

## Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness

October 15, 2024

2:00-3:30 PM

**Location:** Concord Chamber of Commerce, 49 South Main St., Concord NH 03301

### Draft Meeting Minutes

Present: Schlosser, Sink, Guy, Palmeri, Furtado, Surmanis, Nafshi, Perencevich, Whitney-Gill

Attending virtually: Haggerty, Moulton, Champli, Simoes, Madden

Guests: Heyward (nominated to join committee), Toth, Hatfield, Towfighi, Macomber

Absent/Excused: Lorden, Jantzen, Ennis-Williams, Coffey

Meeting was called to order at 2 pm.

The minutes of the August 13 and September 17 meetings were approved unanimously.

At the invitation of Committee and Council Member Schlosser, guest Melissa Hatfield, Bureau Chief, New Hampshire Bureau of Housing Supports, shared the most recent data on homelessness in Merrimack County (***Client Dynamics and Demographics*** 9/1/2024 - 10/1/2024). 316 individuals are currently homeless in Merrimack County and have been documented in the State's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Of these, it is estimated that 144 are chronically homeless (HUD definition of "chronic" is long term with a disability). 290 homeless persons are receiving services in Concord. She further shared that 69 individuals are receiving homeless services for the first time this month, and 32 individuals "exited" services during the past month and are no longer receiving assistance. 14 of these individuals were connected with housing, including permanent supportive housing and through the Rapid Re-housing program.

In response to additional questions about the data, its comprehensiveness and whether all unsheltered individuals were accounted for, Ms. Hatfield offered to have the State's HMIS administrator, ICA, respond and to attend a future committee meeting to discuss the data more fully.

Ms. Hatfield then briefed the Committee on the work of her office. Their current priorities that involve Concord include:

- Administering two projects in Concord funded through the Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (SNOFO) for Rural and Unsheltered Homelessness program of HUD. Both were funded under the Rural component. One is for CCEH Resource Center and the other is BMCAP Street Outreach.

- Managing an almost \$1 million State fund to support cold weather responses to homelessness throughout the State, in addition to HUD funded emergency shelter grants. Some grants fund expanded unsheltered response if there are not physical shelter beds available.
- Administering Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) funding through 2 different grants from HUD. The Emergency Solutions Grant through contracts with the 5 CAP agencies, The Front Door Agency in Nashua, and Easter Seals in Manchester. The Continuum of Care RRH grants are distributed geographically. These grants were awarded to agencies who applied for RRH grants during annual Continuum of Care competitions.
- To advance the State's Medicaid waiver, the Bureau has received clarification from the federal Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) around the conflict of interest requirements, and the DHHS team is working to revise written guidance on the implementation of the Supportive Housing Benefit to ensure they remain in compliance with CMS.

Discussion turned to reports on the status of the Committee's five priority projects, and progress toward hiring a project manager to coordinate efforts toward their goals. Mr. Furtado encouraged that with respect to the Committee's goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness by 25% by the end of 2025, that a specific number be substituted so as to have a clear target while the comprehensiveness and accuracy of current baseline data is confirmed. The Committee agreed to set the target at 100 individuals housed to align with the goal of securing 100 new housing situations for those experiencing homelessness. The 100 housing units to be secured also supports the Committee's goal of ending veteran homelessness in Concord. Between 7-10 veterans remain unhoused in the City.

Council Member Schlosser reported on the progress of the work group on ending veteran homelessness. He has requested permission to participate in the statewide case conferencing meetings on veteran homelessness. The work group's goal is to understand and resolve the specific barriers to housing faced by the 7-10 veterans experiencing homelessness in Concord in order to drive progress in resolving their homelessness this year.

For the workgroup pursuing 100 new housing options, Ms Haggerty reported that with the assistance of Mayor Champlain, developers and the operators of large rental properties will be approached in the coming weeks to assist with identifying units. She also reported that the City's development department was working on updating information on the number of housing units in the development pipeline, when they would come on line and details on their affordability. She added that New Hampshire Housing Finance had clarified the process for developers and operators of affordable housing to update their marketing plans to allow a preference for rental voucher holders.

Mayor Champlin reported that the updated list of properties in development in Concord would be shared at that evening's City Council meeting.

Ms Palmeri repeated her offer to create a centralized list of local landlords who have and are willing to work with organizations assisting the homeless and encouraged all committee

members to share this information. This creation of a streamlined housing process will be essential to reaching our goals.

Ms. Haggerty reported that she, Council Member Schlosser and Mayor Champlin are advancing the Memorandum of Understanding with Granite United Way to advance the hiring of the Committee's Project Manager, including working out the plan for jointly fundraising for the position. A call has been scheduled for next week.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm

**Note:** *Next meeting December 17, 2024, 2:00-3:30 PM*

**Attendance:**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Role/Organization</b>	<b>Oct 15, 2024</b>
**Byron Champlin ex officio	Mayor, City of Concord	x
*Karen Jantzen	Exec. Dir., Concord Coalition to End Homelessness	Excused
Barrett Moulton	Dept. Chief, Concord Police Department	x
Gwen Whitney-Gill	Community Health Coordinator, Concord Hospital	x
Jim Schlosser	City Council Representative	x
Julie Palmeri	Exec. Dir., Concord Housing + Development	x
Kara Coffey	Director, Merrimack County Human Services	
Karen Emis-Williams	Director, Concord Human Services	Excused
Laura Simoes	Community Representative	x
Linda Lorden	President, Merrimack Saving Bank	Excused
Lisa Madden	CEO, Riverbend	x
Peteris Surmanis	Community Representative	x
Rabbi Robin Nafshi	Temple Beth Jacob	x
Rosanne Haggerty	Chair	x
Ruth Perencevich	Community Representative	x
Thomas Furtado	CEO, CATCH Neighborhood Housing	x
Tim Sink	President, Concord Chamber of Commerce	Excused
Valerie Guy	Exec. Dir., The Friendly Kitchen	Excused