

Homeless Liaison Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, November 13th, 2012 11:00AM-12:00PM

Location

Homeless Services Center, 140 Central Street, Manchester, NH

Attendees

Chris Emerson	Bill Sullivan	Katie Simpson	Kevin Kintner
Dave Carroll	Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Jay Mattia	

Outreach Activities: Updates

- Jake is back from paternity leave.
- Outreach groups have continued to go out on Wednesdays.
- Wednesday morning strategic outreach meetings are going to start back up again.
- There are still many people staying in the camps.
 - Outreach workers are trying to get the individuals to go to the Homeless Services Center and New Horizons.

Homeless Services Center: Updates

- Chris attended a Chamber meeting that focused on the homeless in Veteran's Park.
 - Was originally supposed to serve as guidance to the Granite State Ambassadors who run the Manchester Welcome Center.
 - Overflow of the homeless in the city end up staying in Veteran's Park.
- In Oct. the center averaged 189 individuals a day (average one year ago: 140), and so far in Nov. the average has been 235 individuals a day.
- The Center is trying to prepare itself for the higher numbers and the problems that go along with the higher numbers.
 - They are having to call-in extra staff to help out.
- The Reading Plus Program has finished its first "term."
 - The program seems to be helping those participating – many have gone up a reading level.

Homeless Representative Meeting: Results

- It's a positive thing to be meeting with this group in general.
 - The homeless often feel neglected and invisible, so this shows that they are being seen and heard.
- These meetings could become negative and turn into a place for individuals to complain.
 - Some people have dominating personalities and their own personal agenda.
- Asking different individuals to attend each meeting might decrease some of the negativity.
 - Chris could pre-select the individuals and ask certain ones to attend.
- In the future we could be more specific about who we ask to attend.
 - Newly homeless individuals, homeless women, etc.
- The individuals at the last meeting did give us some good information:
 - They updated us on weekends in Manchester for homeless individuals.
 - There was a strong interest in having a street newspaper.
 - Transportation is a continuing problem for the homeless in the city.
 - They showed interest in having a Job Fair centered on the economically disadvantaged.

- There are not enough businesses within walking distance of the downtown that need unskilled workers.
- There is also a problem with people getting jobs, but not having the basic skills to keep the jobs.
 - They are unable to show up on time, put in a full day of work, etc.
- The Job Fair would need to have very specific employers looking for unskilled workers that can be trained on-the-job.
- Might be best to hold the Job Fair somewhere other than the Homeless Services Center.
- They also mentioned problems with safety on the streets and police harassment.
- This group will meet again with some homeless representatives on Dec. 11th from 11:00am-12:00pm at the Homeless Services Center.

General Discussion

- MCC (along with Do You Know Him Ministries) is putting together a Thanksgiving Dinner for the homeless on Saturday, November 17th at 11:00am and 1:00pm.
 - This will be held at the Salvation Army, 121 Cedar Street, Manchester.
 - They will also have winter clothing for the homeless (coats, hats, gloves, etc.).
 - Still in need of men's boots.
 - This dinner will be for homeless adults only – no children should be in attendance.
- Breakfast in the Park is continuing to see record numbers. They had over 300 individuals in attendance the last weekend in October.
- Overflow from New Horizons is going to be staying at the Homeless Services Center. Individuals should, however, go to the shelter first.
- The Summit on Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth in Manchester will be held on Nov. 20th from 9:00am-1:30pm at the Carol M. Rines Building, 1528 Elm Street.
 - Local high school students put together questions for the different focus groups to discuss.
 - Eventually they would like to write a paper to share with the public about their findings and discussions.
- The December Homeless Liaison meeting will be Dec. 18th from 11:00am-12:00pm at the Homeless Services Center.

Minutes Prepared By

Katie Simpson

Manchester Continuum of Care Coordinator, VISTA