

Committee to Monitor Concord's Plan to End Homelessness
"Homelessness Steering Committee"

Draft Minutes

August 13, 2024

2:00 pm Chamber of Commerce

Present: Jantzen, Whitney-Gill, Schlosser, Palmeri, Coffey, Emis-Williams, Lorden, Madden, Surmanis, Haggerty, Furtado, Sink, Champlin

Guests: Vissing, Petrin, Frazer, Towfighi.

The June 18 minutes were approved.

Yvonne Vissing, professor at Salem St. University, reported on work she is doing tracking how communities deal with homeless camps. She will be attending our meetings and keeping us up to speed with her work.

Rockford experience recap. The available housing in Rockford was far greater than available housing in Concord. The city of Rockford created a fund to help guarantee that participating landlords would be compensated if rent was not paid or damage was done to property. Also, there were funds provide for tenant support services.

Mayor Champlin has been exploring options to fund a coordinator role. He will be reporting back to the committee soon. The plan is to find funding for two years.

Concord Hospital will be convening a meeting on community health workers and care navigators this fall. Medicaid managed care agencies are an asset that is overlooked and will be included in the conversation.

Brent Frazer, Director, New Hampshire Division of Community Based Military Programs, Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services introduced himself as a guest.

Working Groups – Developments to share:

- Ending veteran homelessness – There is a statewide committee addressing this, meeting biweekly. The population is approximately 125 people statewide. In Concord, about 10 people. Numbers are trending down. Concord is coordinating with the statewide group. Tracking individuals is a challenge. Next meeting, report on a census and what the key barriers to serving this population are and how can we help? CAP and CCEH have a pretty good handle on this and will meet with Jim Schlosser, leader of the Veteran working group, to focus on barriers to housing faced by the Concord area Veterans known to these agencies. This local team will report back to committee.
- Increase housing opportunities – find housing for many people (at least 25) that have section 8 vouchers but have not been able to secure apartments. AHIP project has found that larger rental properties are more likely to accommodate referrals than smaller landlords. Are there landlords that are Veterans that may be sympathetic and open to

providing housing to homeless Veterans with vouchers linked to support services? How might we reach out to them?

- AHIP – affordable housing incentive program – a source for constructing a comprehensive list of local landlords who have accepted vouchers? Concord Housing and CCEH also have lists of landlords that accept vouchers. Apartment Association of NH is a resource.
- Julie Palmeri offered to consolidate multiple lists into one comprehensive list.
- Track new housing developments that have promised to include affordable units as part of their developments. Rosanne Haggerty to share information from City.
- There are currently more affordable units being built in Concord than market rate. This is because of low-income housing tax credit program helps with the current high construction costs.
- Low income housing tax credit financed properties can have very narrow eligibility requirements, however
- Vouchers can be used in these properties, and it is possible to establish “preference” for voucher holders
- Creating common operating system. This will be critical to our ability to measure progress.
 - Estimated 460 unhoused in Merrimack County as of end of July.
- Communicate and Engage the Community – Developing a proposal to conduct a listening and engagement process – listening sessions – to determine underlying values, needs and ideas of the community. Connect with those individuals and organizations that are not currently at the table.

City Public Safety Board is focusing on public safety and homelessness issues. They have been learning about the justice system, courts, resources. They are considering a focus on justice involved homeless persons.

Action steps going forward:

- Veterans
 - Jim and Nicole to meet with CAP and CCEH regarding specifics of Concord area veterans
 - Tim to explore Chamber role in serving Veterans
- Housing Opportunities
 - Individuals to submit names of landlords to Julie who will compile a comprehensive landlord list (and status of AHIP)
 - Rosanne to contact NH Housing re establishing voucher preference
- Common Operating System
 - Jim to meet with state BHS on Concord-specific data report
- Communicate and Engage
 - Jim and Karen to continuing exploring Listening and Engagement project.
- Support planning of Chamber Forum—Tim to reach out if collaboration would be helpful

- Byron to f/u on potential funding for project manager

Meeting adjourned 3:35pm

Next meeting October 15 2024 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Sink