

# Homeless Liaison Committee Minutes

---

## Date and Time

Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 11:00AM-12:00PM

## Location

Homeless Services Center, 140 Central Street, Manchester, NH

## Attendees

Dave Carroll                  Erik Wirkkala                  Kaitlyn Norden                  Natalie Martin

---

## May Minutes Approved

### Homeless Needs Assessment

- We have begun planning for the 2014 Homeless Needs Assessment, and just met the day prior to this meeting
- We currently writing the survey focusing on three areas and related services: Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Medical
- We have thought about adding questions related to families and housing issues
- We will ask about how/why a person became homeless as well as questions to determine Chronically Homeless status
- People will also have to opportunity to indicate barriers to receiving services, including criminal histories
- We will also ask people about positive experiences they have had and why, in an attempt to replicate the things that people find positive
- We are hoping to survey 300+ people
  - The Services Center will be the primary location where surveys are administered but we could also have The Way Home and other providers have people complete a survey to get a broader population
- The next Homeless Needs Assessment meeting will be at the Center on August 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

### Homeless Services Center Update

- The Center is closing for the week of 6/30 – 7/6 and then reopening with different policies in place
- It will be open to any homeless adult from 8:00 – 1:00 and still serving breakfast and lunch.
  - They are strictly enforcing the rule that they only permit people fitting the HUD definition of homeless. Doubled-up or otherwise housed persons are not permitted (TH and ES residents are allowed)
- From 1:00 – 4:00 people are only allowed in the Center if they have an appointment with a service provider or if they are attending a workshop
- Workshops will be offered regularly on topics including financial literacy, cooking, life skills etc.
- Kaitlyn indicated that intakes have increased since spring and may of their new guests are from Valley St. Jail.



## Outreach

- Dave said that he has encountered more people with severe mental illness in recent weeks
  - He did not elaborate or speculate as to cause for the increase

**This committee will NOT be meeting in July.**

## Minutes Prepared By

Erik Wirkkala

Manchester Continuum of Care, Coordinator VISTA