

Steering Committee
Concord's Plan to End Homelessness
November 22, 2016 2 pm- 4 p m
Salvation Army McKenna House, Concord NH

Meeting Minutes
DRAFT

Call to Order: Ellen Groh called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM

Attendance: Bill Davis, Byron Champlin, Lew Feldstein, Peter Evers, Rob Hirschfeld, Jackie Whatmough, Ruth Perencevich, Claudia Walker

Absent: Nicole Schultz-Price, Pam Puleo, Tim Sink, j st.hilaire, Steve Duprey, Ron White,

Facilitating: Ellen Groh, Executive Director, CCEH

Visitors: Ellen Fries, CCEH Board; Karen Emis-Williams, City of Concord Human Services Director (“The new Jackie”!); Maggie Fogarty, CCEH Board, AFSC

Discussion and Action Items

Introductions around the room for Karen’s benefit. She comes from years with the City of Nashua, has a Mental Health background.

Bill Davis gave a brief history of McKenna House and the recent expansion from 26 to 42 beds. Bill encourages us to look at ALL of the work in Concord – and see the McKenna House, as well as Housing First, as well as Cold Weather Shelter, all as accomplishments under the Plan to End Homelessness. All are making a difference.

Tours available after the meeting for those who have not yet seen the new space.

Approval of Notes of September meeting - Consent approval - MSA

Updates/Reports

Housing First: CCEH has been able to place 2 chronically homeless households (1 individual and one couple) in private apartments in Concord, a third individual is scheduled to move in December 1st and a 4th individual is ready and awaits an apartment. NEED VACANT Apartments and willing LANDLORDS!!! Our partner, Crossroads House, has already used 8 rental vouchers and may want to use some of our vouchers if we don’t use them quickly. Ask landlords if they will house a client in our “Program”... without *first* mentioning homelessness – Stereotypes may cause people to say “no” to housing someone who was homeless, but after they meet caseworker and client they are often more willing to say yes. Statistics hard to get on those who have been successfully housed. At least 7 since end of summer that we know of - this does not count McKenna House successes. Working on a system in which all providers are able to share info.

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Interim Winter Shelter: Friends Program is not comfortable with moving shelter space throughout the winter. Negotiations continuing. Mayor is working hard to find a space that would be open all winter. There is a real possibility that it will NOT work...

- Possibility of having shelter open only Feb. to mid-March when we have a space?
- CCEH encouraged to work NOW on messaging. Will take the blame for failing to do what is not our core mission, but is seen as a major issue in the city. How do we frame this?
- Would FIT manage in Dec./Jan.? Probably wouldn't be able to. Would take a lot of time to figure out.
- CCEH has been working on this for 2 years.
- Responsibility belongs to whom? City/Non-Profits/Faith Communities...
- Are numbers down? Not any more - going up this week. Are we getting questions about winter from guests? YES
- Editorial coming out in Monitor tomorrow - will see the messaging that creates
- Existing shelters in other cities absorb the overflow in winter. Some who do not want to go into a shelter do find an alternative within their own network of support.
- May be hitches in the plan to plow 393

Permanent Low barrier winter shelter:

Hope to hear on NHHFA pre-development Grant very soon.

Would hope to find funding and get Friends Program to manage it going forward.

Possible new Steering Committee Members?

Should go through City Council - talk with Tom Aspell or Carlos Baia about proper method.

Nominate some, ask for Mayor's and Council's approval.

Ideas:

Jackie will stay on until Karen is up to speed. Karen would be nominated to be City representative.

Kara Wyman, Assistant Superintendent, Merrimack County DOC is very interested in issues of homelessness and the connection with the corrections system.

A landlord? Someone talk with Steve Arndt.

Ellen G and others interested will interview/converse with people, present to Mayor.

Consensus that this is how to proceed.

NH Medicaid Transformation Waiver - Peter Evers - summary:

(if you want to know more see Peter - this is a very brief summary of an extremely complex topic)

Medicaid has money for Transformational Programs - 1115 Waiver - the money can be spent on services not coded to Medicare. \$150,000,000 released to State for projects and must

end up cost neutral. (By lowering costs elsewhere- keeping patients out of ER, out of higher levels of care, etc.) Integrated Delivery Networks of Behavioral and Mental Health (IDN) have been created. We are Region 2 of IDNs. Any provider of services is included in the IDN. Health

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Information Technology will be upgraded to have all care systems connected in order to share info, give best services. Build services to serve those with multiple issues (physical, mental, substance use disorder, etc.) Medication Assisted Treatment - (treatment with meds for substance abuse disorders - not just methadone, but other meds.) Training doctors to be licensed to provide MAT services.

Re-entry services - people with behavioral health disorders coming out of prison with no housing, no treatment plan, no diagnosis... put experts into the prison system to create exit plans, continue to work with people after they are released.

Case management may help people get into housing programs.

Hopefully this will have a positive effect. This is HUGE and difficult to summarize. Peter and Ellen Groh are both serving on the groups working on this.

Homeless Memorial Vigil Dec. 21, 2016 - more info to come. Maggie is collecting names of those who died in 2016 whose lives were shortened by homelessness. If you are aware of any please notify Maggie.

Suggestion by Maggie that the committee revisit the Plan to End Homelessness in the new year, see where we've come, make suggestions for going forward. Plan will be 3 years old in April!

In the future this committee will meet the THIRD Tuesday of every other month.

This was stated erroneously at the meeting. Please ignore what is in any personal notes you may have taken!

Next meetings are: Jan.17, March 21, May 16

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Fries