

Homeless Liaison Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, April 16th, 2012 11:00AM-12:00PM

Location

Homeless Services Center, 140 Central Street, Manchester, NH

Attendees

Jay Mattia	Katie Simpson	Jennifer Comeau	Kevin Kintner	Jake Hull
Dave Carroll	Bill Sullivan	Natalie Martin	Chris Emerson	

March Minutes Approved.

April Homeless Representatives Minutes – Change question to “Have you ever been housed since becoming homeless?”

Outreach Updates

- New camps are popping up as the weather gets warmer.
 - They believe there are people and camps out that they are unaware of.
 - Please contact Jake or Dave if you know of any new places.
- The general goal is to get people to come into town to access services.
- Do You Know Him Ministries is going to start being social security rep payees and help people manage money.
 - Let Bill know if you have someone interested.
 - They cannot take on too many people, however, because they only have a few volunteers.
- Do You Know Him Ministries was offered Armor Park for their Breakfast in the Park, but they believe it is too far from the downtown area.
 - They are still looking for the perfect outdoor location.
- There was another article about panhandling in the Union Leader.
 - Nashua is passing an ordinance against panhandling.
 - Panhandlers are becoming more aggressive.
 - Manchester is mentioned briefly.
 - The Chamber is going to be distributing the yellow information cards again.
- New Horizons is seeing fewer people from last winter.
 - There have been more violent incidences, however.
 - There is a mood that is putting people on the streets on edge.
- Anyone interested in doing outreach, contact Dave, Jake, or Rob.
 - Rob may not be able to do as much outreach as he gets further into his position.
- Outreach workers are trying to promote healthy living out in the camps.
 - They hand out trash bags to people to clean up their sites.
 - They may start offering to help people clean up their sites.
 - They could form a team to go out to the camps, led by a formerly homeless individual.

Youth Outreach

- There are more weapons coming in to the Drop-In Center.
 - The youth aren't purposely bringing them in; they are just unaware of the rules.
- The numbers appear to be down in the school district.

- This may not be the case though.
 - The youth may not be accessing the resources.

Manchester Homeless Services Center Update

- The numbers are increasing again as the weather gets warmer.
 - People are returning to the area for summer.
- The Center is now heavily into HMIS.
- Chris will be leaving the Center at the end of June.
 - They are currently recruiting for his replacement.
- The new polices are working out nicely.

Homeless Representatives Meeting

- Our next focus group will be with homeless families.
 - The Way Home has a monthly mandatory meeting for its families.
 - We will do the focus group then.
 - The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 15th from 4:00-5:00pm.
 - Dave, Jake, and Katie will attend.
- Last month's meeting was with the chronically homeless subpopulation.
 - Budgeting seemed to be an issue for all those in attendance.
 - The Way Home does have a budgeting class three times a week.
 - Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

General Discussion

- Jake attended the National Health Care for the Homeless conference in DC recently.
 - The website is a great resource for service providers.
 - They have information on homeless youth, self-care, substance abuse, outreach, etc.
 - The power points from the conference may also be online.
- We have to discuss committee goals at the May General Assembly meeting.
 - The committee will continue with the focus groups.
 - If any Continuum members or organizations have suggestions, they can let the committee know.
 - The committee is open to repeating groups.
- There is a community organizer here from Romania for a few weeks working with the Granite State Organizing Project.
 - She works with the Roma populations (essentially “gypsies”).
 - She sets up safe havens and shelters for them.
 - There will be a reception for her at Manchester Christian Church tonight at 5:30pm.
 - Anyone who wants to meet her is welcome to attend.

Minutes Prepared By

Katie Simpson

Manchester Continuum of Care Coordinator, VISTA