

Concord Steering Committee for Plan to End Homelessness
January 16, 2018
Concord Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Notes
DRAFT

Present: Tim Sink, Claudia Walker, Ruth Perencevich, Lew Feldstein, Byron Champlin, Rosemary Heard, Karen Emis-Williams, Kara Wyman, Peter Evers, Pamela Puleo

Also: Ellen Groh (CCEH ED, Facilitator), Ellen Fries, Maggie Fogarty (CCEH Board)

Guests: Lorna Tobin, CCEH Intern from NHTI; Caitlin Andrews, Monitor Reporter

Ellen Groh called to order 2:04PM
Introductions around the room.

Review and Approval of November Minutes: Accepted

Updates:

Winter Shelter running very smoothly. Averaging about 22/night in December, up to 39 one night this past week, averaging about 34 per night so far in January
3 Families have stayed so far. RC assisting with them.

In past years, it has taken a few weeks for the number of guests to build up. Very difficult to know the reasons for the numbers being high or low. It often lower during extreme weather- people may be offered options with family when big storms are predicted.

Housing First: Have been approved for an additional 4 units beginning in July or August.

- Currently have 11 rental vouchers. 2 are not currently in use – 1 is client who is very difficult to house, for second, there was illness/miscommunications with landlord so unit we were expecting went to someone else

- 2 housed in public housing where rent is subsidized by Concord Housing +Redevelopment.

- List of chronically homeless individuals is still being worked on. About 60 we think. Working statewide to create name by name list.

SB 392: Proposed a study committee to study the impact of release of prisoners on communities. Sen. Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to accept. Going on to House. Recommended to have representation from many sectors: Riverbend, State Hospital...

All encouraged to reach out to legislators personally to encourage passage.

SB 1485 Hearing on 24 January 1:30 House Judiciary Committee

This would allow landlords to require a security deposit equal to two months rent, in addition to the first month of rent, all paid in advance. Huge impact on low income people.

Refreshing the Plan to End Homelessness

Special thanks to Rosemary for her work on updating the matrix to reflect the November discussion

See Document (matrix of goals)

Byron will tighten some of the language- shorten the long phrases. Rosemary should send him any changed document to work with.

Went over the Plan updates and discussed.

Goal II: discussed whether possible to roll several assessments into one. Thought that no, we need multiple assessments right now. Assessment of unmet needs of families in winter (Goal I) needs to be done in time to create a response for next winter since no winter shelter space for them next year. New Study: Rosemary will send out from NH HFA on demographics of who lives in tax credit housing.

How to incentivize landlords?

Must include FIT, Friends, Family Promise - see page 2 Activities "Provider focus group assembled."

Goal III:

Share info from County jail as a starting point for gathering input on costs associated with homelessness - they have a lot of data points on anyone there for 24 hours or more.

3 year cycle for refreshing the Plan suggested.

Before and after picture of the Plan - where we started, where we have gone.

Page 14 Activities: not just "schedule a meeting", but "actively consult with..." CHANGE

Plan Goal V:

Discussion to be had about how many required to fill the Steering Committee

Rosemary:

Helpful to have a subcommittee around data collection

Asks that committee members note where they have a strength and can assist - assign responsibilities

Also need to prioritize the list

Discussion of the function of the Steering Committee - from directing work to actually *doing* work. And of alignment of CCEH Goals with Plan Goals. This is an advisory committee.

What pieces of the Plan is CCEH NOT going to be able to work on? Let's find the other logical agencies/organizations to assist in this.

Page 3 - Production Responsibility: should state CATCH, Riverbend - not Rosemary and Peter...

Steering Committee – does it need a Chair, Secretary? Loose governance up until now. It has worked, but may be time to make it more formal.

Page 6 - Impact of State institutional discharges in the community.... Chamber/Tim – ok as Production Responsibility.

Kara will see if the prison is collecting info for 1115 Waiver

Advocacy - Steering Committee added to Goal III Production responsibility

Urgent Priorities on the Matrix:

- (Page 2/15 Family needs study - no CCEH Winter Shelter space for next year. - Karen will serve on this. Ruth also interested)
- (page 4/15, Goals I and II) Reach clarity on what the need is for affordable rental housing in Concord - assessments needed in order to decide on other priorities. NHHFA - Bill Ray? John Hoyt? Matt Walsh? Tom Aspell would have to assign anyone from City to assist. Rosemary will assist.
- (pages 10-13 Goal V), Membership/Governance of Steering Committee - Byron, Pam, Claudia, Rosemary as Production Responsibility
- Housing First is priority of CCEH - Steering Comm agrees we should stay the course on this priority.

Continue to meet on a monthly basis going forward.

Next Meeting February 20, 2:00 PM Chamber (POST MEETING NOTE: this was changed to Feb 13th due to scheduling conflict on Feb 20th)

Discuss at next meeting how/when to take refreshed plan to City for approval.

Notes submitted by Ellen Fries