

Steering Committee
Concord's Plan to End Homelessness
Meeting February 17, 2015
2 pm- 4 p m
Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce
49 South Main Street, Concord

Minutes
Approved April 14, 2015

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

Attendance: Jackie Whatmough, Rob Hirschfeld, Ron White, Tim Sink, Lew Feldstein, Bill Davis, Byron Champlin, Ruth Perencevich, Pamela Puleo, Claudia Walker

Facilitating: Ellen Groh, CCEH ED

Visitors: Ellen Fries, CCEH Board, Maggie Fogarty, CCEH Board

Absent: Peter Evers, Nicole Schultz-Price, Steve Duprey

Discussion and Action Items

1. Approval of Minutes;
 - a. December 16, 2014 Meeting: Motion made, duly seconded and approved with no discussion.
 - b. January 7, 2015 Meeting: Motion made, duly seconded and approved with no discussion.

2. Update from CCEH and Next Steps - Ellen Groh went over the highlights of the update which was sent out prior to the meeting.

Community Forum: Thursday February 19th 5:30- 7 pm Delta Dental, 2 Delta Drive
Cullen Ryan will speak on Housing First. Ellen Groh will speak on updates on the Plan Discussion:

- Key will be discussing how to approach shelter options going forward. Many are afraid of what will happen without a big winter shelter. Explain our goal to reduce the size, need and length of time.
- Discuss that plan is to do housing first, but in a scattered site approach, not a single large, building, (better integrated into the community.)
- Bill Davis will do a welcome for the Steering Committee.
- Ellen will send a link to the video clip with “before and after” pictures of people who have been permanently housed with the 100,000 Homes Housing First campaign, and will have it put on the CCEH website.

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- Suggestion that CCTV use video in their coverage. Ellen will check with 100,000 Homes for permission.
- Tim will check w/CCTV about covering this meeting.

Expanded Resource Center (Goal 1 of Plan)

Discussion:

- Since Zoning variance is being sought, this will be a matter of public record, so discussing the address of the building is now public.

Cold Weather Response Strategy/ Housing First (Goal 1 of Plan)

1. CCEH has filed a SGIA Application for a Housing Stabilization Caseworker

We have been informed that we should hear in April, but have no idea if we will get the grant as this is a new use for these funds..

FIT has received a grant for the entire BosCoC for rental assistance for 12 chronically homeless individuals and a caseworker to provide ongoing support.

Discussion:

Why we are focusing on individuals, as many folks ask about families? Federal and other funding streams are currently focused on individuals; closing of shelters that did not serve families; Friends Program and FIT are doing an excellent job with this population. When the cold weather emergency shelters for families existed, they were used mostly by families from elsewhere, not from Concord.

Family Promise is still working to move forward. EG met with them, encouraging them to coordinate w/CCEH, use the funding they get to provide rental assistance, do other kinds of service.

Finding housing is an incredible challenge - FP can be helpful for this. Find, paperwork, recommendations, etc.

Which model will "provide the fruit"?

2. CCEH has been meeting with Fire/Police about their emergency winter response: they have a small holding area, would put someone in if thought to be a danger to themselves. they do keep their eyes open.

3. Coordinated Assessment: At first meeting, there was consensus among providers present that there is no need for single point of entry. Especially since there are no new funds for such a position. Will move forward with what we have, coordinate better.

Ellen - diversion tactics need to be quicker, stronger.

Discussion: Do shelter guests know the shelters are closed next winter? Awareness is key. YES, they are well aware.

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4. Housing First Strategy Meeting: well attended. Broad consensus on HF strategy reached, but no specifics. Section 8 vouchers are key to this effort. John Hoyt says it is possible to designate some as they turn over. Need to convince his board of directors. Need to see a strategic plan, case management plan.

Discussion: how would all be coordinated between getting vouchers, finding the right people who qualify, locating an apartment with a willing landlord...

811 - housing with supportive services for extremely low income people with disabilities has been applied for by NHHFA, hope to hear on this soon.

Discussion on the best way to approach CHRA, create a plan, get their buy-in.

Do we need to present a plan and outline to staff alone, then have them approach the board? We go in an informal way to board members? Let John Hoyt and staff look at plan, "poke holes in it", we revise, answer questions, get their buy-in.

Discussion on ongoing funding - private funding... Creation of private fund similar to Nashua's ending homelessness fund

Leverages HUD funding in Nashua. Used for direct assistance to those in need. Very compelling.

a. Role of Steering Committee in creation and promotion of Fund
what would our role actually be? Was never clear in the beginning.
Steering Committee can id sources of funding, help make connections, guide coalition to these.
Ongoing funding. HF cannot work without funding for caseworker.

What is role of CCEH Board in this? Annual fund. CCEH is willing to manage such an on-going, ending homelessness fund, but also fine if some other agency wanted to be the lead.

Who would be fiscal agent? CCEH, FIT
Steering committee look at who would be best? Endorse ongoing plan, step back. Freer to judge how best to do this.

FIT, CATCH, CHA, Fellowship Housing...all could work.

How much administration would be required? How complex?

Need well defined structure, goal, pin down # to be housed...

Do RFP/RFI with parameters set out, send out to those entities who might be interested. Most fair way to do this.

Get input from all these agencies - put out RFI w/concept, ask for input. Then create and put out RFP. Avoid turf issues amongst agencies.

Entity holding funds not same as manager of caseworker, necessarily.

Model after the Harbor Homes way of doing it? Different because of HUD issue.

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Plan, \$ needed for what, who manages it...

How to make best use of all \$ and caseworkers in different agencies (riverbend, fit, etc.)
How get the most for our money? Offset expenses. Retrofit into other groups?
Common purpose/core. Define, hear from agencies (as said above).

We must avoid competition for these funds, who benefits? Buy in of all organizations to serve all homeless.

CCEH - coordinate and wrap services for all agencies.

the coalition as the collaboration builder - great to draw all in. CCEH manage fund.

Will Board accept this role? Capable? Sustainable?

Steering Comm members to be champions!?

Buy-in and collaboration by all partner agencies is IT! A true collaborative initiative.

Driving force.

How persuade public that this coalition is different and will really be effective?

Ron suggests we engage the County Commissioners - get on their agenda. Follow up with Ron, Steve D. may be a part. Same presentation as to CHA? NH ASSN of Counties? (Cathy Kuhn and EGG?)

some kind of fee statewide shared with who is delivering services?

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