

Homeless Liaison Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, January 15th, 2012 11:00AM-12:00PM

Location

Homeless Services Center, 140 Central Street, Manchester, NH

Attendees

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Bill Sullivan | David Carroll | Jennifer Comeau | Katie Simpson |
| Chris Emerson | Jay Mattia | Jocelyne Pinsonneault | Kevin Kintner |

December Minutes Approved.

Outreach Activities: Updates

- The outreach workers are getting ready for the Point-in-Time Count on Jan. 23rd.
 - More people are staying in cars than in year's past.
 - Volunteers should focus on vehicles when counting.
 - Rob, Jake, and Dave are trying to identify places to look on the night of the Count.
 - Public parking lots need to be checked.
- They are able to go out more often now that Rob Smith has joined them.
- More people are asking for bus tickets to leave town.
 - The outreach workers are telling them to check with local churches.
 - New Horizons and Do You Know Him Ministries will help in some cases.
 - They will only help if they have confirmed that the individual has a place to stay once they arrive at their destination.

Youth Outreach: Updates

- Child and Family Services' Drop-in Center saw 123 unduplicated kids in the month of December.
 - They saw an average of 28 kids per day.
- In January so far they have seen 104 unduplicated kids.
 - Still a 28 kids per day average.
- Many of these kids and adolescents are staying on friend's couches and living in cars.
- Doug and Jay have begun doing GED pretesting for the kids at the Drop-In Center.
 - They are trying to do it every Tuesday.
 - This will help identify the areas these kids need to work on before getting their GED.
 - There is a new GED program at Easter Seals.
 - It might not have age limitations.

Homeless Services Center

- Numbers were down in December, but are coming back up again in January.
 - So far in January there is an average of 158 per day.
- The HSC Provider Team is meeting today to approve possible changes.
 - Changes will be proposed by the Management Team by suggestion of Chris.
 - If these structural changes are approved they will be focusing their work more with the clients.

Homeless Representatives Meeting

- In the future we should try not to do these meetings on Thursdays.
 - 1269 Café has a lunch on Thursday, so not as many people are at the Center.
- The January meeting focused on women in homelessness.
 - The women had positive things to say about the Center, New Horizons, and other Manchester service providers.
 - Most women staying in camps are there with a man.
 - Too dangerous to stay there alone.
 - This might be different during the summer.
 - Sometimes when the woman has an income the man she is with controls the income.
 - Couples will often rent a hotel the first week of the month to be together, and then end up at the shelter later when the money is gone.
 - Do women tend to access services more than men?
 - No, sometimes the man they are with is controlling and doesn't want them to be alone in the room with a service provider.
 - Women sometimes use the court system to punish and chase men.
 - If there is a restraining order between two people and one is at the Center before the other that other person cannot come in.
- When would be the best time to meet with newly homeless individuals?
 - Probably in the springtime – May?
- Other subgroups to consider:
 - People with no income/people with an income
 - This group would be harder to get together.
 - Minorities or refugees
 - Not many refugees go to the HSC.
 - Those that do often have some mental illness.
 - There are several minorities though.
 - It somewhat reflects the population of New Hampshire.
- The February Homeless Representatives meeting will focus on homeless youth – 18 to 24-year-olds.
 - Jennifer and Jay will run this meeting.
 - They will meet Feb. 12th from 11:00am-12:00pm at the Center.

Underrepresented Groups

- We could use a member on the committee who works with refugees.
- What do they do when they lose their documentation or identification?
 - Seems to be different with each case.
 - There doesn't appear to be a set system for dealing with these situations.
 - Lutheran Social Services and International Institute may be able to help.

Updates and Reminders

- Brian Boyer attended the Social Policy Committee meeting and spoke with us about the Bridges Program.
 - The program should have several more openings in the next year.
- Do You Know Him Ministries' Breakfast in the Park is still running out of the Salvation Army.
 - They have been averaging 180-210 plates a breakfast.
 - They are planning to move back outside in April.



- The location might change from Veteran’s Park.
 - They need somewhere outdoors and downtown.
 - Preferable with bathroom availability.

Minutes Prepared By

Katie Simpson

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