

Concord Plan to End Homelessness
Steering Notes
September 19, 2017
Chamber of Commerce

Call to Order: Ellen Groh called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm

Attendance: Maggie Fogarty, Karen Emis-Williams, j st.hilaire, Ellen Groh, Byron Champlin, Ruth Perencevich, Ellen Fries, Rosemary Heard, Tim Sink, Steve Duprey, Pamela Puleo

Absent: Kara Wyman, Nicole Schultz-Price, Peter Evers, Claudia Walker, Ron White, Lew Feldstein

Guests: John Hoyt, Concord Housing+Redevelopment; Elisa Margolin, Housing Action NH; Dee Pouliot, NH HFA

Facilitating: Maggie Fogarty, CCEH Board of Directors/AFSC

Maggie greeted and introduced the group and the purpose of the meeting – Refresh the priorities within Concord’s Plan to End Homelessness

From previous meeting, the group had expressed a desire to look at specific data, as local as possible, on housing availability, income levels, advocacy, etc.

As an FYI: Amy Lockwood will meet with us again in the future to refine our work.

Agenda Today:

Thoughts/comments from folks from last meeting:

Confusion between CCEH and City Plan to End Homelessness - low on list of issues, but some concern about this process of refreshing the Plan, and whether the City will accept this.

Having Karen here as a representative of the City a great thing. There is an important opportunity, after this Steering Committee is done with refreshing the priorities under Plan, to go back to the City Council for approval, having first sat down with the Mayor, etc.

Question: are these “Public” meetings?

Yes, they are. Ellen Groh has posted the meeting dates with the city and most of our minutes from meetings with the City, and will be going to the training this week and make sure all the rules are being followed.

Comment: need to include the *Regional* needs and activities

Ellen G: reminder that this process is to *update the priorities under the existing plan*, not changing the actual plan.

Comment- It will be better to have someone from the Steering Committee present the updates to the City of Concord, not CCEH.

Previous Meeting - opportunities for funding under medicaid

Housing extremely low income people

NH Housing website and rental cost data statewide:

Discussion:

Merrimack county/City - To afford rents, a person needs to earn at least \$23/hour. Wages just now starting to increase. Rental costs have been steadily rising all along. Need to earn over \$50,000 a year for a 2 bedroom.

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Looking at closing of year round campgrounds - What do we do about housing those with criminal records, sex offenders?

CCEH's Housing First program prioritizes those most difficult to house. Some landlords will take those with a criminal record since they have a caseworker - this makes a huge difference.

John Hoyt: CH+R is not harsh on criminal records, usually. It depends on what and how long ago. Meth dealer or producer, registered sex offender – cannot be accepted. Others get looked at on a case by case basis. Can become a fair housing issue...

Number of Chronically Homeless individuals in Merrimack County? Trying hard to refine this number, and the whole state is working towards a name by name list.

Guests - welcome and thank you for being here with us to share your expertise!

Elissa Margolin, Housing Action NH: since 2009 - affordable housing policy in NH

Seeking to change policies and get resources through the State

Successes: SGIA increase, other funding increased as well

NH has tiny spending compared to our neighbors in New England.

Met with Gov. Sununu - he believes we should be at about \$40,000,000 to catch up.

Market is very much against you if you are lower income.

Supportive Housing:

Breakdown exists between housing developers and those who can provide need services - where do the service providers get funding? Medicaid money is a possibility.

Tenancy and pre-tenancy support services

See Elissa's presentation power point. Supportive Housing in Medicaid CCEH 091717.pptx

Recovery Housing Taskforce of NH Interagency Council on Homelessness. –this is a new committee - not a lot of rules and standards in place yet. Trying to get everyone in the conversation to make this work as well as possible.

Ellen Groh- description of Built for Zero effort -

A learning collaborative focused on -How can we improve some of our systematic practices for addressing chronic homelessness?

Best practices for getting chronic homelessness to functional zero.

BHHS is participating in this. Creating a by-name list of chronically homeless people and prioritize by vulnerability, rank them.

Everyone agrees on this list and on the rankings, all of those with resources work together on the list.

Tied into coordinated entry and collaboration amongst care providers.

Dee Pouliot, NH HFA and John Hoyt, CH+R

How Section 8 Vouchers are allocated - see handout

Where would you point us for the possibility of the greatest success:

JH - support services (he sees success in working with CCEH clients in CH+R Housing)

DP - ESG program; Rapid Rehousing.

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EM - Status quo not enough - get creative! Call it a pilot, brand it, use resources, package it! Partnerships lead to Changes and success.

Have CCEH get into housing development business. "Service Enriched Model" for people to move into, stabilize, move on.

Next steps: Prioritizing within existing goals.

Amy Lockwood will send email - watch for it! Next steps.

Third Tuesday of the month we will meet: **October 17, 2:00 to 4:00 pm** Chamber of Commerce