

## General Assembly Meeting

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### **Date and Time**

Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

### **Location**

Manchester Community Resource Center, 434 Lake Ave, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Manchester, NH 03103

### **Attendees**

Ashley Kitchell	Cassie Gudek	David Harris	Dick Webster	Holly Bilodeau
Dennis Dutra	Jacob Hull	Julie Morris	Kevin Kintner	Lauren Collins
Lynne Lorentson	Mark Stokes	Matthew Bouchie	Mikaela Gerry	Nicole Clark
Richard Doyle	Sophia DeFrancesco			

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### **12:00 Meeting begins**

#### **Ask the Question**

- I. All service providers are urged, at some point during their intake, to ask the question ‘Have you or a member of your family ever served in the military?’
- II. 30% of veterans are not using their VA resources- how do we tap into these numbers?
- III. Some veterans are reluctant to identify as such because of stigma, both in terms of asking for help and in terms of the public not understanding their needs. Posing the question in a different way can identify some veterans who would otherwise be overlooked.
- IV. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to go to a military cultural training session, happening on March 29<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 to 11:30. DHHS is running this session.

#### **NH Job Corps**

- I. Cassie Gudek presented at today’s committee meeting.
- II. There are currently 127 national JobCorps locations; this is NH’s first one. This is a military style, vocational school serving youth and young adults (16 to 24 year olds). The NH campus currently offers 9 trades, including culinary, medical, advance manufacturing, machining, electrical, etc. JobCorps offers what the community has job openings for, meaning that there might be more trades offered as the need presents itself.
- III. There are three key reasons why JobCorps was formed:
  - a. The Students- not in school or employed, or otherwise underemployed needed to be connected with training and education to better their situations;
  - b. The State- keep jobs in NH, have a skilled workforce, and cultivate the skillsets that companies are looking for.
  - c. The Community- JobCorps has altruism engrained in its culture. They want their students to connect to the community and give back; in fact, those that successfully connect to the community around them are most likely to succeed. They are looking for regular volunteer opportunities in community businesses.
- IV. Eligibility
  - a. Most students financially are at or below the poverty line. Most 16 to 24 year olds meet this requirement quite easily.

- b. From a legal standpoint, JobCorps is willing to give most applicants the benefit of the doubt, so long as their legal problems are in the past and they own up to it in the interview. Criminal history will not be used as a disqualifier.
  - c. Because roughly \$36,000 to \$38,000 is spent on each student, NH JobCorp is looking to give these services to those who are ready and willing to work in the program. Frame of mind is very important in this process.
- V. Program capacity:
- a. There is room for 300 students, with 32 commuter spots, at the NH campus. They currently have 120 students and are actively recruiting (there's a rolling enrollment, students can join every week).
  - b. Students are encouraged to stay on campus, with a few exceptions, as this provides a constant support group. Once they are enrolled in the program, they have to account for their whereabouts every hour of the day.
  - c. Students are provided with housing, food, and uniforms during their time at JobCorps.
  - d. During the first five weeks of JobCorps, students shadow all trades. Gradually, they whittle it down to their top 3 until they eventually choose one (or potentially more) on which to focus. This program is self-paced, with a maximum of a 2 year stay, meaning that students can work as fast or as slow as is need for them. Completion of a high school diploma or equivalent is also integrated as needed.
  - e. Community service is a big part of JobCorps. All students are required to participate in some form of community service initially and are encouraged to continue to do so. New Horizons has achieved a positive working relationship with JobCorps in this manner; students come to help serve on a regular basis at the soup kitchen.
- VI. Job Corps has three outcomes in mind:
- a. Job- Ideally every participant in JobCorps will have a job by the end of their commitment.
  - b. Advanced training- JobCorps wants to make its students college ready. They have a relationship with the Manchester Community College
  - c. Military- Though they are not required to join up, many students do join or rejoin the military after their graduation.
- VII. Graduating
- a. To ease the process of graduating from the program, counselors from the career transition department sit down with program participants 90 days before graduation to help connect them with jobs, housing, transportation, etc.
  - b. For up to 21 months after graduation, these counselors will continue to check in with you.
  - c. Overall, JobCorps has a 91% success rate with connecting their students with one of the three outcomes above.

### **Participant Story- Child and Family Services Transitional Living**

- I. Sophie DeFrancesco kindly shared a participant story at today's meeting.
- II. With just this one story alone, this participant used services from Serenity Place, Families in Transition, Healthcare for the Homeless, Recipe for Success (NH Foodbank), Eliot Emergency Care, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Manchester Mental Health, HOPE for NH Recovery, Child and Family Services, AA meetings, and more.

- III. We begin to see from these stories that homeless is not a straight path, but rather that there are a lot of ups and downs.
- IV. Lack of affordable detox facilities in Manchester was marked as one concern for our community.

### **Committee Updates**

- I. Data Collection- Mark and Nicole are working on PIT data, both unsheltered and sheltered. If you have not sent in your surveys, please send them to either person. We're hoping to have all of Manchester done by the end of the month.
- II. Homeless Liaison – Discussed cold weather practices at last meeting.
- III. Veteran Homeless- Almost done putting together a release of information and confidentiality agreement; next goal is to work on the by-name list.

### **1:00 Meeting Concludes**

#### **Minutes Prepared By**

Nicole Clark

Manchester Continuum of Care Coordinator, VISTA