

Continuum General Assembly Minutes

Date and Time

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

Location

434 Lake Avenue, Manchester, NH 4th floor

Attendees

Beth Alves	Cathy Kuhn	Cate Sementa	Charles Perkins	Craig Chevalier
David Carroll	Dianne Pitts	Dick Webster	Dominique Rust	Elise Annunziata
Izet Hamidovic	Jacob Hull	Jean Melvin	Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Kaitlyn Norden
Kevin Kintner	Kyle Beaulieu	Laurel Redden	Mark Stokes	Mary Sliney
Mike Austin	Rich Doyle	Robert Mottola	Stacey Lazzar	Susan Howland
Michael J Brien				

Introductions

February Minutes Approved

The Way Home Housing Resource Center Update

- Mary Sliney of The Way Home presented about TWH's history and mission to the CoC
- The Way Home provides access to safe, affordable housing
 - They started in 1988 as a security deposit loan program
 - They soon expanded to provide other resources like housing counseling, financial literacy and other rental education, and healthy housing education
- Their three main components include
 - Ending Homelessness – through supportive housing and advocacy
 - Homelessness prevention and help for low income renters
 - Help for homeowners on the verge of foreclosure
- Mary distributed some additional information on The Way Home's mission, services and accomplishments

Manchester's 10 Year Plan Update

- The Mayor's Steering Committee and community stakeholders met on March 10th to discuss progress toward Manchester's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, now six years into the process
- Following the meeting, three committees split out to further examine issues including:
 1. Alignment of services and eliminating duplication—Maureen Beauregard, Families in Transition
 2. Future of Manchester Homeless Services Center—Tim Soucy, Manchester Health Department
 3. What's next—identifying service gaps (job skills, employment, substance misuse services, etc.)
—These committees will reconvene over the next few weeks to share their findings

Questions:

- Where did you think we'd be at this point when the plan was first created?
 - Susan said she is glad that the MCoC is so much more collaborative and participatory than it was in its early years
 - Also, Manchester has a lot of new programming, funding and additional housing opportunities

- Where do we go from here?
 - There is the misconception that all the supportive services available in Manchester attract homeless people to the city from elsewhere
 - There is also misunderstanding around people who access multiple services from several providers
 - Additionally, there is the general perception of homelessness as only those people panhandling or holding signs, and that the majority of the issue can actually be tracked back to drug use by housed individuals
 - The data refutes these stereotypes, however, it is difficult to change the opinions and perceptions of the public and of local government
 - For example, few panhandlers are actually homeless
 - Unfortunately, perception has a major effect on funding for these programs
 - We should take more steps to refute misconceptions with both data and anecdotal success stories
 - We should increase engagement and communication with the media
 - MCoC members are also encouraged to attend more public hearing on homelessness and other budgeting/policy decisions as well as to comment on results of such meetings

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Project Monitoring Notice

- As per HUD requirements, the MCoC's Collaborative Applicant (FIT) must increase monitoring of funded projects
- Starting in May, CoC funded agencies are being asked to run and submit APRs (the 625) for their funded projects quarterly (based on that operating year) so that progress toward HUD goals can be tracked and any issues can be addressed
 - For each quarterly submission, please run and submit an APR for that project's **entire year to date**. For example, if the project's operating year begins Jan. 1st., quarterly APRs will include data for the following
 - 1st Quarter: 1/1 - 3/31 (due 4/15)
 - 2nd Quarter: 1/1 – 6/30 (due 7/15)
 - 3rd Quarter 1/1 – 10/31 (due 11/15)
 - These are due 15 days after the quarter ends, as specified above
 - The MCoC Coordinator (VISTA) will be contacting agencies as needed, to remind them when certain APRs are coming due
 - Agencies have already been notified, and if any questions arise, please don't hesitate to contact vista@mcoconh.org
 - Please submit APRs to vista@mcoconh.org and mstokes@fitnh.org

PIT Update

- The Point in Time Count is almost complete with much of the data similar to last year's
- Two interesting changes, however, include:
 - There are a lot more veterans than we had in previous years
 - Harbor Homes Inc.'s new Somerville St. housing explains much of this increase
 - We have many fewer doubled-up households than last year
 - We're still trying to figure this one out, but a guess is an increase in PSH and HPRP for households with children, who made up the vast majority of doubled-up households last year

- Another theory is that many people have begun to think about this living situation differently, and no longer identify as homeless when asked
- We haven't heard from HUD about when our data is due but will likely have through April to finish

Other Updates/Announcements

- Elise announced that ESG and HOME both got increases in funding
 - ESG was fairly large, almost returning to 2012 levels

The MCoC welcomes back Izet!

The next MCoC General Assembly meeting will be Thursday, April 17th at 12:00 p.m. 434 Lake Ave. 4th floor

Minutes Prepared By
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