

# Homeless Liaison Committee Minutes

---

## Date and Time

Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 11:00AM-12:00PM

## Location

Homeless Services Center, 140 Central Street, Manchester, NH

## Attendees

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

---

**November Minutes Approved with a small correction –  
HSC November daily average was 198 (high of 252).**

## Outreach Activities: Updates

- Our outreach team is getting stronger and going out more often.
  - Rob Smith is now working with Healthcare for the Homeless.
  - Jake Hull is back from paternity leave.
  - Let Dave know if anyone is interested in attending the outreach meetings.
- There are still many small camps out now.
  - There appears to be more than in previous years.
  - There are 4 separate sites in the Queen City area.
  - 3-4 people are staying in the Granite Street Bridge area.
  - There is also a site by the Hooksett exit – possibly 1 person staying there.
  - Other sites are scattered around the city.
    - People are also staying in their cars.
- Some people are planning to stay out through the winter.
  - The team is trying to get them to come to the shelter.
    - If not, they are trying to get them the supplies they need to keep warm.
      - Food, blankets, contact information, etc.

## Youth Outreach: Updates

- 143 unduplicated youth (ages 12-23) came into the CFS Drop-In Center for services in November.
  - The center averages around 25 youth a day.
  - 627 total youth have used their services so far in November and December.
- Youth appear more exhausted than usual.
  - They are not getting enough sleep because they are too busy trying to find a place to stay at night.
- The Youth Summit was in November.
  - Students are working on an official paper to present to the mayor and the school board.
  - They received great information from the focus groups – the event was a success.
- Project Homeless Connect (PHC) does not appeal to the youth in the Manchester.
  - It is in an unfamiliar place and is scary and intimidating to them.
  - The best way to get these resources out to the youth would be by possibly doing a similar event at CFS.

## Updates and Reminders

- Breakfast in the Park is now being held inside at the Salvation Army at 7:00am on Saturday and Sunday.
  - Someone is staying at the park to let individuals know the breakfast location has been moved.
  - This Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 250 gift bags will be handed out to those in attendance.
    - The bag will include personal care items.
  - Attendance numbers in the fall were around 200; they have now dropped to around 150.
- New Horizons has more of a police presence at dinners now.
  - They aren't bothering those in attendance, only watching.
- The shelter arranged for overflow to stay at the HSC, but now that numbers have dropped it has not been needed.
- City Welfare lost a court case about their treatment of clients.
  - Those who lost their benefits for 6 months may now get them back.
- The committee needs to work on getting other representation.
  - Someone to represent veterans such as Lisa Jacobus.
  - A representative for refugees would be nice.
    - Kim has come in previous years – Jocelyne will reach out to her.

## Project Homeless Connect

- Many people in attendance were not homeless.
  - How can we monitor this?
    - Possibly by making it invitation only.
    - We could identify them through Chris and Kevin.
      - They have a list that could be worked with for next year.
- The event needs to be reviewed, so that it can be more successful in the future.
  - It would be nice to bring PHC services (such as the eye exams) to the HSC a few times a year.
    - There are so many services and handouts during the holidays, but nothing the rest of the year.
      - It would be more helpful to spread out the services.

## Homeless Services Center: Updates

- There was a huge drop in their numbers for December.
  - They are averaging 155 a day so far.
- For a year, 80% of the individuals at the Center would eat lunch while they were there.
  - Now only around 62% are eating lunch.
- People are moving to warmer areas for the winter.
- The police are being much stricter on the streets downtown.
- Many people have seasonal jobs in the winter.
- Because of overcrowding in November, people were gathering in the parking lot, drinking, and using drugs.
  - Chris enforced higher penalties for breaking the rules.
    - Those caught were immediately banned from the Center for a week.

## Homeless Representatives Meeting

- For the next meeting we should identify a subgroup to attend.
  - Newly homeless, women, chronically homeless, 18 to 23-year-olds, etc.
    - Newly homeless should meet in the spring when there are more people in that situation.

- Next month Jennifer and Katie will meet with women only on Thursday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am-12:00pm.
  - What questions should we ask?
    - How do you keep safe?
    - How much violence occurs?
    - How do you take care of your children?
    - What is the availability of feminine products?
    - Do you use the services at the YWCA?
- There is a group of individuals at the HSC interested in starting their own formal group.
  - There is a worry that members may begin to identify themselves as homeless, and no longer work toward getting out of that situation.

### **Homeless Liaison Committee Goals**

- The MCoC has the following listed as the goals of this committee:
  - Help to maintain a dialogue with local Homeless Outreach workers and manager of the Manchester Homeless Services Center to ensure that there is communication of ongoing news in the local homeless community.
  - Work with members in the homeless community to identify gaps in the service system within the state and city.
- This committee is not to act as an outreach team.
- Members agree with this description, therefore it will remain as is now.

### **Point-in-Time Count**

- This year's PIT is Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - The training webinar is Tuesday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:00pm.
- Contact Katie, [vista@mcofnh.org](mailto:vista@mcofnh.org), if you are interested in being involved with the Count.
- Is there a way we could change the unsheltered count for next year?
  - Possibly only do the pre-count?
  - We do discover some people the outreach teams were unaware of by going out at night.
    - Not necessarily river camps, but things like parking lots.

### **Minutes Prepared By**

Katie Simpson

Manchester Continuum of Care Coordinator, VISTA