

Public Policy Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, May 14th, 2013 9:00AM-10:00AM

Location

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

Attendees

Dianne Pitts	Doreen Brown	Jay Mattia	Katie Simpson
Dave Carroll	Heidi Toler	Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Lea Key

April Minutes Approved

- Add Heidi Toler to the attendees.

Prison Discharge Program

- Marc Cusson is the superintendent of the Hillsborough County Correctional Facility.
 - Jocelyne will reach out to him about attending a future meeting.
- We need to develop a partnership with the prison and a program to let inmates know the resources available to them once they are released.
- The program will help them develop a plan for their first 24 hours after their release.
 - The committee will create a resource guide for them.
 - Topics to include in the program:
 - Budgeting, housing, applying for food stamps and cash assistance, learning basic life skills (even as simple as going to the grocery store) and nutrition facts, etc.
- The committee will look over information from New Horizons old re-entry program.
 - Doreen has the paperwork and will bring it to the next meeting.

Discharge Updates

- Dave spoke with Jen Devo (from Greater Manchester Mental Health Center) about the hospital discharge protocol.
 - They are to notify the Mental Health Center within the week of discharge.
 - Dave is the contact.
 - People are being discharged to New Horizons if they agree to it.
 - If they are asked what their options are and they mention New Horizons, the hospital will take them there.
- Public Policy Committee needs to meet with hospital social workers and establish a connection with them.

General Discussion and Updates

- Dave and Doreen are trained in the SOAR initiative.
 - This initiative helps individuals apply for social security.
 - There is about a 3 month turnover with clients.
- City Welfare has been paying for families to stay in hotels.
 - If any providers are having problems with them, they need to call NH Legal Assistance.
 - Manchester City Welfare has a terrible reputation statewide.
 - Things seem to be improving, however.



- Katie, the MCoC Coordinator and VISTA, is leaving July 12th.
 - There will be a new VISTA taking her place July 15th.

Minutes Prepared By

Katie Simpson

Manchester Continuum of Care, VISTA