scheduled to move in December 1<sup>st</sup>. We are hopeful to have found an apartment for a 4<sup>th</sup> individual, available in December.

Finding available, affordable apartments that are in walking distance of services or within the bus routes remains our biggest challenge. Our partner organization for rental assistance for this program, Cross Roads House in Portsmouth, has much more availability of apartments in the towns surrounding Portsmouth, and a much better bus system. We are diligently working to find apartments for the remaining 6 rental assistance vouchers, but at some point Cross Roads House may want to use some of Concord's vouchers in their area. We are still reaching out through every available network to find apartments, so please let me know if you have any other relationships with landlords.

### Other Permanent Housing Success:

Our Resource Center often doesn't find out the final outcome of guests who use our services, but in the last few months we have received the good news that at least seven people (5 individuals and one couple) have all been housed. Two were through a Families in Transition (FIT) permanent housing program, and the rest were able to secure housing without on-going rental support.

### Emergency Shelter Update:

#### 2016-2017 Interim shelter:

Jerry Madden, Executive Director of Friends Emergency Shelter, has been in conversations with Mayor Bouley about whether it will be feasible for Friends to operate a low barrier cold weather shelter again this winter. They still have not made a decision. I will try to reach the Mayor and/or Jerry Madden prior to our meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup> for another update.

*Concord Coalition to End Homelessness is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization working to eliminate the causes of homelessness in the greater Concord, New Hampshire, community through a coordinated, committed, and active effort of our many stakeholders.*

## **Salvation Army McKenna House**

The expansion is complete! They can now serve up to 42 individuals.

## **Permanent Cold Weather Shelter:**

CCEH is still pursuing the purchase and renovation of a building that could accommodate the Resource Center and provide reliable space for a cold weather shelter for future years. We have had the pro bono assistance of an architect, attorney, surveyor and engineer to prepare for the zoning and planning board approval process. To allow the surveyor and engineer to push the project forward more quickly, CCEH applied for a \$30,000 Technical Assistance Grant from NH Housing Finance Agency to pay for engineering studies, permits and fees, as well as consulting assistance to pursue State Tax Credits. We should find out Thanksgiving week whether we will receive those funds. We are also pursuing the possibility of the Building on Hope fundraising initiative for funding some of the renovations, but renovations provided by the Building on Hope opportunity do not take place until Spring of 2018.

## **Possible New Steering Committee Members:**

1. Karen Emis-Williams, the new Director of Concord Human Services (she has replaced Jackie Whatmough) Maggie Forgarty and I met with Karen to describe the work of the Steering Committee, and she is interested. I will be in touch with Mayor Bouley to see if he wishes to appoint Karen to represent the City on this committee.
2. Kara Wyman, Assistant Superintendent Merrimack County DOC: I met Kara at meetings on the NH Medicaid Transformation Waiver committees, and she is very interested in issues of homelessness and the connection with the corrections system. Maggie Fogarty and I plan to meet with her after Thanksgiving to discuss the role of the Steering Committee. Any of the Steering Committee members is welcome to join us; please let me know if you are interested.

Next steps/process for inviting new members? This is not spelled out in the Plan.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Homeless Memorial Day Vigil: December 21, 2016**

Maggie Fogarty of AFSC is organizing the event, and collecting the names and stories of people who have died during the past year while struggling with homelessness. In Concord, CCEH is aware of at least 4 individuals who have passed away.

## **Next Meetings: (second Tuesday, every other month, 2-4 pm) at the Chamber of Commerce**

Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

THANK YOU for your time and your effort and your energy!!!

Ellen