

Homeless Liaison Committee: Homeless Representatives Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday, April 9th, 2013 3:00-4:00PM

Location

Manchester Homeless Services Center, 140 Central Street, Manchester

Attendance

Chronically homeless adults

How long have you been homeless?

- 30 years
- 4 years
- 20 years

What are the barriers to getting out of homelessness?

- Has a prison record, so no one will rent to him.
 - Even though he has an income.
- Too much help from services (ie: laziness).
 - They feel enabled.

Why did you first become homeless?

- Mental illness
- Rebellion
 - Came from a middle class family, but “wanted to see what the other side was like.”
- Financial issues
 - One problem just piled on top of another.
 - Lost job, couldn’t afford housing, etc.

Have you ever been housed during the times you were homeless?

- Aside from shelters, no.
- Have stayed with family members on and off.
- Lived in their car previously.

What services do you access?

- Mental health services, food pantry, churches, and Breakfast in the Park (people are very kind)
- Unable to get food stamps
- It’s hard to get an out-of-state IDs
 - Too many hoops to jump through.
- They believe there are plenty of services in the Manchester community.
 - Some places give people a hard time, but it depends on how they present themselves to the providers.

Is it harder to get out of homelessness over time?

- An overwhelming yes from the group.

General Discussion

- Learned many survival skills over the years being homeless.
- In the homeless community it's "easier to get a beer than a sandwich" from someone.
- People have a hard time managing and budgeting their money.
 - Many homeless do have an income (such as social security).
 - They blow their money instead of saving it.
 - A budgeting class would be helpful.
- Some people choose to be homeless.
 - "There is a freedom in it."
- One individual offered to take a group from the MCoC out to see the camps.
 - Possibly having interns from local universities stay in the camps for a few nights to see what their lives are like.
 - "You can't understand it unless you've lived it."
- The police have begun cutting down tents along the river.
 - In years past the police have been supportive.
 - They would stop at the camps and make sure everyone was alright.

Minutes Prepared By:

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