

## Steering Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness

June 20, 2023

Meeting held at Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce and on Zoom

2:00-3:30 pm

**Steering Committee Members Present:** Karen Emis-Williams, Ellen Fries, Tom Furtado, Roseanne Haggerty, Linda Lorden, Rabbi Robin Nafshi, Ruth Perencevich, Laura Simoes, Tim Sink, Claudia Walker, Gwen Whitney-Gill

**On Zoom:** Byron Champlin, Greg Lessard, Julie Palmeri, Lisa Madden

**Absent:** Mayor Jim Bouley, Peter Surmanis, Kara Wyman

**Additional:** Karen Jantzen, CCEH Executive Director; Jim Schlosser

Guests: Kara Rodenhizer, Granite United Way; Chris Santaniello, Governor's Council on Housing Stability

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**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Byron Champlin, Chair, at 2:09 p.m.

**Approval April Minutes:** Moved by Greg Lessard and seconded by Tim Sink. Motion passed unanimously.

### Update from Concord Police Department:

The position of a Masters-Level Social Worker was approved. The hope is to have someone hired into the position in early Fall.

Concord Police, the Friendly Kitchen, and members of the Street Outreach Teams from CAPBM, Waypoint, and CCEH will be meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to affirm the purpose of Street Outreach, each agency's role, and enhance communication.

### Update From Concord Human Services:

ERAP for families ended on June 15<sup>th</sup>. There were less than 6 families in hotels with two coming in for services. Still working with many singles. Overall, seeing more households than usual:

- Utility disconnections
- High Rents
- Behavioral issues

Working to have people utilize 603 legal to assist with tenant landlord issues to avoid evictions.

At the Mayor's Roundtable for Homeless, they discussed:

- Medical Respite Center
- Landlord Incentives
- Emergency Winter Shelters

All are concerned about the issue, the lack of housing, and associated costs to the communities. There is a need for accurate data.

### Update on Landlord Incentive Program:

Kara Rodenhizer with Granite United Way presented the Landlord Incentive Program which has officially launched in Belknap and Merrimack Counties. While the funding is more restrictive than the Emergency Rental Assistance program, they have been able to put together a nice package of options:

- Unit must be committed to the program for at least 1 year;
- Per Unit sign on bonus;
- Up to \$3,700 for renovations to meet housing standards put forth by HUD for Voucher holders.
- Eviction Prevention Program:
  - Up front monthly payment

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June 20, 2023

- Landlords must participate in trainings to increase understand of clients
- Provide 12 Months of housing stabilization services
- Limited rental assistance available

Currently they are in the process of acquiring partner Agency MOUS. There are about 30 across both counties. They have budgeted for up to 20 units based on their prior experience, but that is dependent upon the size of the households. The next step is to focus on getting landlords to participate in the program.

**Communications Task Force:** Karen Jantzen, Byron Champlin, Laura Simoes, Roseanne Haggerty, Julie Palmeri

The group met (Julie Palmeri absent) and identified two audiences:

1. Internal: Landlords
2. External: General Public

The messages should address the following:

- Basic Myths about persons experiencing homelessness
- How to be part of the solution

### **Other Business:**

Chris Santaniello, Associate Commissioner, NH DHHS and co-leader of NH Council on Housing Stability joined the meeting and gave an overview on the Council for Housing Stability.

- Created by Executive Order in November of 2020 and codified in legislation in the last Biennium
- Focus is on how to create housing stability for everyone in New Hampshire.
- Worked to get \$4 mil into NH NHFA for Affordable Housing Projects
- Large effort to get money into Counties for Winter Season
- Working on expanding Healthcare for the Homeless and introducing Medical Respite Centers
- Working towards increasing Supportive Housing
- Working across the Continuum of Cares (CoCs) on the process for Coordinated Entry
- Moved Bureau of Homeless Services into DHHS
- Working to increase financial resources in the State budget

**Motion to Adjourn:** Moved by Linda Lorden and Seconded by Claudia Walker. Motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Adjourned 3:30 pm**

**Reminder:** Dates for upcoming quarterly meetings: (Third Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30 pm)

- September 19, 2023
- December 19, 2023