

Steering committee for Concords Plan to End Homelessness

Meeting Notes June 15, 2021

Meeting held at Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce 2:00-3:30 pm

Draft

Steering Committee Members Present: Byron Champlin, Tim Sink, Karen Emis-Williams, Ruth Perencevich, Lew Feldstein, Kara Wyman

Absent: Linda Lorden, Ellen Fries (Secretary). (Minutes taken by Greg Lessard in Ellen Fries Absence.)

Visitors: Greg Lessard, Mayor Bouley

Additional: Ellen Groh, CCEH Executive Director

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Byron Champlin, Chair, at 2:05pm

Approval of March Meeting Minutes: Moved and Seconded. Call for vote. Passed

Brief update from City of Concord Human Services-Karen Emis-Williams (Report read into the record by Ellen Groh, CCEH Executive Director)

City of Concord Human Services has been working with 35 individuals experiencing homelessness and 10 individuals that are at risk of becoming homeless.

City of Concord Human Services is concerned that when the Covid-19 eviction moratorium is lifted June 30, 2021, that they will see an increase in evictions and that some landlords could raise the rent, putting additional individuals at risk of losing their homes.

Brief update from CCEH- Ellen Groh, Executive Director

In the last several months there have been two clearings of homeless encampments, one that abuts property own by Capital Shopping Center and the other owned by Kimball Jenkins. Prior to removal of the encampments, BM-CAP and CCEH staff notified individuals living in the affected areas about the pending action and tried to find them housing. Many were deeply entrenched with solid structures. Some were angry and asked, "Where do I go?" Many have relocated to a former drive-in movie theater off Manchester Street.

CCEH has been in discussion with Dakota Partners that is planning a housing development off Langdon Ave. Dakota Partners has offered to set aside 5% of its units for individual's experiencing homelessness.

CCEH has secured funding from an "angel donor" to hire an outreach staff person to work on the prioritization list of individuals experiencing homelessness, focuses especially on outreach to the

encampments in Concord, and focused on collaborating with various other agencies that do outreach for other purposes (addressing substance use disorder or mental health issues).

Brief discussion of Public Safety Board request-Byron Champlin, Chair

During the May meeting of the Public Safety Board, there was discussion about safety concerns related to the City's homeless population. At the meeting, fires and trespassing issues were raised. In an effort to better understand the issues, the Public Safety Board has invited CCEH and Byron to attend a future meeting.

Review of updated document on CCEH's strategy: Ellen Groh, CCEH Executive Director

As a follow-up to the Steering Committees request at the March meeting, Ellen included additional language in the CCEH strategy document, "Ending Homelessness in Concord," a clarification on what "affordable housing" means. The term can have different meanings in different contexts. After brief discussion, Byron motioned for a vote to endorse the strategy to City Council. Hearing no call for discussion, there was a unanimous vote to approve the endorsement.

Motion to Adjourn: Moved and Seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned 3:30pm

Dates for 2021 quarterly meetings:

Third Tuesdays

- September 21, 2021
- December 21, 2021