

# Homeless Liaison Committee Minutes

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## Date and Time

Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 11:00AM-12:00PM

## Location

Homeless Services Center, 140 Central Street, Manchester, NH

## Attendees

Abby Easterly	Chris Emerson	Jacob Hull
Bill Sullivan	David Carroll	Katie Simpson

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## May Minutes Approved

### Outreach Activities

- Outreach workers are finding more and more tent sites.
  - There are several along the train tracks in Manchester.
    - They have been working with train management.
      - As long as the sites are kept clean they can stay there.
  - Still unable to locate some people.
- Victory Park is getting busier.
  - There is some concern over what is happening there.
    - Several young kids hang out there.
      - They are not necessarily homeless.
  - Abby has adopted Victory Park.
    - She is pulling weeds, planting flowers, and picking up trash.
      - Many of the kids who hang out there have helped her.
- Do You Know Him Ministries is supporting the Chamber's lunch in the park this Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - They will be providing sack lunches to the homeless who would like to attend.
    - Lunch will be served from 11:00am-12:30pm.
    - The Homeless Services Center will still be serving lunch for those who wish to opt out.
- Do You Know Him Ministries is continuing to provide rep payee services to the homeless with some income.
  - They are providing the clients with a debit card and transferring small amounts to the account at a time.
    - This keeps the clients from overspending.
  - Each participant has a google spreadsheet showing how much money they have and what they're spending it on.
  - There are a few other rep payees in the area.
    - Capital Payee and Sterling & Gateways for example.
  - Discourage the homeless from being payees to each other.
- Do You Know Him Ministries is hosting a veteran services breakfast on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Anyone can come and get breakfast.
  - There will be representatives from different veteran services in Manchester at the breakfast.
  - The breakfast will be held from 7:00-8:00am.

### Youth Outreach

- A paper has been written using the data collected at the Youth Homelessness Summit.

- The Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee presented it last month.
  - Looking forward to an update from Jennifer and Jay at the next meeting.

### **Homeless Services Center**

- The daily average is 141 people.
  - This is the same as last year's average.
    - Because precariously housed people used to be included, they conclude a 15-18% increase in people.
- More people are returning to the Center.
  - People Chris hasn't seen in months.
    - Hard to say if there are more homeless or more people accessing services.
- The HIPPO is doing an article on homelessness.
  - They stopped by the Center and spoke with Chris.
    - They will probably be reaching out to other service providers in the area.
- Chris' last day is this Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - There won't be a new manager starting on Friday.
    - There will be an interim time.
- Willard is also leaving the Center.
  - The management team will have to find new leadership to run the Center.
- The Center is hitting its HMIS target.
  - They needed to reach 600 client profiles by June and have done so.
    - The VISTA, Kelsey, has been heading this.
- James, who works the front desk, has been handling more and more responsibilities.
  - He is good at recruiting others to help with tasks.
  - He will be a huge help to new management.
    - There will most likely be some hazing of the new staff.

### **Homeless Representatives Meeting**

- In May, the committee held a focus group with families at The Way Home.
  - The Way Home was praised by the participants.
    - They said they were always greeted warmly, they were listened to, and they were immediately helped.
  - There was one couple in the room, but the group was mostly single mothers.
  - Katie will check with Natalie before posting the minutes.
- What other groups should we do?
  - Newly homeless, ages 55+, veterans, etc.
  - We could ask the CoC who they'd like to hear from.
  - The committee's next focus group will be with veterans.
    - Possibly held at Liberty House.
      - Katie will reach out to Keith Howard about doing it in August.

### **New MCoC VISTA**

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

- He will no longer write the agendas or take the minutes.
  - The committee can decide on the next month's agenda at the end of each meeting.
    - If there is any items that need to be added last minute, email Erik.
  - Someone can be assigned to minutes or members can take turns taking the minutes.
    - Once they're completed, send them to Erik, and he will post them on the MCoC website.

### **General Discussion**

- The Homeless Liaison Committee's July meeting is canceled.
  - The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Minutes Prepared By**

Katie Simpson

Manchester Continuum of Care, Coordinator VISTA