

Continuum General Assembly Minutes

Date and Time

Thursday, January 17th, 2013 12:00PM-1:00PM

Location

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

Attendees

Abby Easterly	David Carroll	Elise Annunziata	Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Keith Howard
Cathy Kuhn	Dick Webster	Heather Aicholtz	Julie Van Ryan	Kyle Beaulieu
Casey Krafton	Dominique Rust	Jay Mattia	Rene Albee	Mark Stokes
Cate Sementa	Ed Orlowski	Jennifer Comeau	Katie Simpson	Matt Leahy
Mary Sliney	Becky Vinson	Peter Grigorakakis	Roger Beauchamp	Susan Howland
Carey Gladstone				

Minutes for December Approved

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

- Carey Gladstone from Granite United Way presented on the VITA program.
- They are trying to keep the homeless from going to commercial offices to get their taxes done, such as H&R Block.
 - Clients with children can get up to thousands of dollars back.
 - They can also keep their refund in the bank for up to 12 months without it effecting any of their benefits.
- This is a community-based tax project supported by the IRS.
 - It is completely free.
 - They are working with clients on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.
 - Clients can call 211 to make an appointment or drop-in.
- Carey brought brochures and handouts to share with the CoC and their clients.
 - If anyone needs more flyers you can stop by Granite United Way.
- The VITA program is using this as a chance to talk with clients about saving, asset building, bank accounts, and money management.
 - Individuals being paid under the table for odd jobs can learn basic bookkeeping skills to keep track of their income.

Community Awareness Chair

- This is a reminder that the Chair position is still vacant.
 - Please remember that this position would also give you a spot on the Leadership Committee.
- If anyone is interested, please contact Katie at vista@mcoenh.org.
- The committee is involved with certain events such as Project Homeless Connect and the Homeless Memorial candlelight vigil.
- Currently, the committee is working with Brenda Riddell who presented at our last CoC meeting.
 - Brenda's graphic design students created public awareness campaigns for the MCoC.
 - The committee is trying to take the iPhone app idea and bring it to fruition.

NOFA Updates

- The NOFA is complete.

- It was submitted yesterday, Jan. 16th.
- The MCoC is in a much better position than in previous years.
 - We are meeting 6 out of 7 national objectives, are closely connected with the city planning department, and have a newly elected Leadership Committee.

General Discussion

- The city is holding public hearings on Wednesdays, Jan. 23rd and 30th at 7:00pm.
 - It is required that city planning receives feedback from the community about the services and programs most needed in Manchester.
 - Elise will send Katie more information regarding the hearings to forward out to the CoC.
- The mayor will present his budget in March.
 - It will then be turned over to the board who will have until mid-May to accept the budget.
 - If anyone hears of any cuts in ESG funds, please let Elise know.
- The unsheltered Point-in-Time Count is next Wednesday, Jan. 23rd from 2:00-7:00am.
 - If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Katie at vista@mcofnh.org.
- The NH Coalition to End Homelessness has an Advanced Skills in Culturally Competent Services training on Friday, Feb. 8th from 9:00am-12:00pm at Families in Transition, 161 S. Beech St., Manchester.
 - Visit the coalition's website at <http://www.nhceh.org> or email Kyle, kbeaulieu@fitnh.org, with any questions about the training.
- The NH Coalition to End Homelessness' Hope Starts Here scholarship application is coming out sometime soon.
 - Those currently homeless or previously homeless are qualified to apply.
 - Visit <http://www.nhceh.org> for more information.

Minutes Prepared By

Katie Simpson, VISTA
MCoC Coordinator