

Homeless Liaison Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, February 16th, 2016, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location

New Horizons for NH, 199 Manchester St, Manchester, NH

Attendees

David Harris, Andrew Clark, Kevin Kintner, Matt Bouchie, Nicole Clark, Melanie Chavez, Jake Hull, Bill Sullivan, Dee Santoso

11:05 Meeting begins

Cold Weather

- I. Weather has been extremely cold lately, but temperatures will be returning to a more normal range soon.
- II. Whenever the weather gets as cold as it has been, New Horizons is always open for everyone, even those who are normally asked to stay away, in an effort to ensure the safety of everyone. Some were asked to leave again because of behavioral complaints, but were arrested to keep them indoors.
- III. Media always reaches out when weather is this cold- how do we get them this involved year round? Similarly, a lot of donations came in, which is nice, but support is needed year round.

Organization Updates

- I. Do You Know Him? Ministries
 - a. Serving a lot of people who are dangerously cold. One guy nearly set fire to the tent he was staying in because of attempts to keep it warm.
 - b. DYKHM still seeing people who choose not to go to shelters.
 - c. Other operations are as they are normally.
- II. Healthcare for Homeless
 - a. Due to service provider changes, the clinic is taking on more refugee and doubled up clients. While there are some growing pains, clinic continues to operate as always and will adjust to the change in due time.
- III. Manchester City Library
 - a. Not much change in terms of people coming to the library. Occasionally, a new face will show up or others will disappear, but for the most part, things have been quiet.
- IV. Manchester Continuum of Care
 - a. The MCoC is in the process of conducting its annual point in time count. Surveys throughout the state continue to come in. Right now, Manchester has an estimated 500 homeless people recorded.
 - b. Upcoming committees include: Veteran Homeless (2/17) and General Assembly (2/18). We are still looking for participant stories from organizations for upcoming meetings.
- V. Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester
 - a. Matt is spending some time at Child and Family Services, but outreach is otherwise the same as always.
- VI. Child and Family Services
 - a. Operations at the drop in center are the same.

- b. CFS is trying to perform outreach in more places; for example, the library. They will not approach anyone, but will have a table for those who want to connect with their services. Both outreach workers are looking for any suggestions about other places to go to connect with more homeless youth.
- c. Bill suggested they come to some of the breakfasts at DYKHM, which are served Saturday and Sunday mornings from 6 to 8 am at 250 Commercial St.
- d. Kevin asked if there are any homeless youth living in abandoned buildings right now. Andrew and David agreed that there are likely older teens living there, but they do not conduct outreach into these buildings.

VII. The Way Home

- a. Has just begun its CoC funded rapid re-housing units. No financial assistance is attached; some form of income is needed.
- b. Your Way Home is starting a waitlist, currently only has a few names, so feel free to make referrals.
- c. Still need 2 chronically homeless veterans (any discharge status) to fill units. Contact Melanie with potential names.

VIII. New Horizons

- a. Kevin mentioned a new issue with HMIS, where veterans need to prove that they are veterans in order to be listed on HMIS. Most veterans don't have their documentation, which is leading to a lower number of veterans in HMIS than there really is. How do we address this?
- b. NH was recently in the Union Leader because of the eviction of one of its participants. Those on the committee agreed that the article was relatively fair. Kevin tried to convey to Mark Hayward that while this woman's situation is unique, it is not unusual. New Horizons will continue to work with her in the future.
- c. How do we address negative publicity such as this in the media?

11:35 Meeting Concludes

Minutes Prepared By

Nicole Clark

Manchester Continuum of Care Coordinator, VISTA