

**Steering Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness
December 19, 2023**

Meeting held at Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce and on Zoom

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Steering Committee Members Present: Byron Champlin, Kara Coffey, Ellen Fries, Rosanne Haggerty, Lisa Madden, Deputy Chief Barrett Moulton, Rabbi Robin Nafshi, Tim Sink, Claudia Walker, Gwen Whitney-Gill

On Zoom: Karen Emmis-Williams, Linda Lorden, Julie Palmeri, Ruth Perencivich

Absent: Tom Furtado, Laura Simoes, Peter Surmanis

Additional: Karen Jantzen, Executive Director CCEH; Connor Spern, Outreach & Data Specialist CCEH; Michaela Towfilgia, Concord Monitor; Jim Schlosser

Call To Order: Meeting called to order by Byron Champlin, Chair, at 2:06 pm.

Approval of June Minutes: Moved by Rabbi Robin Nafshi and seconded by Roseanne Hagerty. Motion passed unanimously.

Summary of the Plan to End Homelessness and review of the Original Steering Committee Plan: The Committee had developed 5 goals. The group agreed that a lot of progress had been made across all the goals, especially around communication amongst community leaders. Many of the goals need to be updated.

Goal 1: Increase access to healthy, safe environments for all homeless and precariously housed members of the Concord community

- A. Homeless Resources Center:** CCEH has taken on this initiative. This strategy needs to be re-written to reflect that the Steering Committee is an advocate for a Resource Center and not the oversight/operator of the Resource Center.
- B. Targeted Outreach Activities:** Great progress has been made, the Steering Committee would like regular updates from CASOC (Concord Area Street Outreach Collaborative).
- C. Create Additional Housing First Units and/or shelter opportunities:** Progress is being made. CCEH added the Emergency Winter Shelter to its program base, and CCEH has a pending new Housing First Program for Concord. The mental health centers are adding beds and there is a push for more 811 Housing units across the State. There have been multiple conversations with social service providers. It was agreed that while things are moving, there needs to be more advocacy work to reduce barriers that the social service agencies are encountering to increase the number of beds in Concord and across the state.

Goal 2: Increase the number of quality, permanent, affordable rental units for very low income individuals and families.

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- A. Progress is being made with both for-profit and non-profit developers through out the greater Concord area: CATCH, Dakota Partners, Caleb Group. Working with developers to set-aside units for vulnerable populations should continued to be explored.
- B. Working with Landlords has been a bit more difficult. Granite United Way's Affordable Housing Incentive Program (AHIP) has not gained the same interest in Concord as it did on the Seacoast. To date, nine landlords have enrolled in the program.

Goal 3: Increase knowledge about homelessness in Concord, costs to the community, services available, and future needs.

- A. Councilor Champlin acknowledges Concord Monitor reporter Michaela Towfighi and the paper's willingness to dedicate and reporter to this topic. Linda Lorden acknowledged WMUR's homeless segments and their dedication to raising awareness.
- B. A communications task force has been put together. Cities across the country are message testing to see what will move their community forward to build for Zero. The places that have made the most progress are those with a strong civic culture. The best messages are solution oriented.

Goal 4: Increase public and private funding available for plan strategies

- A. Increasing public funding is more difficult than it seems. Individuals and families that are homeless are most often involved with multiple service systems which all have their unique funding streams and rules.

Goal 5: Ensure broad representation and engagement of stake holders in the implementation of the Plan to End Homelessness.

- A. The Steering Committee unanimously agreed that this goal has been accomplished.

Other Business: The Homeless Vigil is Thursday, December 21 at 5:00 in front of the State House. All are encouraged to attend.

Motion to Adjourn: Moved by Ellen Fries and Seconded by Tim Sink. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 3:30 pm

Reminder: Next Meeting March 19, 2024