

Homeless Liaison Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, September 17th, 2012 11:00AM-12:00PM

Location

Homeless Services Center, 140 Central Street, Manchester, NH

Attendees

Bill Sullivan	David Carroll	Erik Wirkkala	Jacob Hull
Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Kevin Kinter	Natalie Martin	Mark Crandall
Jake King			

August Minutes Approved

Announcements

- The Way Home, partnering with Liberty House, will be hosting Veterans Ride Home, Biker Bash and Poker Run Sat. 9/21.
 - Bikers meet at Motorcycles of Manchester 98 Willow St. 9:00am.
 - Watch bikers ride down Elm St. late morning
 - Biker Bash at DRYNK 20 Old Granite St. beginning at 12:00pm
- NH Coalition to End Homelessness: Granite Leaders program
 - They are still accepting applicants for this 6 month leadership training program.
 - If possible, they would like to have one or two younger participants.
 - More info will be sent out with these minutes as well as at MCoC General Assembly.

Panhandling Downtown

- Chamber of Commerce has held two meetings – one with the business community and one with the non-profit community to discuss this and other related issues downtown.
 - A joint meeting is in the future, date TBD.
 - Question arose as to the legality of panhandling
- Police have been citing panhandlers for j-walking, loitering, etc. and moving people away from businesses.
- It is not the mission of outreach workers to simply make people move on, but it may be a final option before involving police.
- Outreach will get the message out that it isn't a good idea to panhandle on Elm St. right now because of all the public and police attention.
- Outreach is also concerned about cities following Colombia, SC's model of moving all services outside city limits and bussing homeless out of city.
 - This is unlikely in Manchester, but still troubling.

Do You Know Him? Ministries

- Breakfast continues to be served at Salvation Army with very high turnouts.
- They are also working with the Manchester Christian Church and Rise Again Outreach collecting winter clothing and other donations for a day of outreach.
 - On Saturday November 23rd at the Salvation Army they will distribute the winter clothes and serve two for a full Thanksgiving dinners.

- While families will not be turned away, this is not necessarily intended for families, as they cannot screen other participants.
- Do You Know Him? Ministries have also begun serving as Social Security rep payees assisting neighbors in budgeting their money appropriately so they can become or remain housed.

Too Few Services Offered on Weekends

- Several agencies are having trouble referring families seeking help on weekends, as most providers do not operate outside the business week.
- City welfare can put people up in hotels on Monday, but cannot help if they came to Manchester after being evicted in another town.
 - The town in which a person was evicted or otherwise made homeless is responsible for finding the housing, ie hotels, emergency shelters, etc.
- There is a cold shelter in Concord but will not open until December.
 - A family shelter in Concord had to close due to people coming from outside Concord seeking help.
- Despite the belief that Manchester attracts homeless people from other parts of the state or other states, New Horizons, Homeless Services Center and Do You Know Him? Ministries all see similar numbers year after year. People are not coming to Manchester because of our services.
- We are unsure how to address the gaps in services over the weekends, but agree to gather more information and continue to study the problem.

Homeless Services Center

- There have been a few complaints about housed people coming to the Center and receiving services, but no one will identify who these people are.
- The Center will be closed Thurs. 10/3 for a service day involving cleaning, repairs, landscaping etc. Jake is currently looking for volunteers.

Survey

- Concord has a survey asking homeless persons about services they need that are currently unavailable.
- This also asks about skills they may offer to others in the community.
- For our next meeting, we will look into this survey and possibly model/administer a similar one.

The next Homeless Liaison meeting will be Tuesday, 10:15, 11:00am at the Homeless Services Center.

Minutes Prepared By

Erik Wirkkala

Manchester Continuum of Care, Coordinator VISTA