

Steering Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness

Meeting Notes March 23, 2021

Held Via Zoom 2:00 - 3:30 pm

DRAFT

Steering Committee Members Present: Byron Champlin, Jason Wells, Linda Lorden, Tim Sink, Karen Emis-Williams, Ruth Perencevich, Claudia Walker

Absent: Lew Feldstein, Ellen Fries (Secretary). (Minutes taken by Greg Lessard in Ellen Fries absence.)

Visitors: Greg Lessard, Kathi Connors, Mayor Bouley, Liane MacLossi Kerbyson, Nancy McKeon, Lorrie Patterson

Additional: Ellen Groh, CCEH Executive Director

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Byron Champlin, Chair, at 2:03pm

Approval of June Meeting Minutes: Moved and Seconded. Roll call vote. Passed.

Brief update from Family Promise- Liane MacLossi Kerbyson, Executive Director

Reviewed Family Promise rotational model that was required to change during Covid-19. Reviewed requirements to be in the program. Family promise now more active in diversion. Expressed the difficulty of finding housing for clients.

Question: Where are you finding housing? In and out of Concord. Some housing found as far away as Warner.

Brief update from Friends Program- Nancy McKeon, Director and Lorrie Patterson, Program Director

Review Friends programs four programs: Emergency Housing RSVP, Foster Grandparent, Youth Mentoring. Focused update on Emergency Housing Program. Seeing more complex family situations and longer family stays. Expressed the difficulty of finding affordable housing. Emergency Housing needed to decompress for Covid-19.

Question: What are you seeing as the "typical" family composition? It varies but seeing more two parent families. There is a mix of employed and unemployed. Some guests are in recovery, some recently evicted, others recently left a relationship.

Discussion on document: Ending Chronic Homelessness in Concord (sent by Ellen Groh)

Reviewed updated document on CCEH's strategy: "Ending Homelessness in Concord."

First focus is CCEH working with the other area homeless service providers to create a “by name list” for the Concord area, understand the size of issue, who most vulnerable, and track progress on getting people housed.

Second focus is on creating new affordable and Permanent Supportive Housing. So few vacancies in Concord now. Work with developers to create! Talking with many different organizations/partners. Need to create more housing, using different models.

Discussion on if Steering Committee endorsed the strategy, what is the expectation of what city council would do?

A statement of endorsement of CCEH’s strategy would hopefully assist in the City making affordable housing a priority.

Question: What is the definition of affordable, work force housing Section 8 housing?

Ellen will add definitions to the document and bring the updated document back to the Committee at the June meeting.

Brief Update from City of Concord Human Services - Karen Emis-Williams, Concord Human Services Department

Clients with monthly income of \$1,200 cannot find an apartment. If client only has social security income it is exceptionally difficult to find housing. Whether employed or unemployed they cannot find housing.

Concerned when eviction moratorium ends at end of month that there will be a rise in individuals experiencing homelessness. Moratorium may be extended but eventually when lifted it there will be an impact.

City Welfare is trying to intervene prior to evictions. It is less costly and provides stability for the individual/family.

Brief discussion for organized clean up of property behind Market basket.

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

Meeting Adjourned 3:30pm

Thanks to visitors for being here.

Confirm dates for 2021 quarterly meetings: Third Tuesdays

- June 15, 2021
- September 21, 2021
- December 21, 2021