

Homeless Liaison Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, March 20th 2012 10:00AM-11:00AM

Location

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

Attendees

Dave Carroll

Kevin Kintner

Izet Hamidovic

Pascale Etienne

Visual Presence of the Homeless: Public Perception

- Some citizens of Manchester have been sending letters to the Mayor and to the Union Leader asking the city to address the issue of panhandling.
- Possible way to address the issues: providers can start educating people at the Homeless Services Center and New Horizons saying that it's not ok to ask for money or a cigarette.
 - Problem: The focus as service providers is that there are more important issues to address like healthcare and other services.
- An approach that be can taken with clients is more strongly addressing issues with drugs and alcohol, with the idea in mind if more people are getting help for drugs and alcohol you'd see fewer panhandlers.
- Another way to address the issue is through public education.
 - The mayor could launch a public education campaign.
 - Also could build greater awareness among the merchants/businesses on Elm by making sure they know the services that are available for homeless. Eg if you're looking for food, you can go to the Center and if you need shelter you can go to New Horizons.
- Pascale will bring this issue up at community awareness committee meeting and will update the homeless liaison committee.
- The committee might consider inviting the mayor to a meet to start a dialogue about these issues, what solutions were brought to the table, and talk about what is perception is.
 - A suggestion is that the community awareness committee could go to city hall take 5 minutes at the beginning of a meeting to say this is what the service providers do and what they provide as a way to start educating them
 - Propose something to city opening up 5 positions through a grant where they could hire from new horizons.
- Consideration of bringing a walking a club or other group at the Homeless Service Center to keep people occupied.

Homeless Services Center News/Update

- Want to bring up the issue of addressing hygiene at center with Chris

Minutes Prepared By

Pascale Etienne

Manchester Continuum of Care Coordinator, VISTA