

# Continuum General Assembly Minutes

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## Date and Time

Thursday, May 16<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

Bill Sullivan	Robert Tamposi	Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Katie Simpson
Cathy Kuhn	Elise Annunziata	Pat Barss	Monica Zulauf
Chris Emerson	Eric Gorecki	Laurel Redden	Roger Beauchamp
Candace Cappio Gebhart	Jay Mattia	Mark Stokes	Stacey Lazzar
Susan Howland	Teresa Lombardi	Natalie Martin	Gerardo Zayas
Kimberly Robinson	Erin Kelly	Rick Castillo	

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## April Minutes Approved

### Updates

- Roslyn Block, HUD, will be retiring as of June 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Lynn Morrow will hopefully be our new representative.
    - Alternatively, we will be assigned someone in Boston.
    - If we have any questions, feel free to contact Lynn.
- The MCoC General Assembly meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, is canceled.

## Housing Action New Hampshire

- Housing Action NH was launched in 2009.
  - People in the affordable housing community wanted a statewide advocacy program to speak for many as one voice.
- Homeless policy initiatives were later added to their agenda.
  - They took on the preservation of the emergency shelters funding budget.
  - They work to protect homeless prevention programs.
  - They also work as a coalition with other partners (housing developers, housing financiers, and providers).
- Policy update:
  - Protecting the emergency shelters funding has been a top priority.
    - Many services have been drastically cut and they are looking to make more cuts.
      - Housing Action NH is hoping they don't touch emergency shelters.
  - New legislation allows people to re-register their cars using a shelter address.
  - Housing Action NH is working with NH Legal Assistance on rooming house practices.
    - People don't have rights of tenancy until after 90 days.
      - They are often moved to a different house before the 90 days is up to prevent them from becoming a tenant.
      - Housing Action NH is working on an amendment to change regulations, so the 90 days will follow the person not the room.
        - The exception being if the person voluntarily asks to be moved to a different rooming house.

- New Hampshire state is lacking in 34,000 affordable housing units.
- Housing Action NH is working with partners to fix the bed bug problem in the state.
  - As of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 it will be the responsibility of landlords to fix any bed bug problems in an apartment/house not the tenant.
    - This bill had immense support from Housing Action NH, NH Legal Assistance, local landlords, and municipal officials.
      - It will allow a rapid response that clarifies responsibility for immediate action against bed bugs.
        - They must investigate within seven days of the notice and have a substantial reduction in bed bugs within 60 days.
        - Right now, two tenants must complain before landlords will take action against the bugs.
  - There are regional bed bug action committees throughout the state.
    - They are very active in Manchester.
    - There is a statewide conference planned for November 25<sup>th</sup> of this year.
    - NH Housing and Finance Authority is hosting a training educating people about legislation on June 5<sup>th</sup> in Bedford.
  - Check out <http://www.nhbedbugs.com> for more information.
- Housing Action NH is gathering sequestration impact stories, so they can give a face to these budget cuts.
  - Email stories to Laurel Redden at [laurel@housingactionnh.org](mailto:laurel@housingactionnh.org).
- The HEARTH Act is forcing many changes among CoCs.
  - Housing Action NH is trying to voice that these changes should come with some funding.

### Committee Goals

- Public Policy Committee
  - The committee lacks membership and regular attendance.
  - They are also in need of a clearer direction.
  - Jocelyne and Susan are working to reach out to local legislatures.
  - The committee would also like to reach out to the inmates at the Hillsborough County Department of Corrections.
    - Jocelyne will reach out to the jail's superintendent.
- Community Awareness Committee
  - The committee is making changes to the website and newsletter.
    - They will use social media to get people to the newsletter and use the newsletter to get people to the website.
  - The committee is also trying to decide who they are hoping to speak to and what message they are hoping to convey.
- Homeless Liaison Committee
  - The committee addresses the problems of the homeless and passes the information along to the CoC.
  - They are working to identify subgroups and gather focus groups monthly.
    - So far they have met with women, chronically homeless individuals, families, and youth.
  - The committee is also working to identify missing representatives in the CoC.
    - They are actively looking for veteran and refugee representatives to join the committee.
- Data Collection Committee
  - This committee remains stable year after year.

- They work to ensure the CoC and member agencies are collecting accurate data.
- The committee responds proactively to any concerns agencies have around data and provide technical assistance.
- They also work each year to improve the process for the Point-in-Time Count and the Housing Inventory Chart.
- Leadership Committee
  - The committee is working to provide the tools for the CoC to be a unified active voice.
    - For example, commenting to HUD.
  - They will review membership and participation, filling in the gaps in service providers.
    - For example, inviting a homeless or formally homeless individual, hospital worker, police officer, etc. to join.
  - They will also look for what is missing in the CoC.
    - What do we have? What's working? What isn't?
  - Additionally, the committee will provide guidance to the Peer Review Committee.
    - They will check with members on what their needs are, so the scoring process runs smoothly.

### General Discussion

- The group Friends of Izet (separate from The Way Home) is having a fundraising benefit for Izet.
  - Tickets are \$10 each.
  - They are also selling bracelets for \$5.
    - All donation checks should be made payable to Friends of Izet.
  - Izet is doing well and on the road to recovery.
- More Than Wheels is waiving its enrollment fee for all veterans for the month of May.
- The community summit on youth homelessness put on by the Mayors Advisory Council last November will be putting together a white paper on their findings.
  - They will be presenting these findings next Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30pm at the City Hall.

### Minutes Prepared By

Katie Simpson, VISTA  
MCoC Coordinator