

# Homeless Liaison Committee Minutes

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## Date and Time

Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 10:00AM-11:00AM

## Location

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

## Attendees

Chris Emerson	Jay Mattia	Kevin Kintner	Lisa Jacobus
Dave Carroll	Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Linda Lurvey	Pascale Etienne

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## Minutes Approved for June

### Review of Committee Goals

- The committee would like to see more input from the school district and refugee community
- The group wants to focus on getting more involvement with groups that they're missing.
  - They're open to suggestions
- They'd like to get someone who is currently homeless involved- That's why there is a push to move meeting to The Homeless Services Center
  - But we want to make sure that the person who sits on this community is focused on making sure they want to get themselves out of homelessness. They want sure that what they are doing for this committee is not getting way of what they need to do.
- There was also the suggestion that having people who are formerly homeless might have more of an impact than someone who is currently homeless.
- Invite a formerly or currently homeless person as guest speakers. They would know ahead of time what value they will have to this committee.
  - Ex: Goal to understand the culture of homelessness- how can we best help?
  - Ex: People have been getting attacked at camps, what would be the best way to approach?
- Everyone will continue doing invites. As a meeting approaches Dave will ask everyone if they were able to secure someone.

### Youth

- Jen Comeau and Jay Mattia developed a summer work program. The kids spend ½ the day at the food bank garden and the other half getting taught life skills like resume building.
- The participants get credits in physical education, economics, etc. but they are also getting paid.
- They work with some of the most at risk students to ensure they stay engaged during the summer. Program criteria include that they have to be in school and working with Jay or Jen.
- They are working with UNH to get the stats out for the Mental Health/Criminal Justice numbers survey.
- 1015 students (Pre- K – 12) were identified as homeless.

- A Teen Shelter will be opening in Portsmouth. It was an initiative that came out of the teen task force. Katie McDermott will be running it. It is based on a group home model.

### **Veterans**

- Need more housing. But Harbor homes and The Way Home will have new facilities in the fall. Should see roughly 42 beds for vets.
- Keith Howard took Lisa Boucher's position at Liberty House
- Case workers are seeing people go back through the system but piece that keeps coming back is mental health, substance abuse, etc.

### **Homeless Services Center (HSC)**

- They hit an all-time high in May now numbers are coming down.
- New Horizons saw a similar spike in May and now the numbers are more normal.
- Looking at patterns of behavior, dynamics, etc.
- Chris's job before was about fine tuning operations now it's more a question what are we doing here and are we doing it well.
- Started a literacy program and have 4 people on board now.

### **Other Business**

- There are a lot of changes going around with substance abuse collaborative including that there will be fees now to get in.
- Would like to get a park group started again. They may consider the guest speakers as a solution.
- Outreach workers meet at New Horizons at 7:15am for morning park walks to go out and see who is around. They try to be back by 8am.

\*\*\*\*\*The group would like to change Homeless Liaison meetings to 11am at HSC. Meetings will still continue to be the third Tuesday of the month. \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*Next Homeless Liaison meeting will be changed to Wednesday, Aug 15<sup>th</sup> to do campground outreach to get children registered before school. They will be meeting at the HSC at 1:00 until whenever they are finished.

\*\*Wednesday Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 10:00 at HSC, they'll be making phone calls to let managers at campgrounds know they are coming.

### **Minutes Prepared By**

Pascale Etienne

Manchester Continuum of Care Coordinator, VISTA