



Continuum General Assembly Minutes

Date and Time

Thursday, February 16^h 2012 from 12:00PM-1:00PM

Location

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

Attendees

Cathy Kuhn	Jen Gee	Mark Stokes	Nicole Starkey	Tina Ricketts
Dominique Rust	Jennifer Comeau	Mary Sliney	Pascale Etienne	Tommy Lemoine
Doreen Brown	Jocelyne	Maureen Beauregard	Roslyn Block	
Elise Annunziata	Pinsonneault	Maureen Ryan	Shane Fisher	
Jake Hull	Kyle Beaulieu	Michelle Casale	Stacey Somogyi	
Jay Mattia	Levi Kafka	Nan Comai	Susan Howland	

Minutes Approved

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) - Presentation Stacey Somogyi

- It's a volunteer driven program.
- Tax preparers have 40 hr. online training class. 15 hrs. in the classroom and competence testing. Preparers commit a minimum of 40 hrs. to their program during tax season.
- Low volunteer turnover. Tax preparers build trust with the tax payers.
- Volunteers are not just preparing a tax return but preparers are trying to teach financial stability.
- Taxes are prepared at no cost.
- Federal and State e-filing are completely free of charge.
- Find them Tue Thurs.(5-8pm), and Sat 10am to 2pm

ESG – Presentation Maureen Ryan

- ESG grantees must collaborate with CoC's
- The match requirement is \$1 for \$1. They won't fund street outreach with the new ESG money.
- There is better data for rapid re-housing being successful rather than the outcomes with prevention. So they'll be leaning toward rapid rehousing.
- Some funds will be put towards HMIS
- Eligible activities are similar to HPRP financial assistance. The allowable timeframes will be different ex housing search and placement etc.

Challenges

- Timing. They are required to have an agreement with the sub recipient in 60 days. But the intention is to have an RFP ready to go.
- Hopefully they'll get grant agreements together within 60 days and are hoping that will be enough under Hearth act.
- Trying to identify where the small amount of money will do the most good and identify the gap. May be reaching out to see where our CoC is identifying the gap.
- They'll need to be identifying how they are reporting with HMIS.
- They are working on developing a centralized/ and or coordinated standardized assessment for eligibility determination.

CoC Consult Questions

- Should they cap amount of services or financial service time frame?
- How do we track the outcomes?
- Written standards for providing ESG may be developed by state or sub recipients (What makes the most sense)
- They'll be reaching out. Possibly a survey. When they have a draft of a plan they will be reaching out again.

Homeless Services Center

- Pascale will email out Chris's report

Committee Update

Task Force

- Conference call with Mary Ellen Jackson. Looking to schedule time for the task force to meet.

Data Collection

- COC check up now has survey results. There is a plan to review those results and to create an action plan that is due Mar 16th.

Open Floor

- Be sure for the next NOFA that all project descriptions have been reviewed and that they match current definitions.
- Manchester Emergency Shelter and Families in Transition have merged. Right now nothing is changing. Unsure when things will change.
 - The issue was brought up of the importance of the shelter being open after 4pm

Minutes Prepared By

Pascale Etienne, VISTA
MCoC Coordinator