

Continuum General Assembly Minutes

Date and Time

Thursday, August 18th 2011 from 12:00PM-1:00PM

Location

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

Attendees

Anna Rice	Jennifer Bergeron	Lisa Jacobus	Nan Comai	Tommy Lemoine
Brian Boyer	Jennifer Comeau	Mark Stokes	Pascale Etienne	
Cathy Kuhn	Kelly Brough	Mary Sliney	Roslyn Block	
Dominique Rust	Kyle Beaulieu	Monika Bryant	Shane Fisher	
Germano Martins	Levi Kafka	Moses Sawyer	Tammi Searle	

Introductions

- Families in Transition – 2 new VISTAs, Tommy Lemoine, the Training & Research Assistant, and Pascale Etienne, the MCoC Coordinator.
- The Way Home – 1 new VISTA, Shane Fisher, Housing Advocate.
- Serenity Place – were awarded Tirrell House and need volunteers for painting and “sprucing-up” of the facility on August 27th from 9AM-4PM. Contact Serenity Place for more information.
- NH Office Minority Health of Refugee Affairs
 - Informational meeting for the Health Profession Opportunity Project (HPOP)
 - Candidate for the project would need to meet within the “ballpark” of TANF eligibility.
 - Call Robin, the HPOP Program Assistant, at 603-271-4826 for more information.

Voting on Minutes

- Voice vote. **Approved.**

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) – *Cathy Kuhn*

- Outcomes
 - Doing very well on goals – exceeding all HUD goals and 2 of 3 MCoC goals
- Asking NOFA funded agencies to provide their most recently submitted APRS
- Expect the NOFA to be released before the next MCoC meeting
- Donna now has a VISTA joining her team and will be joining us next month
- HUD APR Meeting
 - August 30th
 - TAC is conducting it

Advocacy Updates – *Kyle Beaulieu*

- Federal Budget Update
 - Budget Control Act of 2011 was passed and raises the debt ceiling while requiring substantial funding cuts
 - A Joint Select Committee (AKA SuperCommittee) of 12 congressmen will work to propose where the cuts will come over the next decade. The proposal is due by November 23rd.
 - Congress will have until December 23rd to vote on the proposal.



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- If either body fails to act, cuts will automatically be imposed at certain levels over the next decade, with 50% of the cuts coming from the defense budget and the other 50% coming from other discretionary spending (exempting Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security).
 - It's likely that the majority of the cuts will not be made until FY2013.
 - Federal Legislation Update
 - HR 1734, the Civilian Property Realignment Act, co-sponsored by NH's Congressman Frank Guinta (NH-1), will threaten provision V in the McKinney-Vento act that allows utilization of surplus federal property for homeless related programs.
 - HR 2441, will make its way to the House Financial Services Committee, which will abolish the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF). Created in 2008, NHTF has never been fully funded. If fully funded, it could provide up to \$3 million to New Hampshire.
 - State Legislation Update
 - A bill looks to be introduced during the 2012 legislative session that is identical to HB 368, which was scrapped in the 2011 session. The bill would make workforce housing compliance optional.
 - Most of these updates were provided from Housing Action New Hampshire and the National Alliance to End Homelessness. For more info, see <http://housingactionnh.org/> or <http://www.endhomelessness.org/>.

Community Awareness & Project Homeless Connect – Susan Howland

- Community Awareness Committee will be working and organizing Project Homeless Connect, going forward.
- Idea:
 - Setting up an event at the same location the night before the actual event.
 - Would be able to show our collaborative efforts/

Homeless Services Center: Update – Dominique Rust

- During August, the Center had on average 124 per day
- Saw 552 unique guests in August (only includes legible names)
- Chris is working on a way to circumvent illegible sign-in names
- Gathering data on homeless versus housed guests
- Chris has gone through office to make office more comfortable and functional
- Volunteer program has been significantly reviewed
- Will be posting a 20-hour a week position (12PM-4PM) so that a paid staff will always be on-site
- Contacted St. Anslems College and will become a Service Learning Site
 - Chris has some very interesting projects lined up
- Goodwill Industries has agreed to come to the Center for around 8-10 hours per week to provide job training skills
- Management team thanks the agencies for their continued work and help

Open Floor

- *Mary Sliney*
 - Asked if there were gaps in services that members would like to discuss
- *Kyle Beaulieu and David Carroll*
 - Park meetings were going to be held to receive better consumer feedback
- *Moses Sawyer*
 - Member of community, working with Granite Pathways, and formerly homeless



- Spoke of the difficulties for those with criminal background histories to get housing and employment
- *Recommendation*
 - Social Policy Committee will be informed of this gap in services and will work to address it.

Committee Updates

- Social Policy – Monika Bryant
 - Project Homeless Connect recommendations – backpacks, dental services, podiatrist services
 - Looking at developing a visual graphic that would highlight important policy issues for Manchester agencies
- Task Force – Dominique Rust, Mary Sliney, Kyle Beaulieu
 - Had a session with the New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits for consultation purposes, called the Sounding Board
 - Discussed the basic outline of formation of Continuum
 - Helped provide us with direction on how we want to form
 - Provided more clarity on many topics
 - Agreed and voted on:
 - Obtaining assistance from another consultant to facilitate the group to a finalized structure in a 4-month timeframe
 - A structure to move forward on (more information on this will be available in the near future)
- Homeless Liaison
 - Looking for a multicultural training
- Community Awareness Committee
 - Were looking to have agencies link back to the MCoC website from their website
 - Kyle Beaulieu will send out more details

Minutes Prepared By

Kyle Beaulieu

Families in Transition, Homeless Policy and Training Coordinator