

Social Policy Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday September 13th, 2011 9:00AM-10:00AM

Location

The Way Home, 214 Spruce Street, Manchester, NH 03103

Attendees

Shane Fisher	Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Julie Van Ryen	Pascale Etienne
Dianne Pitts	Anna Rice	Monika Bryant	

Introductions

- Julie Van Ryen is a community member trying to find affordable housing so she was invited to sit in on a meeting

Issues Surrounding having a criminal background

- Running into the problem that anyone can google a client. Yet that information is only utilized if someone knows to look for it.
- Dismas house is prisoner re-entry program that has a grant to research what has been successful elsewhere and to make adaptations to create a new model for prisoner re-entry
- Anna will continue to research how x offenders are successful in other communities by asking questions to the director of this program and its support people. Those questions include:
 - Why are these x offenders more successful?
 - Are there crimes that are considered more acceptable?
 - Is there anything they're finding to help them be successful?
 - Who is the designated person in their community to deal with these kind of issues?
- She extended the invitation for anyone to go. Her contact email is anna@granitepathways.org
- Anna will also look at success rates to help tailor statistics to new programs.

New Housing Available

- 9 apartments 3 are ready to go into now. 7 spots need to be filled through the old VASH vouchers. (VASH 1,2, 3). Vets don't have to be working.
- To move in first a person needs to qualify through the VA. Then go through the rest of the process through Manchester Housing. Candidates have to apply to VASH housing.
- 1st point of contact is Tracy Noonan at the VA. Next points of contact is the way home or Manchester Housing.

Issues Surrounding Vouchers

- No continuity with caseworkers.
- When people become eligible for vouchers the 1st point of contact is the caseworker. But caseworkers frequently move on and there is no way to get the names of the people who qualified for the vouchers through those caseworkers.
- It makes agencies look unfavorable because they claimed a certain amt. of people needed vouchers and they cant get those vouchers to that same amount of people.

New program – Social Security BOND Program

- The Benefit Offset National Demonstration (BOND) is a trial program that was created to help Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries return to work.
- Through the use of a benefit offset, they're testing a different way to treat SSDI beneficiaries' work and earnings. This offset could help beneficiaries earn more and keep more of their benefits than currently possible.

Minutes approved by voice vote

Minutes Prepared By

Pascale Etienne

Manchester Continuum of Care, VISTA