

General Assembly Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday, December 17th, 2015, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Location

Manchester Community Resource Center, 434 Lake Ave, 4th floor, Manchester, NH 03103

Attendees

Ashley Kitchell	Cathy Kuhn	Dan Ward	David Harris	Erin Kelley
Helen Costello	Holly Bilodeau	Holly Cekala	Keith Howard	Mark Stokes
Mary Sliney	Melanie Chavez	Mikaela Gerry	Nicole Clark	Rich Doyle

12:05 Meeting begins

Upcoming Meetings

- I. Next month, we will be having two presentations: Officer Paul Thompson discussing the Human Trafficking Taskforce and Marianne Sovarese giving an overview of SOAR training.
- II. Our January meeting will be on the 21st.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach

- I. Helen Costello, from NH Foodbank, presented information on the SNAP program. She explained that the NH Foodbank is willing and able to come out to agencies to meet clients or table events in the interest of connecting more participants with the services they need.
- II. She presented on two of the programs they offer:
 - a. The Granite State Market Match program doubles the value of SNAP dollars at farmers markets around NH. See attached list of available winter farmer markets.
 - b. Their Culinary Job Training Program is an 8 week program which gives important job training for low income persons in a commercial kitchen.
 - i. NH Foodbank partners with Goodwill to conduct mock interviews and present resume building workshops.
 - ii. You must be 18 years or older to attend this program.
 - iii. Those that complete the program receive a \$50 stipend after they graduate.
 - iv. The program will accept felons, but not violent or sexual offenders.

HOPE for NH Recovery

- I. This is currently the only recovery center in Manchester for substance users who are looking to achieve sobriety. They were originally housed in a FIT building, but are currently renting space from Helping Hands Outreach. Rich has been kind enough to offer his services, helping to make the center ready for clientele.
- II. This Center uses peer based support and is non-mandatory. Those that attend are there because they are looking to remain substance free; this program helps them reintegrate with society and reimagine their lives while remaining sober.
- III. The Center wants to bring empathy and support, as well as possibly initiate the healing process to those who have recently overdosed. They also work to create an understanding in their communities about why the problem of substance use is devastating for everyone.

- IV. HOPE also trains recover coaches after they achieve 500 hours of field work.

Chronic Homelessness Update

- I. HUD has issued a new definition of the chronically homeless which will take effect on January 16, 2016.
- II. The new definition states that a person is chronically homeless if: 1) they are over the age of 18, 2) they have a documentable disabling condition, and 3) have been continuously homeless for 12 or more months or has had at least 4 episodes of homelessness over the past 3 years which add up to 12 months or more (underlined is the latest change).
- III. This change might cause some people to no longer qualify for CH dedicated beds. Those that are already in CH beds will not be affected by this change as they are grandfathered in.

Committee Updates

- I. Data Collection- Working on updating surveys and materials for the PIT, which will be held on the last Wednesday of January, the 27th. Nicole is in the process of creating a step by step guide to replace last year's webinar.
- II. Homeless Liaison heard a presentation from NH Job Corps on Tuesday. Because outreach workers have been very busy recently, it was a small meeting.
- III. Veteran Homeless is working on scheduling a time to meet in January.
- IV. Community Awareness is looking for new members to join.

1:00 Meeting Concludes

Minutes Prepared By

Nicole Clark

Manchester Continuum of Care Coordinator, VISTA