

Public Policy Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, April 16th, 2013 9:00AM-10:00AM

Location

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

Attendees

Dianne Pitts	Jay Mattia	Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Susan Howland
Dave Carroll	Katie Simpson	Kyle Beaulieu	

February Minutes Accepted

Committee Goals

- Challenges the committee is facing:
 - Lack of membership and attendance is a problem.
 - The committee is also lacking a clear direction.
- Goals:
 - The committee needs to reach out to local legislatures.
 - This would make them aware of our existence, and also give them the name and face of someone to reach out to when they need information.
 - Susan and Jocelyne will work together on drafting a letter to send out to legislatures.
 - In the future we could have a legislative breakfast to help us make connections.
 - How would we fund this?
 - Susan is trying to get meters for the downtown area that encourage people to give to organizations and not panhandlers.
 - This could possibly fund events such as this.
 - The money will go to the MCoC, not an individual agency.

Discharge Updates

- Dianne met with an ex-inmate living at a halfway house who fought the prison on discharging him into homelessness and won.
 - They cannot kick him out until he has a stable place to live.
 - Dianne will look into this case and find more information for the committee.
- Susan will ask Dominique Rust, Catholic Charities, to connect us to the chaplain at the jail.
 - Prisoners should be signed up for Section 8 and disability.
 - Those with drug charges may still apply.
 - Lea may have the contact information for Cheryl Wilkie and Ellie Theran.
 - They may be able to get us in to the prisons.
- The VA is no longer transporting individuals being discharged to other VAs as they have in the past.
 - They are in charge of their own transportation.
 - The VA also used to pay for ambulance transportation which they are no longer doing.
 - We will share this information at the Health Care for the Homeless focus group at Angie's.

General Discussion

- We will invite Brian Boyer to an upcoming General Assembly meeting to speak about the Bridge Program.
 - A representative from The Way Home and Greater Manchester Mental Health should be there to show the collaboration between agencies and programs.
- Susan has spoken to Keith from Child and Family Services (previously the Executive Director for the NH Coalition to End Homelessness) about attending a Public Policy Committee meeting.
 - We will reach out to him about attending the June meeting.

Minutes Prepared By

Katie Simpson
Manchester Continuum of Care, VISTA