

Continuum General Assembly Minutes

Date and Time

Thursday, November 15th, 2012 12:00PM-1:00PM

Location

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

Attendees

Cathy Kuhn	Heather Aicholtz	Mark Stokes	Beth Alves	Laurel Redden
Casey Krafton	Jay Mattia	Mary Sliney	Brian Boyer	Mike Drago
Craig Chevalier	Katie Simpson	Roger Beauchamp	Dick Webster	Peter Grigorakakis
David Carroll	Kevin Kintner	Susan Howland	Dominique Rust	
Ed Orlowski	Kyle Beaulieu	Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Matt Leahy	

Minutes for October Approved

NH Legal Assistance

- Candace Gebhart gave a presentation on NH Legal Assistances' services.
- NH Legal Assistance is dedicated to providing a voice for its low income clients.
 - Services are free for applicants.
 - They must meet certain income guidelines.
- Candace deals mostly with clients having housing issues.
 - Evictions, foreclosures, etc.
 - She often works with seniors on housing issues.
- NH Legal Assistance was recently given a grant that will allow them to sue various banks acting improperly during foreclosures.
- Due to budget cuts in the last year, the Nashua branch was closed.
 - Clients living outside of Manchester meet with NH Legal Assistance representatives at libraries or coffee shops.
- Areas they most commonly work in are housing, benefits, family law, domestic violence, youth law, and senior law.
- Clients needing assistance should call the Manchester office or go online at <http://www.nhpd.org>.
 - It is important for applicants to provide a time in which they are available to receive a phone call back from the office.
 - They should hear from someone within a week.
- Citizenship is not a qualification for receiving help from NH Legal Assistance.

Vacant Chair Positions

- Leadership Committee has decided to leave the Resource Development Chair vacant for the time being.
- Community Awareness, however, is still in need of a Chair.
 - If you would like to nominate someone or yourself, please contact Katie.
 - Otherwise, you may self-nominate the day of the meeting.

General Discussion

- The December meeting has been changed from December 20th to December 13th.
- Project Homeless Connect is Thursday, December 6th from 10:00am-2:00pm at St. Joseph's Cathedral.
 - They will be needing volunteers on the 5th for set-up.

- They may be able to stop deportment.
- The Way Home's Laurel Keys property ribbon cutting is this Friday, Nov. 16th at 11:00am.
 - They should be housing people by Dec. 1st.
 - The property will house 6 chronically homeless veterans in 2-3 bedroom apartments.
- Check out Housing Action NH's website (<http://www.housingactionnh.org>), and sign up for their newsletter.
 - They are always looking for success stories to include.

Committee Updates

- Data Collection:
 - The NOFA is out, and we are on a very tight schedule.
 - Everything is due by Jan. 18th, but Exhibit 1s and Exhibit 2s are due in by Dec. 19th.
 - We are submitting many questions to HUD – looking for clarity on certain things.
 - It looks like there may be a cut for the Continuum.
 - We should be prepared for a possible program cut.
 - Peer Review will have to rank projects again this year.
 - All information will be available on the website, <http://www.mcoch.org>, under Latest News.
 - Only new projects working with 100% chronically homeless are eligible for the permanent housing bonus.
 - BoSCoC is having a Continuum meeting on Monday, Nov. 19th at 10:30am to discuss the NOFA.
- Homeless Liaison:
 - The Committee has started having separate meetings once a month – a forum for individuals who are homeless.
 - We meet with 5-10 individuals at the Homeless Services Center.
 - We prepare a set of questions, and give them a place to be heard.
- Social Policy:
 - The Committee is looking to increase attendance.
 - The Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 9:00-10:00am at The Way Home.
 - We are hoping to involve representatives from local hospitals and jails, so we can discuss the current discharge policies.

Minutes Prepared By

Katie Simpson, VISTA
MCoC Coordinator