

Continuum General Assembly Minutes

Date and Time

Thursday, September 19th, 2013 12:00PM-1:00PM

Location

Federal Building, 3rd Floor, HUD Conference Room, 275 Chestnut Street, Manchester, NH

Attendees

Brian Boyer	Cathy Kuhn	Cate Sementa	David Carroll	Dick Webster
Dominique Rust	Ed Orlowski	Elise Annunziata	Erik Wirkkala	Greg Schneider
Lauren Paradis	Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Keith Howard	Kevin Kinter	Kyle Beaulieu
Lindsey Blanchette	Mark Stokes	Mark Crandall	Mary Sliney	Renee Perreault
Rich Doyle	Robin Comstock	Susan Howland	Abbie Weinstein	Craig Chevalier

August Minutes Approved

Two Open Positions in Leadership Committee

- The first position is an at-large position; the member does not need to be a committee chair.
 - They cannot, however, work for the same agency as any other Leadership Committee member.
- The second position is as chair of Public Policy Committee.
 - There was some talk of changing this committee to an ad-hoc committee.
 - This would require a change to the by-laws.
 - MCoC VISTA will send around a survey asking input from the rest of the MCoC as to the future of Public Policy.
- Robin Comstock of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce suggested that we could work with the Chamber's Government Affairs committee.
 - This idea will also be taken into further consideration

**Please send nominations for either position to Erik, MCoC VISTA by October 10th! vista@mcoch.org
A vote will take place during our Oct. 17th meeting.**

VISTA Program

- Renee Perreault, VISTA Coordinator of NH Catholic Charities spoke about the AmeriCorps VISTA Program.
- They are currently looking for 501(c)(3) organizations to host VISTA volunteers.
 - They still have 10 openings for host sites.
 - Deadline to apply is 10/11/13, the VISTA would start in February.
- The task of VISTAs is capacity building. Any project that would build an organization's capacity that regular staff may not have time to work on is an ideal opportunity for a VISTA.
- Many VISTAs, including several people in the room, went on to work full time at their former host site.

Contact rperreault@nh-cc.org for more info.

Bridge Program

- Brian Boyer of Harbor Homes spoke about the Bridge Program.
- This is a project originally funded by HUD, now funded by the state that helps people with mental health issues move from state hospitals into apartments.
- They are not HUD governed, giving them a great deal of flexibility.
 - They have begun to assist persons not coming from state hospitals.
 - Domestic violence victims may also receive assistance from this program.
 - Referrals do not need a formal diagnosis.
 - If you, a case manager, etc believe someone in one of your programs could benefit from the Bridge Program, you may refer them.
 - Participants must be at least 18 years of age.
- They currently have 150 active participants, 110 of whom are living in apartments now.
- They hope to expand to 200 participants by year's end.
 - They just recently had to start a waiting list, currently with 50 people on it.
 - They are currently in the process of hiring a case worker.
 - Brian said they have a very good record of keeping people in housing once placed.

603-882-3616 x 1176

Fax: 595-7414

b.boyer@harborhomes.org

Granite Leaders

- Cathy Kuhn and Kyle Beaulieu spoke about the NH Coalition to End Homelessness' Granite Leaders Program.
- This is a leadership training program for homeless and formerly homeless persons.
- It will teach skills that promote leadership, advocacy and civic engagement.
 - The goal is to train homeless persons to advocate on behalf of the homeless community.
- The program spans 6 months, meeting once each month from 9:00am-12:00pm.
- They currently have 10 applicants, 6 of whom have already been approved. There are 15 spots total.
- There is a \$200 stipend upon completion of the courses.
- They also hope some Granite Leaders graduates will work with the MCoC, possibly sit on our board and/or the boards of other member agencies.
- The first meeting will be at FIT's Family Willows, 161 South Beech St., Wed. Nov. 13th.
- They are also looking for businesses to help support this program.

Applicants and sponsors should call 603-641-9441 or go to www.nhceh.org/GraniteLeaders

Project Homeless Connect

- We will not be doing Project Homeless Connect this year.
- Instead, we will begin quarterly 'focus days' at the Homeless Services Center.
 - These will be themed days with services and information tailored to a subpopulation or issue, ie veterans, substance use, chronically homeless, etc.
 - Substance use should be first, as it is such an issue in Manchester.
 - Focus days will likely begin this winter.

Committee Updates

Data Collection

- We are anticipating the release of the NOFA soon.
- The MCoC should expect budget cuts as high as 10%.
 - We are bracing for these, weighing options of how to deal with a cut.
 - First, though, we need to know how much will be cut. More info coming soon.

Homeless Liaison

- Homeless Liaison has interviewed many subpopulations for our Homeless Representatives sub-committee ie veterans, youth, chronically homeless, etc.
- We will soon create a survey modeled after Concord's, asking homeless persons about any skills that they could share with the community.

1269 Cafe

- The 1269 Café will be holding an outreach event with vision and hearing tests, eyeglasses etc. Saturday, September 28th at 8:30am at 123 Hanover St.

The next MCoC General Assembly will be Thursday, October 17th at 12:00

Minutes Prepared By

Erik Wirkkala, VISTA
MCoC Coordinator