

Continuum General Assembly Minutes

Date and Time

Thursday, February 20th, 2014 12:00PM-1:00PM

Location

434 Lake Avenue, Manchester, NH 4th floor

Attendees

Rebecca Richards	Monica Zulauf	Lauren Paradis	Rich Doyle	Erin Kelly
Marianne Savarese	Angela Roberts	Craig Chevalier	Dave Carroll	Kevin Kintner
Laurel Redden	Erik Musselman	Mike Austin	Emily MacDonald	Jocelyne Pinsonneault
Keith Howard	Cathy Kuhn	Susan Howland	Kyle Beaulieu	Beth Grady
Kaitlyn Norden	Peter Lotman			

Introductions

January Minutes Approved

NOFA Submitted

- Susan wanted to thank all MCoC agencies for their help with the writing of the NOFA, and some non-CoC Program funded agencies, such as New Horizons, for their help as well
- She also thanked Mark Stokes for all his hard work and the huge role he played in writing this grant

New Horizons Update

- Kevin Kintner, Program Director of New Horizons for NH, provided some general information about New Horizons and addressed some recent misinformation about their policies
- New Horizons provides a lot of services, including their food pantry, which serves 900 families each month, their daily meals, which serve approx. 270 people every evening, and their Health Care for the Homeless clinic downstairs.
- Kevin's primary role is of director of their Emergency Shelter
 - Recently, people have been saying they were kicked out or evicted from New Horizons
 - As many as 900 people stay in New Horizons each year, and upon entering, every guest is informed about the shelter's expectations and policies
 - New Horizons shelter guests include people with untreated mental health and substance abuse issues which can be challenging
 - Anyone who has been removed from the facility has been as a direct result of their actions
 - They sometimes are in denial about their issues, and look to blame others, particularly New Horizons, for the reason they had to leave
 - Also, sometimes people will be asked to move on because of inaction
 - New Horizons is and Emergency Shelter
 - Sometimes people stay there, off and on, for years
 - This is not the shelter's purpose, and if a guest is relying on the shelter long term, then their program is obviously not helping them and perhaps they would be better served elsewhere
 - Similarly, some people will be asked to move on because they have sufficient resources in place to attain independent housing
- Everyone is informed of the shelter's expectations upon entering and if anyone needs to be removed, they are given a letter 30 days in advance stating the reasons

- Marianne Savarese added that anyone can access the HCH clinic whether or not they are staying at the shelter, even if they have been removed (unless there is a restraining order in place)
- Keith Howard indicated that people have told him they cannot go back to New Horizons, but do not know why
 - Kevin said that people are always given a reason if they're asked to leave
 - If they forget or are unclear, they can always contact New Horizons case managers for reiteration of the reason and the date on which they may return
 - Marianne added that they can also come to the HCH clinic
 - When someone says they've been kicked out of the shelter, the best question to ask is "ok, so what are you going to do about it?" People can almost always regain access to the shelter if they take steps to address the reason they were removed
- New Horizons shelter does not allow registered sex offenders, but the HCH clinic does and has treatment to address related issues and even works with parole officers
- Sex offenders can also go to the 3:00 p.m. meals

Coordinated Assessment Tool

- Erik Wirkkala updated the Continuum on the status of Manchester's Coordinated Assessment System
 - Last month, we had voted unanimously to begin a trial period for a new intake/screening tool to be tested by all local agencies who conduct intakes, assessments, screening etc.
 - At the Data Collection Committee meeting earlier today (2/20) it was decided that maybe it would be a more smooth roll-out if we assembled the intake workers who would be using this tool before beginning and make sure everyone is aware of the change and on the same page
 - Several agencies will be starting a trial period on the 1st, however, including CFS, FIT, Helping Hands, The Way Home and possibly the Homeless Services Center
 - I'll be contacting everyone before March to schedule this meeting and hopefully we'll be able to expand the use of this tool to everyone in the city very soon

Unmet Needs

- Susan spoke about the reconvening of the Mayor's Steering Committee on Homeless
- They will be reexamining and possibly updating existing priorities and goals, currently including:
 - Rapidly re-house
 - Prevent people from becoming homeless
 - Provide adequate employment/educational services
 - No one sleeps or lives on the streets
 - Focus on the needs of veterans
 - Increase access to supportive services
 - Build public awareness
 - Establish a Steering Committee to serve as community champions for the 10-Year-Plan, hire a Coordinator to implement day to day activities of the plan
- [Manchester's Consolidated Plan](#)
- [Manchester's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness](#)
- Community Stakeholders are looking at this plan again and are holding a meeting March 10th
 - Susan will be sending out an interim report and possibly an update prior to the 3/10 meeting

CBT Training

- Kyle Beaulieu wanted to inform the Continuum that the NH Coalition to End Homelessness is holding a training on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy on Tuesday, March 18th from 12PM to 3PM
- The training is recommended for anyone working with clients with mental illnesses, and might be especially beneficial for case workers and managers who do not have a clinical background.
 - This is also a great CBT refresher for clinicians and therapists.
- You can register by visiting www.nhceh.org/CBT
- The training costs \$50, seats are limited.

Granite Leaders

- Kyle also said that the Coalition’s Granite Leaders Program is going very well and if any agency knows of an opportunity that would be informative and educational for participants in this program to call Kyle at (603) 641-9441 x 259

There were no Committee Updates

Other Announcements

- Laurel Redden of Housing Action NH informed the Continuum that a bill to end housing discrimination based on solely DV history or housing voucher status is having a harder time passing the NH House of Representative than anticipated, because of opposition from a small group of very vocal landlords
- Housing Action NH wants to step up their advocacy campaign and dispel some of the misinformation circulated by this group
- They will be circulating another e-mail alert, encourage everyone to call their representatives and voice support for this bill and they would really like to work with someone who has faced this kind of discrimination
 - Specific misinformation includes the false believe that some insurance companies won’t cover building housing a certain percentage of Section 8 voucher recipients or that women will try to get a restraining order against someone just to gain “protected status”
- Marianne Savarese informed the Continuum that CMC’s Health Care for the Homeless is helping people apply for coverage under the ACA, and the deadline to have insurance is 3/31
- They have certified Application Counselors available to assist anyone interested
 - Contact Jean Jacques 603-663-8155 for an appointment
- Also, Medicaid expansion is still being debated in the state legislature
- If passed, Medicaid coverage would be expanded to adults below the poverty line regardless of disability status
- Lauren Paradis from More Than Wheels informed the MCoC of their services, which provide auto loans for low income individuals regardless of credit history
- Granite United Way is offering free tax assistance!
 - People should dial 2-1-1 for more information on hours/locations/items to bring with them

The next MCoC General Assembly meeting will be Thursday, March 20th at 12:00 p.m. 434 Lake Ave. 4th floor

Minutes Prepared By
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MCoC Coordinator



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