



Homeless Liaison Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, January 14th, 2012 11:00AM-12:00PM

Location

Homeless Services Center, 140 Central Street, Manchester, NH

Attendees

Dave Carroll	Cheryl Hunt	Doug Howard	Jake King	Erik Wirkkala
Natalie Martin	Ron Sayres	Roger Beauchamp	Kevin Kintner	Jacob Hull
Kaitlyn Norden	Ralph DeVitto			

November’s Minutes Approved

Outreach Updates

- Bill Sullivan was unable to attend but reports that Salvation Army breakfasts are still going well and that they gave out a lot of clothes and other necessities over the Holidays
- Natalie Martin informed us that The Way Home has one bed open for a male veteran who receives at least 70% of his income from disability
 - Call her at 627-3491 ex. 205 if you have an eligible client
- She also introduced Ron Sayres, MLDAC of [Skyy Counseling Services LLC](#) who has been working with The Way Home to provide individual and group counseling for persons with co-occurring substance abuse and mental illness.
 - Ron also works occasionally with the V.A. for people high Suicidal Ideation
 - He is also planning to begin a life skills class in the near future
 - Some insurance pays for these services
 - Medicaid will likely soon begin for paying for MLADAC services
- Cheryl reported that many Angie’s residents have expressed interest in such services if they had the insurance to pay for it
- The Way Home has had a lot of people from out of state recently who are unable to get a “letter” from New Horizons and Natalie wanted to clarify New Horizons’ policy concerning out of state guests
- Kevin said that about 20%-25% of New Horizons’ guests are from out of state
 - This figure has been the same for several years
- They provide anyone from out of state a minimum of 3 nights but they must work with case managers to plan from there
- Cheryl said that anyone trying to help a client get into Angie’s must provide her ample notice, as it is very difficult to interview and place anyone there on short notice

Youth Outreach

- Doug from CFS reported that fewer kids are walking in to their 99 Hanover drop-in center
- They are increasing their time spent on street outreach efforts
- Due to the cold weather
 - More youth are sleeping in cars
 - Fewer people are tenting or staying in parking garages, other outside areas
 - It is likely more youth are couch surfing or overcrowding apartments
 - CFS strongly encourages anyone to seek emergency shelters such as New Horizons during these cold nights
- CFS offers boxing, in addition to many other programs for youth
- They are hoping to begin cooking, life skills, and cross-fit classes as well
 - UNH Cooperative Extension offers cooking classes
 - Natalie will follow up with more info/details about that

Homeless Services Center Update

- Jake is hoping to host more outside providers to come in and hold office hours, either providing a service or recruiting new clients
 - He was hoping CFS could come do outreach activities for youth at Center
 - Contact Jake if anyone is interested in doing this
 - Also, Cheryl was hoping FIT could resume intake times at Angie's
- Natalie wanted clarification about the eligibility to walk in to the Center
 - Guests must sign in and new guests must fill out an intake form to be entered into HMIS
 - Guests must meet HUD's definition of homelessness, and may only access the Center up to 60 days after being housed
 - HUD does not count "doubled-up" as homeless

The Center's computer policy is as follows

- Guests may only use Facebook for 20 minutes and only to stay in touch with family or friends
- If actively job hunting or working on resumes, and monitored, people can work as long as needed
- 8:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Mon. and Wed. are best times for people to come access computer room

Other Outreach Updates

- IV drug use seemed to increase in the Fall but is lower in recent months
- Spice remains a major problem among homeless populations
 - It is addictive and has dangerous side effects like seizures
- The Center and New Horizons (while having slightly different policies) generally treat spice like alcohol, as it is technically legal
- It is not allowed in either facility and being caught with it results in suspension

PIT Count Planning

- Outreach workers are doing an informal “pre-count” to gain an idea of the people who are and will remain in camps and elsewhere who we will not likely encounter them during the count itself
- If any other outreach workers, etc. know of individuals living outside through the winter, please gather some basic info about them in advance of the count.

There were some questions about what info to gather or who is considered homeless. Please see attached documents for

- [Copy of the paper survey](#) (gathers basic info)
- [Survey Procedure](#) (who to count and who not to count)

Other important documents are on [PIT Website](#)

Other Updates

- Cheryl is helping organize the [Half Moon Sober Festival](#) for Memorial Day Weekend
 - This is a 3-day substance-free music festival with camping, workshops, etc. for people in recovery or who would otherwise like to experience a positive event
 - Children are welcome and there are a lot of activities for them
- They are looking for sponsored tickets (\$50) for people who cannot afford one
- They are also looking for volunteers (who will get free tix and food!)
- Anything else agencies can do to help facilitate participants to go to this festival would be appreciated

The next Homeless Liaison Committee meeting will be Tuesday, February 18th 2014

Minutes Prepared By

Erik Wirkkala

Manchester Continuum of Care, Coordinator VISTA