

# Continuum General Assembly Minutes

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## Date and Time

Thursday, June 20<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	Dominique Rust	Katie Simpson	Mark Stokes
Candace Cappio Gebhart	Elise Annunziata	Keith Howard	Mary Sliney
Casey Krafton	Eric Gorecki	Kevin Kintner	Monica Zulauf
Dave Carroll	Erik Wirkkala	Kyle Beaulieu	Robert Tamposi
Dick Webster	Jake Hull	Laurel Redden	Susan Howland
Kristin Lucier	Danni Bultemeier	Jean Melvin	Heidi Toler
Germano Martins			

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## May Minutes Approved

### New MCoC VISTA

- Katie's last day will be Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Erik Wirkkala is the new MCoC Coordinator VISTA.
  - He will begin on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.
    - Welcome Erik!

### Sequestration

- Mary Sliney passed out an informative article called, "Damaging Effects of Sequestration Felt by the Most Valuable" by Kate Seif posted on the National Alliance to End Homelessness' website.
- There will be a reduction in housing vouchers soon.
  - Providers should expect delays.
- There will also be an impact on food stamps.
  - This will hurt homeless prevention.
- We need to collect stories on the impact of sequestration along with solid data.
  - Pass these stories along to Housing Action NH.
    - They will send the stories on to our congressional delegation.
- They may also be cutting ESG funds.
  - They claim that they will still be supporting these programs through the NOFA and CoCs.

### Veteran Services

- The Way Home
  - They have a project supported by VASH, Manchester Housing Authority, and Elm Grove Company which provides 9 units of permanent supportive housing to homeless veteran families.
    - Most units are 3-4 bedrooms.
  - Monica Bryant is temporarily assisting The Way Home while Izet is out.
  - The Way Home also has Laurel Keys which is 3 2-bedroom apartments for single homeless vets.
    - This project is NOFA-funded.
  - They are partnering up with the VA Medical Center for case management.

- There are stricter rules on who is eligible for the VA Medical Center’s services because of a tighter budget.
  - They may need to refer more people to The Way Home and other MCoC providers.
- Harbor Homes
  - SSVF is an intensive case management program to help prevent veterans from becoming homeless.
    - Families must be under the 50% median household income to be eligible.
    - The program helps them to come up with a housing plan they can sustain.
      - It helps them to apply for TANF, Social Security, and food stamps and access career and other services.
  - Harbor Homes has two Grant Per Diem buildings in Nashua and one in Manchester.
    - These programs try to end the homelessness within a 2 year period.
    - They work closely with VASH.
  - HH also has an emergency shelter in Nashua.
    - There are 5 beds and participants can stay up to 6 months.
      - They also assist the participants in saving money, applying for housing, etc.
    - To stay at the shelter participants must go through Lisa Jacobus at the VA.
- New Horizons
  - New Horizons has a staff member that works with SSVF named Mike Brian.
    - Mike houses 45 veterans each year through SSVF.
      - 50% of his caseload comes from Manchester.
  - The shelter serves about 100 veterans per year.
  - They receive approximately \$75,000.00 annually for veteran services.
    - These services include car repair assistance, rent, utilities, etc.
    - They have applied to increase this grant.
- Liberty House
  - Liberty House has 10 beds for 10 single homeless veterans.
  - They are currently transitioning from being a staff-run facility to a participant-run facility.
  - Liberty House will offer clothing and food to anyone who comes to their door.
    - They don’t limit these to veterans only.
  - They have a loose definition of what a veteran is compared to other service providers.
    - Anyone who has volunteered in the military came access their services.
  - There is a strict anti-substance use policy at Liberty House.
- VASH Program
  - VASH stands for Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing.
    - HUD provides the housing, and the VA provides case management.
      - Caseworkers go to the veterans’ homes for case management.
    - Manchester Housing administers the vouchers.
  - The voucher enables the veteran to go out and find a place to live.
    - They will pay 30% of their income in rent.
  - Participants are given 5 years of case management along with the voucher.
    - The case management starts off as weekly visits, tapering off as they get settled.
    - They will receive housing forever as long as they follow the program’s policies.
      - After 5 years they are put on the Section 8 waiting list.
  - VASH recently received 20 new vouchers.

- They unfortunately have a Page 3 of 3 very extensive waiting list.
  - Their priority is the chronically homeless.
- The best way to refer a client to VASH is by calling Tracey Noonan or Lisa Jacobus (the Homeless Coordinator for the VA) yourself instead of giving the information to the client..
  - They will screen the clients and set up appointments.

### **NHCEH's LEAP Program**

- This is a new leadership training program for homeless or formally homeless individuals administered by the NH Coalition to End Homelessness.
- They are hoping to help individuals build skills and confidence, so they are able to advocate for themselves.
  - Stories are more powerful when they come from the source.
- This is a 6-9 month program, beginning in the fall.
  - NHCEH is hoping to offer fellowship to participants.
- They will have marketing materials sent out soon.
- There will be transportation reimbursement provided to participants.
- Sessions will be moved around the state each month.
- NHCEH is looking for participant referrals.
  - Contact Cathy Kuhn of Kyle Beaulieu for more information or to refer someone.

### **General Discussion**

- The Way Home is a part of a group of providers doing foreclosure counseling.
  - Check out <http://www.homehelpnh.org> for more information.
- More Than Wheels is waiving the fees for veterans all year round.
  - It takes an average of 6 to 8 months for participants to complete the program and paperwork.
    - They do provide temporary transportation if needed.
- A policy passed which will allow homeless individuals to register their cars using the address of a supporting agency.
  - This will go into effect within 60 days of now.

### **Minutes Prepared By**

Katie Simpson, VISTA  
MCoC Coordinator