

Homeless Liaison Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, March 18th, 2012 11:00AM-12:00PM

Location

Homeless Services Center, 140 Central Street, Manchester, NH

Attendees

Bill Sullivan	Dave Carroll	Doug Howard	Erik Wirkkala	Jacob Hull
Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Jake King	Kaitlyn Norden		

February's Minutes Approved

Needs Assessment

- Homeless Liaison Committee is heading the Homeless Needs Assessment this year but we will not begin discussion and planning for this until April.

Outreach Update

- Beth-Ann Grady from the VA is joining Dave and Jacob on outreach canvassing once a month
- Jacob said that they sometimes miss campers because many campers are in the city during outreach hours.
 - He will leave HCH flyers at campsites if no one is there

Youth Outreach Update

- Doug from CFS said that some of their clients are aging out of CFS programming
 - They serve youth until 23 years of age
- Drug use has risen in a few individuals they work with
- Jocelyn said that the school district has encountered a lot of families losing housing, with domestic violence being a significant cause
- They have also seen several families moving here from FL because of our relatively high employment rate

Do You Know Him? Ministries/Salvation Army Update

- Bill Sullivan said that a family, including two young children, sought shelter this past weekend and could not be connected to any resources so he put them up in a hotel and told them to go to City Welfare on Monday
- Other people at the meeting reported similar issues with connecting families to shelter and other resources on off hours, such as evening and weekends
- The issue of sheltering families, especially during off hours, remains a challenge and this committee will continue to track and raise awareness about it
 - FIT is developing the Family Place, a resource center to meet more families' need in the future
 - Maureen Beauregard from FIT will give a presentation about this new project at April's MCoC General Assembly meeting
- The Salvation Army has 3,000 MREs available, ideally for people staying outside
 - CFS and the Center will take some

- They are starting monthly movie nights at their downtown campus.
- The Day of Hope will be the Saturday before Easter
 - They're having breakfast at Salvation Army, followed by haircuts at 1269 Café, then at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. they're having two seatings of Easter dinner and passing out personal care bags. Finally, the clothing bus is coming to the Center to distribute clothing.

Other

- CFS, HCH and the Manchester School Dist. have a limited number of bus passes for their clients or target populations
- People at this meeting said that they get a lot of requests for transportation

Homeless Services Center Update

- Granite United Way and NH Catholic Charities will be releasing an RFP later this month seeking a qualified agency to take responsibility for operating the Manchester Homeless Services Center
- A man "J.S." is in a coma in the hospital.
 - Jake is trying to locate family members but other than a 2009 record of him coming to the Center, no one has any record of this person
 - The Salvation Army has a visitation team that go to hospitals, the jail etc. who can go visit him, if need be

Other

- Dave went to a training on street drugs and lingo
- Narcon is a controversial new drug that counteracts the effects of a heroin overdose
- Some first responders have this drug and can administer it if needed
 - Some more progressive communities supply outreach workers with it as well, and may even prescribe it to addicts themselves
- IV drug users and/or persons with Hepatitis C may be referred to HCH for treatment and referrals to Serenity Place and Farnum Center
- There is a need for places where people can go after these programs.
 - Phoenix House and Friendship House are two options
- Kaitlyn asked if Jacob would want to come to the Center for a brief presentation on Hepatitis C
- She also said that the Center is doing a Spring cleaning day the Tuesday after Easter, if anyone is interested in helping out

The next Homeless Liaison Committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 15th 2014

Minutes Prepared By

Erik Wirkkala

Manchester Continuum of Care, Coordinator VISTA