

Public Policy Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, November 13th, 2012 9:00AM-10:00AM

Location

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

Attendees

Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Heidi Toler	Dave Carroll	Jonathan Verity
Katie Simpson	Jay Mattia	Kevin Kitner	

November Minutes Accepted

DCYF Adolescent Program

- Jonathan attended the Social Policy meeting to inform members about the DCYF Adolescent Program Aftercare Services.
- They provide housing, mental health services, and medical care to youth in foster care or formally in foster care.
 - Youth can participate in the program up until their 21st birthday.
- Those involved can follow one of two tracks.
 - Those individuals who are college bound may be eligible for a tuition waiver.
 - Those who choose the career track must be actively pursuing a job to participate in the program.
 - They are also given small stipends of money to live on.
- In some situations care can be extended up to 6 months.
 - For this to occur DCYF would have to have failed at making any connections for the youth.
- Youth involved in the Adolescent Program are always given a resource guidebook to assist them.
 - This book includes information on housing, food pantries, shelters, employment services, etc.
- All participants who sign themselves out of care are unable to return to the program.
- Youth from other states as well as those emancipated are ineligible.

Strategizing for January Meeting

- We need to boost attendance by inviting individuals who work with discharge programs.
 - Healthcare for the Homeless has a new employee, Rob Smith.
 - Brian Boyer works with The Bridges Program.
 - Katie will contact and invite him to our next meeting.
- Next meeting's focus will be on discharge programs.
- We should discuss ways to be proactive about discharge.
 - In what ways can we expose the negative hospital and prison discharge policies?
 - How can we get information out to the community?
 - What things can we do to change these issues?

Hospital/Prison Discharge

- Hospitals are unable to discharge individuals into homelessness; therefore, they will put them up in a hotel for a week prior to discharging them.
 - Once they are out of the hotel they return to homelessness.
- Transitional living programs are rare and fill up quickly.

- There are very few programs for youth from 18 to early 20s.
 - They don't want to move and reestablish themselves in another community.
 - There are some homeless youth attending local community colleges, and they are unable to relocate due to school.
 - Some youth oriented programs include CFS Drop-in Center, Granite Pathways, and Warren Street.
 - These provide peer support, and youth can often visit without being a member.

Updates and Reminders

- Homeless Memorial Day is Friday, December 21st.
 - There will be a candlelight vigil in Veteran's Park at 6:00pm.
- Our next Public Policy meeting will be Tuesday, January 15th from 9:00-10:00am at The Way Home.

Minutes Prepared By

Katie Simpson
Manchester Continuum of Care, VISTA