

# Continuum General Assembly Minutes

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## Date and Time

Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 12:00PM-1:00PM

## Location

Federal Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, HUD Conference Room, 275 Chestnut Street, Manchester, NH

## Attendees

Cathy Kuhn	Chris Emerson	Candace Cappio Gebhart	Casey Krafton
Dominique Rust	Elise Annunziata	Eric Gorecki	Jay Mattia
Jennifer Comeau	Katie Simpson	Keith Howard	Kevin Kintner
Kyle Beaulieu	Laurel Redden	Mark Stokes	Mary Sliney
Roger Beauchamp	Susan Howland	Teresa Lombardi	Natalie Martin
Susan Maslack	Rob Smith	Charles Perkins	Mike Austin
Kurt Bellows	Becky Vinsin		

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## March Minutes Approved

### Community Awareness Chair Election

- Monica Zulauf ran for the Community Awareness Chair position.
- She ran unopposed.
- There were no objections.
- Monica is our new Chair.

### Health Care Access Survey

- Jennifer Comeau and Jay Mattia developed a survey and administered it at the Child and Family Services Drop-In Center.
- They worked with UNH students to make sure the data was accurate.
- Contact Jennifer or Erin Kelly at CFS if there is any information in the survey you would like to use.
- The median medical debt for the youth surveyed was \$900.
- The numbers on mental health were comparable to national statistics.
- This information will be made available on the MCoC website along with Jennifer and Jay's contact information.
- They wanted to use the numbers to move forward with services at CFS.
  - They are also able to use them as talking points with Juvenile Justice, Mental Health Center, etc.
    - Hopefully this will increase relationships and collaboration.

### Point-in-Time Count

- Thank you to the volunteers who helped out during the unsheltered count.
  - We have 15 volunteers who donated 78 hours of their times.
    - Their time is worth \$1,692.60.
- Manchester's unsheltered numbers went up in 2013 from 60 to 78.
- Sheltered numbers went down slightly in Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing and remained the same in Safe Havens.
- Total homeless (by HUD's definition) went down in 2013 from 399 to 382.
- Doubled-up persons went up significantly from 139 to 287.

- This was most likely due to an increase in completed surveys this year.
- Total overall homeless went up this year from 538 to 669.
- These numbers are available on the MCoC website.

### General Discussion

- Susan Maslack from Southern New Hampshire University spoke with the CoC about their integrated mental health and substance abuse programs.
  - Both clinical and behavioral health services.
  - She wanted to reach out to agencies in case they have any employees hoping to get a Master's.
    - Also hopefully they will collaborate on internships.
  - They help students prepare to get licensed as a substance abuse counselor (Master's level license).
  - Their classes are designed so that students can work full time and attend school.
- As of February 1<sup>st</sup> the Manchester Homeless Services Center is no longer accepting people who are precariously housed.
  - This has resulted in better behavior among the clients.
  - More people are accessing services than before.
  - The current daily average is exactly where it was a year ago – 140 individuals.
    - They don't believe this is because there are more homeless, just that more people are using the Center.
  - They are looking to collaborate more with providers.
    - The Center will follow any case plan put down by providers if the providers contact them.
      - This includes reminding individuals of their meetings.
  - The Center is also beginning to enter data into HMIS.
    - The VISTA, Kelsey, has been working on this.
- Housing Action NH is asking for impact stories from agencies that they can share with our congressional delegation.
  - For example people's inability to be adequately housed, the impact of decreased funding on clients, etc.
  - They want these stories, so they are able to stay better informed and fight against decreases in the budget.
  - If you have any stories contact Housing Action NH or contact Katie.
- The chronically homeless definition is changing.
  - Previously it was homeless for 1 year or 4 times in 3 years.
    - Now the 4 times in 3 years must add up to 1 year total.
  - The CoC should provide a comment as a whole.
- More Than Wheels is doing a veterans campaign for the month of May.
  - They are waving the enrollment fee for veterans.
  - They serve the entire state of NH, Vermont, southern Maine, and most of MA.

### Committee Updates

- Leadership
  - They are hoping to provide more assistance to individual committees.
    - Leadership strongly encourages those receiving federal funding to have someone working on a committee.

- They would also like to broaden the CoC's membership to include law enforcement, jails, hospitals, businesses, etc.
- Data Collection
  - Today's meeting focused on coordinated assessment.
    - Leadership will establish a Task Force and recruit people.
      - This is going to affect everyone in the CoC, so they encourage people to get involved.
      - If you are interested, let someone on Leadership know.
- Homeless Liaison
  - They are continuing to do focus groups with different subpopulations.
    - Most recently they met with a small chronically homeless group.
      - These minutes can be found on the MCoC website.
    - Natalie from The Way Home joined the committee recently.
      - She is going to help us put together a focus group with families.
    - If anyone has any ideas for focus groups, please let Dave know.
- Public Policy
  - The committee is still trying to get into the prisons.
  - Susan met with Keith (at CFS) for advice on the committee.
    - He suggested reaching out to our local representatives, so they know who we are and that we are a resource for them.
      - Jocelyne and Susan will co-sign a letter to them.
        - Hopefully this will get more people to attend meetings (both Public Policy and MCoC).
- All committees will present during the May meeting about their goals, challenges, successes, etc.
  - We need more participation in committees.

## **Minutes Prepared By**

Katie Simpson, VISTA  
MCoC Coordinator