

# Homeless Liaison Committee Minutes

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## Date and Time

Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 11:00AM-12:00PM

## Location

Homeless Services Center, 140 Central Street, Manchester, NH

## Attendees

Bill Sullivan	David Carroll	Erik Wirkkala	Susan Howland
Natalie Martin	Kevin Kintner	Jocelyn Pinsonneault	

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## Outreach News

- Outreach has increased in recent weeks
- Outreach teams have begun assessing camps
  - Camps generally decrease this time of year as temperatures drop
  - A construction project has cleared an area near a camp on the western bank of the river near 2<sup>nd</sup> St., leaving it more exposed and moving some campers on
- Unsheltered persons are continually in need of socks, hats, gloves, etc. and batteries
  - St. Anslem College is doing a sock drive; the socks collected will be distributed at the Homeless Services Center in early December
- Outreach teams and the Homeless Liaison Committee are still looking for some representatives from the refugee/immigrant community
  - Granite United Way's 'Bring It' program may be able to connect us with some new members
  - Sue Corby from SNHS' English class for new Americans would also make a good new addition

## Statement of Purpose

- Dave wanted to restate the purpose of this committee – Homeless Liaison Committee directly assesses the needs of the homeless community and brings that information back to the MCoC so we may better serve the population.

## New Horizons Update

- The former manager of Angie's shelter is no longer working for New Horizons
- Angie's does, however, now have 24 hour staffing due to the cold weather and residents can stay indoors throughout the day
- New Horizons has been at capacity all month, as is expected at this time of year
- They have also had many returning participants
  - Persons include those 'chronically homeless', by HUD standards, and many others not technically meeting the HUD definition of CH but who still frequent their shelter year after year
- When Concord's cold weather shelter opens Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, New Horizons expects their numbers to drop slightly
- Advocates, outreach workers etc. are expected to call or otherwise notify New Horizons before bringing a client to their door

### Homeless Services Center Update

- HMIS data shows 80 chronically homeless people using the Center this month
  - This statistic corroborates New Horizons' high CH numbers
- As many as 20% of the Center's guests have been youth – 18-24.
  - A study (attached) showed that homelessness among youth rises during recessions, both the recent one as well as in the 1980s
  - Rates of homeless youth continue through future age demographics as time goes on, suggesting youth who become homeless during a recession continue to struggle with homelessness throughout their lives
- The Way Home is also experiencing many young people requesting their services
- A CFS Drop-in Center staff person/outreach worker has shifted his focus solely to outreach and will be joining this committee's discussion on youth homelessness in the future.

### Do You Know Him? Ministries and Salvation Army

- Numbers for the breakfast at the Salvation Army have been very high – as many as 270 showing up some mornings
  - These events are also seeing a large number of young people in attendance
- The Do You Know Him? Ministries' Thanksgiving dinner and winter clothing distributing at the Salvation Army is taking place this Saturday with over 600 clothing items already collected and available for distribution

### Homeless Families and Weekend Services

- Heather from 2-1-1 has circulated a document clarifying 2-1-1's policies, specifically, those concerning the sheltering of families on weekends
- 2-1-1 is the homeless hotline and should be accessed for any homelessness related issues on weekends
  - They have a limited budget but may provide motel vouchers, usually for families, who meet eligibility criteria and cannot be diverted
  - Voucher recipients must then go to Manchester City Welfare at the beginning of the business week for further assistance
  - 2-1-1 may refuse assistance to recipients who damaged/stole property during past motel stays
  - People will also not receive other assistance if they refuse available shelter (e.g. If a couple refuses to stay in open shelter beds/units because they cannot stay together)
- Resources are limited and this criteria ensures assistance remains available for families who genuinely need it
- The Way Home is very busy; they are currently booking into February
  - Budgeting classes are required for further housing/assistance
    - Do You Know Him? Ministries' SSI Payee program also requires participants complete TWH's budgeting class.
- FIT's Manchester Emergency Housing has a growing waiting list and cannot provide immediate shelter
  - *I will get specific info/waiting times for MEH from FIT*
- City Welfare is putting people in motels including Motel 8, Hooksett's Fairfield and Welcome Home.

### **Homeless Needs Assessment Survey**

- Past assessments conducted by NH BHHS collected a large amount of data and we hope to capture a similarly-high number of data points as well
- We also aim to distribute as many surveys as possible, as more responses increase the validity of the data.
  - Dave believes the Homeless Services Center will make this easier and more efficient
- We will ask Izet for survey tools used in the past
- We hope to administer this survey in June, 2014

### **Panhandling**

- Panhandling remains an issue in the city
- The Manchester Chamber of Commerce recently held another meeting to address the issue
  - Members of both the non-profit and business communities attended but little was decided at this meeting
  - People huddling together on benches is another major concern to our city
  - Dave and Susan will lead a taskforce to fight the recent huddling epidemic
- New Horizons' meters are collecting some money but could be advertised more
- In response to loitering and/or panhandling outside businesses, many business owners may be hesitant to address the individuals directly, asking them to move on
- However, businesses should also avoid opening their restrooms to non-customers

**We will likely not meet in December; the committee will be notified next month as to our plans.**

### **Minutes Prepared By**

Erik Wirkkala

Manchester Continuum of Care, Coordinator VISTA