

## **Homeless Liaison Minutes**

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### **Date and Time**

Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

### **Location**

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

### **Attendees**

David Harris, Kevin Kintner, Matt Bouchie, Nicole Clark, Melanie Chavez, Jake Hull, Jocelyne Pinsonneault

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### **11:05 Meeting begins**

### **Update from Leadership**

- I. Recently Leadership has discussed how the MCoC can bring more enthusiasm to the continuum. We are in the process of looking for someone willing to do some strategic planning for our CoC. If you know of anyone who might be willing to do this for us, please contact either myself ([vista@mcocnh.org](mailto:vista@mcocnh.org)) or Kevin ([programdirector@newhorizonsfornh.org](mailto:programdirector@newhorizonsfornh.org)).
- II. Kevin also shared that we are going to begin sharing ‘case studies’ at our General Assembly meeting. We are looking for people who would be willing to share stories about participants at their program and how they move through the CoC services and organization. Kevin will model a story on Thursday.

### **Organization Updates**

- III. The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester
  - a. Crisis response team is in the process of writing a grant. If approved, they will hopefully be up and running by around July 1<sup>st</sup>. This would keep people, not just homeless people, out of emergency rooms.
  - b. Matt also noted that homeless camps are getting farther away from the downtown as people get pushed out of the city. Police have been trampling their camps. There is a homeless camp over near Goffstown right now.
- IV. Child and Family Services
  - a. Will be holding a drop-in at their new location on 1/20.
  - b. David shared that there is a slight shift between the people who are coming. For example, people from the parks are not showing up as much since the change in location, but people in the neighborhood are coming. Part of the change might be due to the recent cold weather. Jake mentioned that the parks have been relatively empty of homeless people as they have to find shelter from the bitter cold.
- V. Healthcare for the Homeless
  - a. Not much change in terms of people coming to the clinic.
  - b. There are some new security measures in place. Everyone has to be buzzed in and there are video cameras in the public spaces, including the meeting room.
  - c. Jake and Matt are collaborating on a precourt for the PIT
- VI. Manchester School District
  - a. 3 Families moved back to Manchester (1 from out of town, 2 from out of state) and are currently doubling up with family members.
  - b. People are still being evicted.

VII. The Way Home

- a. Currently has 5 RRH housing spots open. TWH provides help with sec. deposit and up to 6 months of rent assistance (with completion of recertification). Some income is needed, but can be doubled up. This spot accepts families or singles.

VIII. New Horizons for NH

- a. Some of the numbers are down at New Horizons, though the number of individuals over the year hasn't changed. Kevin pointed out that the length of stay is lower, gone from an average of 35 nights to 26 nights.
- b. People seem less interested in creating a goal plan- perhaps due to the rise in heroin use?
- c. Jake mentioned that there is a new drug, running rampant in Florida. Called Flakka, this drug provides brief euphoria, followed by prolonged delusional, schizophrenic-like episodes and is highly addictive. No known cases are in New Hampshire, at this time.

**11:45 Meeting Concludes**

**Minutes Prepared By**

Nicole Clark

Manchester Continuum of Care Coordinator, VISTA