

Public Policy Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, February 19th, 2013 9:00AM-10:00AM

Location

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

Attendees

Dianne Pitts

Jay Mattia

Jocelyne Pinsonneault

Dave Carroll

Katie Simpson

January Minutes Accepted

Update on February Leadership Meeting

- At this month's Leadership Committee meeting they discussed Public Policy and its trouble building membership.
 - Susan is reaching out to Keith Keunning from Child and Family Services about attending a meeting.
 - Public Policy is going to present at the April General Assembly meeting.
 - The presentation will include long and short-term goals, challenges, and successes of the committee.
 - The March Public Policy meeting will focus on the presentation.
 - Hopefully other CoC members will have helpful suggestions or want to become involved.

Hospital Discharge Brochure

- Katie made a brochure to hand out to hospital social workers.
- Edits that need to be made:
 - The Bridge Program is specific to patients with mental health issues.
 - Katie will contact Brian to make sure the information is correct.
 - Should we include point-of-contact in the brochure?
 - This could change often due to high turnover.
 - We don't know where the brochures would end up – who would end up with that information.
 - Child and Family Services should also be included on the brochure.
- We should have another brochure specific to prison/jail discharge.
 - This should include Calumet House and Hampshire House.
 - Helping Hands and Tirrell House would also be helpful.

Committee Membership

- Katie will contact Kevin Kitner and Rob Smith to ask them to join the March meeting.
- Dave is still trying to connect with Jen Devo about attending a meeting.
 - If she is able to attend the March meeting we'll push the presentation back.
 - She can provide us with her understanding of the discharge policies for the state hospital.
 - Maybe she could connect us with the social workers there (or at CMC and Elliot).

Committee Goals

- Short-term committee goals could include:
 - The committee will connect with the jail.
 - We will work with “x” number of people.
 - We will work on this more during the March meeting.

Homeless Youth in Manchester

- Why is the number of homeless youth in the city rising?
 - For older youth – often the parents leave town, and the youth will stay to finish school and be with friends.
 - Children are aging out of the foster care system.
 - They may be less likely to accept help.
 - The peer group is very important to youth.
 - They are much more secretive and often less likely to talk with a counselor.
- Are there more homeless youth or are we just more aware of them?
 - Homeless youth have been talked about more in the media and community recently.
 - They are making themselves more visible by traveling in groups.
 - There are not very many jobs for that age group.
 - Low-skill jobs, part-time positions, no benefits, etc.
- There are two types of homeless youth.
 - There are kids that are not doing well.
 - They are disconnected and on their own.
 - These kids are more visible.
 - There are also kids that are successful despite homelessness.
 - These kids are self-sufficient.
 - They are getting good grades and taking care of themselves.
 - The difference between the two groups has to do with mental health.
- Child and Family Services Drop-In Center allows them to stay with their peers.
- Job Corps is supposed to be opening in Manchester in the next year.
 - Providers need to start thinking about which clients they want in this program.
 - Culinary arts and homeland security are two of the programs they will offer.

Minutes Prepared By

Katie Simpson

Manchester Continuum of Care, VISTA