

Public Policy Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, January 15th, 2013 9:00AM-10:00AM

Location

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

Attendees

Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Heidi Toler	Dave Carroll	Brian Boyer
Katie Simpson	Jay Mattia	Kyle Beaulieu	

December Minutes Accepted

Committee Focus and Membership

- Is there another committee Public Policy could combine with?
 - Community Awareness?
 - Too different – their focus is on social media and marketing.
 - They try to get information about the CoC and homelessness out to the public.
 - Homeless Liaison?
 - This may work – many of the same members on both committees.
 - Is Homeless Liaison’s agenda too full to focus on Public Policy?
- At the next Leadership meeting we should discuss the committee, its focus and direction.
 - Katie will talk to Susan about adding it to the Leadership Committee agenda for February.

Hospital and Prison Discharge

- As a committee we should focus on exposing negative aspects of the discharge policies in the area.
 - The NH Hospital is awful at discharging people.
 - Individuals often show up at New Horizons.
 - How discharge is handled varies from the social worker and individual.
 - There is a big push from hospitals to get rid of individuals not in need of their services.
 - Communication is a huge problem.
 - They often don’t call service providers until after the individual has been discharged.
- We could invite a social worker from a state hospital to join one of our meetings.
 - Catholic Medical Center or Elliot?
 - We could also bring the meeting to them.
 - We should provide a flyer/pamphlet with specific area resources for their clients.
 - Streamline to the most relevant agencies, such as The Way Home, Families in Transition, BBH Bridge Subsidy Program, etc.
 - We could send out quarterly emails letting them know of any updates and changes with service providers.
- Manchester Mental Health has a liaison to the NH Hospital, Jen Devo.
 - Dave will invite her to attend our next Public Policy meeting.
 - She can help us strategize ways in which we can reach the hospitals and social workers.
- Still unable to reach someone at the Dept. of Corrections.
 - We could create a brochure specific to their needs as well.

Bridge Subsidy Program

- There is nothing written on the program; therefore, there are no technical regulations for it.
- It was started 5 years ago when BBH received HPRP funding.
 - The first 3 years were HUD driven – all funding came from there.
 - It was started as a way to help with the 10-year plan on homelessness.
- They believe in the next year the program will have 100 more spots for clients.
 - Individuals in Manchester needing help could possibly participate in the program.
 - They currently have 12 slots available.
- They often receive clients from the state hospital.
 - There are problems with discharge.
 - Not enough staff and the social workers have heavy caseloads.
- Participants don't necessarily need to be homeless; they can already have a place and be struggling to pay their rent.
 - They are only responsible for paying 30% of their rent with the Bridge Program.
- Community Mental Health handles the case management of the participants.
 - While Harbor Homes handles their housing.

Minutes Prepared By

Katie Simpson
Manchester Continuum of Care, VISTA