

# Homeless Liaison Committee: Homeless Representatives Meeting

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## **Date and Time**

Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 4:00-5:00PM

## **Location**

The Way Home, 214 Spruce Street, Manchester

## **Attendance**

Homeless Families – 8 Females, 2 Males

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## **How did you first become homeless?**

- “We could not afford the rent where we lived?”
- “I lost my job and could not find another one before we were evicted.”

## **What did you do to get help?**

- Called many places but the wait lists were very long.
- The Way Home was very helpful.
  - They treated us with respect.
- We tried to go to City Welfare, but they treated us poorly.
- 211 gave us a lot of good information.

## **What helped – what did not?**

- “When agencies treat you with respect, it goes a long way.”
- “People need to remember that we are people too and anyone can become homeless.”
- Some in the group had good experiences with the school district – others did not.
  - One person said the school district was very good at linking them to services for their children.
  - One person felt that the school treated their child differently because he was homeless.

## **What would you recommend to improve services?**

- “Staff at some agencies need to be trained to deal with families in a more compassionate manner. When your family is homeless you are desperate and a kind word goes a long way.”
- The wait lists are too long.
  - There should be more funding to support homeless families.
- Agencies could hire formally homeless individuals that understand the problems.

## **Minutes Prepared By:**

David Carroll, Homeless Liaison Chair

The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester