

Continuum General Assembly Minutes

Date and Time

Thursday, May 15th 2014 12:00 p.m.

Location

434 Lake Ave. 4th Floor

Attendees

Bill Sullivan	Cathy Kuhn	Cheryl Hunt	Craig Chevalier	Elise Annunziata
Erin Kelly	Jocelyne Pinsonneault	Kaitlyn Norden	Keith Howard	Kevin Kintner
Kyle Beaulieu	Laurel Redden	Lauren Paradis	Mandy Lancaster	Mary Sliney
Rich Doyle	Robert Mottola	Robin Eichert	Susan Howland	

April Minutes Approved

The Future of the Homeless Services Center

- The RPF that Granite United Way and Catholic Charities issued for operations of the Manchester Homeless Services Center did not produce any proposals in alignment with the request.
- There has been discussion among MCoC Leadership Committee, the City of Manchester, Granite United Way, etc. and the thought is that if the Center continues to operate, the MCoC needs to take a bigger role in its operations and fundraising
- The role of the Center will shift, as well, to focus on a population of people actively seeking services and will not be able to serve people just “hanging out” idly
 - This will help those who truly are making efforts to move forward and will ease the burden on the Center’s staff
- Cathy said that there is undoubtedly a need for a facility like the Center and changes should be made. However, she is concerned about the sustainability of such a collaboratively operated project, as all agencies’ resources are strained as it is and we can barely meet our own agencies’ fundraising needs
- Elise added that when the Center started, the business community contributed much more than they do now.
 - If the Center were to close, the city and local businesses would need to divert a lot of resources, such as police and other emergency responders
- Craig said that the Christian community in has been meeting to discuss filling gaps and meeting needs of homeless and low-income residents and will keep us posted on their conversation

Throughout this next year the MCoC will continue to explore the possibility of operating the Center and various options for doing so.

Pets of the Homeless Program

Robin Eichert from [PeopleSense Consulting LLC](#) came to talk with the Continuum about [Pets of the Homeless](#)

- Background: Robin has recently worked with FIT and NHCEH's Granite Leaders Program and is interested in both the issue of homelessness and the human-animal bond. She also incorporates the latter in her trainings through her consulting firm
- She has been interested a national non-profit called Pets of the Homeless and was wondering what, if any, need we have for food and medical services for pets in Manchester
- Pets of the Homeless has a model which includes food collection and distribution sites and can pay veterinarians directly for care
- Robert from the VA said that he has experienced veterans turning down treatment and housing because they cannot bring a pet along with them
- Kevin said that New Horizons and Angie's has about ten similar situations each year
 - Service animals are always permitted and mental health centers often write letters to have housing providers allow participants to bring a pet
- Kevin also said that the New Horizons food pantry does receive and give out pet food frequently
- The NH Food Bank also has pet food available
- Cheryl noted that the Animal Rescue League sometimes provides short-term foster care for animals
 - Their number for general info is 603-472-3647 (DOGS)
- Robin will do some further research as to the available food and foster care options in the area and exchanged contact info with Kevin about the possibility of establishing New Horizons as an official collection/distribution center

ESG Standards Update

- Elise reported that ESG standards meetings have been productive
- She will put down on paper the drafted standards they have agreed upon and send those out to the Continuum for review
 - These new standards should be finalized in advance of the city's Action Plan

Other Business

- Kevin wanted to share the Granite State Organizing Project's [Report on Substandard Housing Conditions](#), which details apartments in Manchester that are not up to code and keep low-income tenants in unsanitary, unsafe and otherwise hazardous conditions
- More Than Wheels encourages providers to visit their new blog <http://bloghealthcare.morethanwheels.info/> which contains info and resources on finance and transportation
- NHCEH is offering DBT training on May 22nd for case managers
- Laurel Redden from Housing Action NH reported that the NH Senate Judiciary Commission recommended that HB 1409 pass with amendments
 - The bill will be sent to a study commission and taken up during next year's legislative session
 - The minimum wage increase was defeated in the Senate but thanks to four senators who took the Minimum Wage Challenge, including Senator Soucey.

The next General Assembly meeting will be Thursday, June 19th 434 Lake Ave.



Minutes Prepared By

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