

Continuum General Assembly Minutes

Date and Time

Thursday, May 19th 2011 from 12:00PM-1:00PM

Location

Federal Building, 3rd Floor, HUD Conference Room, 275 Chestnut Street, Manchester, NH

Attendees

Claire Cavanagh	Elise Annunziata	Kary Jencks	Mark Stokes	Roslyn Block
Dianne Pitts	Erin Heaney	Kevin Kintner	Monika Bryant	Susan Howland
Donna Curley	Jay Mattia	Levi Kafka	Nancy Comai	Tracey Noonan

Voting on Minutes

- Voice vote for April General Assembly minutes. **Approved.**

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) – Donna Curley

- Outcome measurements reviewed

NH Citizen's Alliance: Presentation – Kary Jencks

- Current focus is around House Bill 474, commonly called the right-to-work act.
- This bill has passed the House and Senate, but was vetoed by Governor Lynch.
- NH Citizen's Alliance has been working on trying to uphold the Governor's veto through lobbying and advocacy.
- They have had over 100 small businesses "sign on" to their campaign, and they have an online petition on their website (www.protectnhfamilies.org).
- Kary encouraged everyone to support this veto. She believes that the passing of this bill will increase unemployment in NH, thereby leading to, among other things, more homelessness.
- The Alliance's next "lobby day" is Wed., May 25th on Park Street in Concord, NH.

Summer Point-in-Time Count – Susan Howland

- Originated from a request by the Mayor.
- Many service providers believe a summer count will produce a larger, more accurate representation of the number of homeless people in Manchester.
- The count will be held on June 29th, 2011 from 2am – 7am.
- Susan asked for complete support from all service agencies in completing survey forms and ensuring that all units are occupied on this day.
- Also, she emphasized that we are using an "apples-to-apples" approach so that the data we obtain can be directly compared to January's PIT data.
- Several individuals requested that the MCoC be reminded of this upcoming event through email and that it be posted on the website if it was not already.

Homeless Services Center: Update – Kevin Kintner

- A management team of Helping Hands, New Horizons, and NH Catholic Charities has formed.
- This new structure will create a division of responsibilities with NH Catholic Charities taking on more of a fiscal role in the day-to-day operation of the center, Helping Hands serving as more of a

landlord/proprietor, and New Horizons providing technical assistance and emergency staff time if needed.

- Interviews for a Center Director have begun and the position is expected to be filled by the end of the month.
- Granite United Way will continue to be the fiscal agent for another year.
- Safety concerns are being addressed through order, rules, and increasing staff members on-site.
- Also, Susan spoke with Assistant Chief of Police Simmons about increasing the police presence at the center.
- The Programs committee has spoken with Child and Family Services regarding using a software database for logging people who come to the center and what resources they utilize.
- In addition, increased measures will be taken to prevent the Center from being a “hang-out.”
- Finally, a reiteration was made that children are not allowed in the Center for safety concerns.
 - Any families or children who come to the Center are sent to The Way Home.

Open Floor

- *Monica Bryant*
 - MHRA has development a property on South Porter Street for people aged 62+, services are not required, but are available.
 - There are income restrictions, but the units are not designated for homeless people.
- *Susan Howland*
 - 211 was awarded the Homeless Hotline contract. It is unknown what phone # will be used going forward, but this resource is extremely useful for NH service providers.
- *Tracey Noonan*
 - VASH program is expected to get 25, 50, or 75 new vouchers in the near future.
 - The program currently serves 105 veterans, 97 of whom are housed.
 - NH leads all of New England in rate of housing veterans through the VASH program.
- *Mark Stokes*
 - Announced that Families in Transition will open its Lowell Street facility prior to next continuum meeting.
 - Further details will be sent via email regarding open house, etc.
 - He described the facility as having 4 chronically homeless units for single women and 13 units for homeless single women with children.
 - These units will function as interim housing for FIT’s waitlist.
- *Jay Mattia*
 - Has discussed with CFS the development of a computer lab which could be used by High School students (or any youth up to age 21) for online learning to supplement schoolwork.

Committee Reports

- Resource Development
 - Susan Howland reviewed the most recent NoFA scores, indicating that the MCoC’s total score has increased every year for the past 3 years (since the scoring system changed to 100 points).
 - She believes that our score will continue to increase as our outcomes have improved over the past year.
 - She thanked the school system for being so successful at working with homeless families, as this relationship was a focus on last year’s NoFA



- Discharge Planning
 - Dianne Pitts reported that a graduation was held recently for former prisoners.
 - Their rehabilitation has seemed very successful and she was encouraged by their progress

Minutes Prepared By

Mark Stokes

Families in Transition