



Concord Coalition to End Homelessness

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Ellen G. Groh
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To: Steering Committee for Concord Plan to End Homelessness

From: Ellen Groh

Date: January 13, 2017

Board of Directors

Ellen H. Fries
Chair

Re: Update on Plan to End Homelessness

Michael LaFontaine
Vice Chair

David Keller
Secretary

Tracy A. Scavarelli
Treasurer

Maggie Fogarty
At Large

Dominic Geffken

Lorinda Gilbert

William Gunn

John Jauhola-Straight

Michael Leuchtenberger

joanne.st.hilaire

Permanent Housing Progress

Housing First Concord:

CCEH has been able to use 6 of the 10 rental assistance vouchers, housing 5 individuals and one couple. We are hopeful that 3 more apartments are becoming available by February 1st, and possibly a fourth. It has been challenging to get everyone housed this quickly, but once everyone is in, things should settle down. The caseworker also continues to support 2 individuals in Concord public housing, and one individual who pays his own rent in a rooming house. Some clients are doing extremely well while others are still struggling with alcohol addiction. As Peter Evers has pointed out, "recovery is not linear."

Emergency Shelter Update:

2016-2017 Interim shelter:

Jerry Madden, Executive Director of Friends Emergency Shelter, agreed to manage a cold weather shelter at St. Peter's, and it opened at the beginning of January. Things seem to be going very smoothly; they had no trouble getting volunteers to sign up using an on-line sign-up tool. Arolyn Chappell of Friends is the program manager again this year, and Terry Blake, former Director of the cold weather shelter at First Church, is serving as the volunteer coordinator. I will ask Jerry for statistics on shelter usage to share at our meeting.

Permanent Cold Weather Shelter:

CCEH is moving forward on 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, and will be appearing before the zoning board soon. We've received 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 for the purchase and renovations.

CCEH has previously stated that our goal was to provide reliable space for a cold weather shelter, with the intent that some other agency would manage it. We were hopeful that the Friends Program would be willing to manage in future years. We've recently learned that Jerry Madden believes that he will be retired by next winter and would not run the shelter,

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.

and that he would not recommend that the new Director of Friends take on this job. It is outside the core mission of Friends and has been accomplished through a great deal of Jerry's personal time.

CCEH strongly believes that a cold weather shelter is an essential part of the safety net in Concord. We also feel we have exhausted the possibilities of finding another appropriate and experienced agency to manage a cold weather shelter. The CCEH board held a retreat last week to consider whether we could take on this role. The Board is working hard to be able to say yes to the CCEH managing the shelter, but they have some serious concerns that have to be addressed in order to be able to do it. We need to make sure it does not negatively impact the funding and other resources needed to run our existing programs, including Housing First, the Resource Center, and continued Plan implementation. The CCEH board will be holding a formal vote on this issue in January, and we would like input from the Steering Committee on this question. To move ahead, we would be looking for significant financial support from the City, and would like any input on what mechanisms for city financial support exist (is being written in as a budget line item each year the only way? What is the timeline?)

Future Funding for the Plan to End Homelessness

When CCEH took on the role of leading the implementation of Concord's Plan to End Homelessness in April 2014, we received substantial funding from New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the Granite United Way specifically for Plan implementation. We have also received substantial funding from Lincoln Financial Foundation, specifically for the Housing First Concord program, which is a priority strategy under the Plan. It is typical for this type of start-up grant funding to continue for about 3 years, so CCEH is embarking on a major/sustaining donor campaign in order to continue our work on Plan implementation. We are seeking advice from the Steering Committee on this endeavor, and we ask that the Steering Committee members help connect CCEH with potential high capacity donors who have an interest in the mission of ending homelessness.

Possible New Steering Committee Members:

I spoke with the Mayor about appointing 3 new members to the Steering Committee: Karen Emis-Williams, the new Director of Concord Human Services; Kara Wyman, Assistant Superintendent Merrimack County DOC; and Rosemary Heard, President of CATCH Neighborhood Housing. Their names will be presented to the City Council at their next meeting for approval and appointment. Though they are not official members until appointed, I have invited them to the January meeting.

Upcoming Events

SuperFest 2017: Saturday, March 18th, 2 pm- 7 pm at Rundlett Middle School

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

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

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

Ellen