

Continuum General Assembly Minutes

Date and Time

Thursday, October 20th 2011 from 12:00PM-1:00PM

Location

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

Attendees

Anna Rice	Izet Hamidovic	Monika Bryant	Colin Pio	Jocelyne Pinsonneault
Chris Emerson	Jay Mattia	Shane Fisher	Scott Kenison	Brenda Riddell
Bruce Bissett	Kyle Beaulieu	Mark Stokes	Madeline Leung	
Candace Gebhart	Levi Kafka	Mary Sliney	Nan Comai	
Doreen Brown	Jennifer Comeau	Michelle Casale	Roslyn Block	
Elise Annunziata	Lisa Boucher	Nicole Starkey	Pascale Etienne	

Voting on Minutes

- Voice vote for September general assembly minutes. **Approved.**

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) – *Mark Stokes*

- HUD is opening more permanent housing programs.
- HUD is moving from a focus on transitional housing as a whole.
- Need to increase connections to other government resources.
- In terms of outcome measures in terms of employment to exit -above HUD's goal but below the MCoC's goal.

Employment

- Discussion who in the MCoC has job training connections.
 - Renie Denton -works at the MCRC. The Community Resource Center does training for employment.
- Issue: Different presenters charge to hold an interested client's spot. The client gets the money back when they show up.
 - It's used as a way to ensure attendance for the presenter.
 - Problem: That money is difficult to come up with for seriously interested individuals.
- Solutions that were offered for that specific problem were that individual organization can help provide scholarships to those very motivated individuals.
- Other organizations that do job trainings were Vocational Rehabilitation, Southern New Hampshire Services workforce, Mental Health Center Supportive Employment and Manchester City Library.
- Suggestion for the creation of a page on the Manchester Continuum of Care website to list individuals that are looking for employment.
 - Page could be used for donors who look for seasonal or temporary employment.
- There was also discussion about when agencies looking to hire, to consider hiring clients.

How to Update Your Website Presentation- *Brenda Riddell*

- 1st Architecture- Cacao is a free website where you can put together a site map that an agency can use as a base to keep in mind whenever the site need refreshing.
- 2nd Branding- When people go to your website how do you want them to perceive it? How do you want to market your message on the web so that it is consistent with your message in print?

- Make sure there are no scripts that are broken and get rid of flash technology because people who use ipads will not be able to see your animation.

- 4th Content – Don't let it stay stagnant. Get new content onto your website.
- 5th Interactivity- give people a reason to come back to your website. Programs like Constant Contact you can create polls/ survey and they give your some code that you can use to put onto your website.
- Put newsletters live on website and use a calendar of events its free to do with Google. It's a way of driving people to the website.

Homeless Service Center

- Ally (Assistant Manager) started and is working out well. Geoff Smith the new VISTA will start working Nov 30th.
- 230 intake forms have been filled out but they are launching a new intake form
- The focus at the center is now on income verification to help those who are more closely aligned with the mission.
- The focus is on trying to enrich the center with different kinds of volunteers who help.

Committee Reports

- **Homeless Liaison Committee**
 - Park Meeting will not be held anymore because they are already happening at the Homeless Services Center. Also people are not congregating at the parks like they used to.
 - Kim Calhoun, Manchester School District Social Worker talked with the committee about ways to outreach to different ethnic groups.
- **Community Awareness Committee**
 - The committee will be updating the content on the website to see where content is old and needs a refresher.
- **Data Collection Committee**
 - SuperNOFA is due as of Friday Oct 28th. 1st draft expect Friday Oct 21st and for it to be sent in Tuesday Oct 25th at the latest.

Open Floor

- Pascale will send to MCoC brief bullets on the job discussion.
- Goal to set up an employment connect team and decide who would be interested in working on it.
- The Way Home has a karaoke fundraiser "Sing Your Way Home" on Nov 17, 2011 from 6:30 to 10:00pm at Boynton's Taproom.

Minutes Prepared By

Pascale Etienne

MCoC Coordinator, VISTA