

Homeless Liaison Committee Minutes

Date and Time

Tuesday, May 13th 2014 11:00AM-12:00PM

Location

Homeless Services Center, 140 Central Street, Manchester, NH

Attendees

Bill Sullivan	Cathy Kuhn	Craig Meriwether	Dave Carroll	Doug Howard
Erik Wirkkala	Jacob Hull	Kaitlyn Norden	Kevin Kintner	Natalie Martin

April's Minutes Approved

Youth Outreach

- The number of youth engaged by CFS Street Outreach has increased slightly in recent months/weeks
 - Issues affecting youth include prostitution, heroine, spice and alcohol abuse
 - Jacob Hull said that there is free testing for STDs, including Hepatitis C, at the Manchester Health Dept. and Child Health Services.
 - The former occurs 10a.m.-6p.m. with no appointment necessary.

General Outreach

- There was the question of if and how people can get tents
 - There are few available, as they are expensive
 - Do You Know Him? Ministries has given our about 40 tents this year but they are quickly stolen or slashed
- The police are holding a conversation with business leaders at the Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, 5/15 to discuss disruptive and illegal behavior downtown
 - Several MCoC members will be in attendance
 - Article: <http://www.unionleader.com/article/20140513/NEWS07/140519734>

GSOP Report on Substandard Housing Conditions

- Kevin wanted to share a recent report published by the Granite State Opportunity Project that details the many substandard apartments being rented in Manchester
 - Find the full report [here](#)

Introducing Craig Meriwether

- CoCs are required to include a homeless or formerly homeless person on their Leadership Committees
- MCoC Leadership has arranged for Craig, a recent graduate of NHCEH's Granite Leaders Program, to attend today's Homeless Liaison meeting and introduce himself
- The HL Committee will then make a recommendation to Leadership as to whether or not Craig ought to be appointed to the position
- Craig attended the meeting and introduced himself to the committee

The Way Home

- Natalie said that The Way Home is still looking for clients for their RRH program
- She was hoping to advertise at the Center and she and Kaitlyn said they'd set up a time after the meeting
- Natalie also wanted to remind everyone about Sing for a Cause, a karaoke event to fight homelessness to be held on June 6th at Milly's Tavern from 9:00p.m.-1:00a.m.
- Event page: <http://www.thewayhomenh.org/news-events/sing-for-a-cause-2014>

Other Business

- **Job Corps:** Job Corps connects people 16-24 with employment
 - Clients can contact Kristin Dube Dube.Kristin@jobcorps.org for more info
 - Eligible applicants must have ID and other paperwork
 - There is currently a long waiting list for the program
 - There will be a 300 bed branch coming to Manchester within the next few years – they've already broken ground on Dunbarton Rd. near Goffstown
- **CFS TLP:** CFS has a Transitional Living Program from youth 18-21, including those with children
 - Doug was unsure if there were any open beds in this program, currently
 - Stacey Lazzar, the former TLP manager, has left CFS and Erin Kelly is managing this program now
- **Salvation Army and Do You Know Him? Ministries:**
 - They are still looking for a permanent place to serve weekend breakfasts that can accommodate their numbers
 - They are also continuing to run in to the issue of families coming to them on weekends and having to put them in a hotel until the work week
 - Many of these people are new faces
 - There is a need for more advocacy and people to help applicants navigate the system to obtain services
 - The Clergy Association is training volunteers to assist people at City Welfare
 - NH Legal Assistance is also a good resource for helping people identify and address wrongful denial of benefits and navigate other intricacies of the services system
 - Craig said that he had experience in TN with creating a "survival guide" for helping people navigate the system there.
 - This included a complete list of services available, contact info and eligibility criteria

Homeless Services Center Update

- Serenity Place has had staff at the Center recently, which has been very helpful with connecting people with their services
- There is also a new SNAP Outreach Coordinator working with the NH Food Bank who starts holding office hours at the Center this week, from 8:00 a.m.-10:30a.m. through the summer

Homeless Needs Assessment

- First, we need to identify the purpose and goal of doing this assessment
 - It is NOT to gather basic demographic information. This is already done in several other ways
- It IS to identify barriers and gaps in the current system and assess how we can better meet clients' needs
 - We can eliminate a lot of unnecessary questions from the survey, then, and add new ones to better identify these gaps



- We will begin planning changes to this survey at a few separate meetings, to be scheduled
- We'll push the meeting back until later in the summer to accommodate better planning and changes

Committee members spoke after this meeting to decide on a time for the Needs Assessment Taskforce to begin planning

The next Homeless Liaison Committee meeting will be Tuesday, June 17th

Minutes Prepared By

Erik Wirkkala

Manchester Continuum of Care, Coordinator VISTA