

Steering Committee  
Concord's Plan to End Homelessness  
January 17, 2017 2 pm- 4 p m  
Chamber of Commerce, Concord NH

Minutes of January 17, 2017 Meeting  
DRAFT

**Call to Order:** Ellen Groh called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM

**Attendance:** Tim Sink, Claudia Walker, Ron White, j st.hilaire, Pamela Puleo, Ruth Perencevich,

Potential new members whose names have been submitted to City Council for approval: Karen Emis-Williams, Director, Concord Human Services; Kara Wyman, MS, Assistant Superintendent Merrimack County Dept. of Corrections; Rosemary Heard, President &CEO, CATCH Neighborhood Housing

**Absent:** Nicole Schultz-Price, Peter Evers, Lew Feldstein, Rev. Rob Hirschfeld, Steve Duprey, Byron Champlin

**Facilitating:** Ellen Groh, Executive Director, CCEH

**Visitors:** Ellen Fries, CCEH Board; Maggie Fogarty, CCEH Board

**Discussion and Action Items**

Introductions around the room - Rosemary Heard, CEO of CATCH and Kara Wyman of Merrimack County DOC, Karen Emis-Williams is the new Director of Concord Human Services. All are new potential members of the steering committee, awaiting confirmation by the City Council.

**Approval of Notes of November meeting** - Consent approval - MSA

**Updates/Reports**

The potential new members were recommended to and approved by the Mayor, have to go before Council to be approved, and then sworn in.

**Housing First Concord:** 7 of the 10 rental vouchers have been used so far (8 individuals). We believe we have the located 3 more apartments with willing landlords. We also have the original 2 people housed with Concord Housing and Redevelopment public housing. CATCH has been working with us - 1 currently into a CATCH apartment, may be 2 more in the future. Ellen had forwarded to the Steering Committee members a very touching e-news from CATCH that there was not a dry eye in the room when one of the Housing First clients signed his lease with CATCH. The housing/rental market is very tight in Concord.

**Cold Weather Shelter:** The Friends Program and St. Peters/Christ the King Parish have both come through again with enormous support by Mayor Bouley. This was after much work on the

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part of Ellen Groh and CCEH to find an alternative site, since the St. Peters building was understood to be about to be sold and unavailable. Several Churches came through, but each for only a portion of the winter time, which made the whole program much more complex. Ultimately the Friends program said they could not manage the shelter if it was on a rotating basis, so the City is very fortunate that St. Peters turned out to be available. The shelter seems to be going very smoothly and is calm. Average of 23 per night through Jan. 12th. High of 31 people so far.

There is Family space downstairs, but it has not yet been used. In a change from last year, any family who arrives at check in would be able to stay, but would be told to go to City Human Services the next day for alternative arrangements.

**Permanent Low Barrier Winter Shelter:** CCEH has been working to create a reliable space for the future. The plan is to have it be on the Resource Center lot. It would be able to hold fewer than 40 guests. CCEH is seeking to build an accessory building in the back yard as the current building is very difficult to bring up to code, the configuration is not conducive to a safe and secure shelter, and it would be extremely expensive. Working with Jonathan Halle, Architect, Warren Street Architects and receiving incredible support from Atty. Richard. We submitted application to Zoning Board, Hearing Feb. 1. **Please come and support!!** (Post meeting note: **HEARING IS CHANGED TO FEB. 8**)

Jeff Lewis, Northpoint Engineering, has also given tremendous assistance pro-bono. CCEH applied for and received \$30,000 in predevelopment loan funds from NH HFA. We've hired Amy Lockwood from Full Circle Consulting to assist with an application for tax credits

Looking in the \$500,000 range for the entire project.

Karen: Nashua has no winter shelter - City Welfare takes it on, places families in motels. Do we keep statistics? yes, the shelter shares info with CCEH/CHRC as to who stays. Would be helpful to keep track of reasons for staying, where they came from, etc.

**CCEH is now considering taking on management of shelter.** No other agency in the City wants to take on this role. We've approached shelter agencies from surrounding towns and they are not interested in expanding to Concord. CCEH Board had a retreat on this topic. We will be voting this week on this. Need to be assured there is adequate financing to maintain current programs.

Discussion and comments:

- The CCEH mission very lofty - eliminating "causes" of homelessness, deserves support long term. If CCEH does not do the shelter, no one will. How do you fund it?? That is that dilemma.
- same issue for anyone. No better option.
- CCEH will be in this 100% for the long term - need to be prepared.
- time spent NOT having a permanent solution for shelter has been a big use of time and effort without a solution. World expects us to take care of this.
- if CCEH takes on the whole portfolio of need, can attract funders.

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- More fiscally efficient to do through a shelter than through welfare, motels...
- Formerly \$52,000 for emergency shelter past 2 years.
- Better to fundraise for something tangible.
- Operating budget needs to include this over time.
- Need director with Jerry Madden's skill set - understands need for safety, organization

CCEH wants to see commitment by City of Concord to funding the operations of this on a continuing basis.

Ellen G asks: Is being written into the City budget as a line item the only way to get into budget and stay most securely? YES, all agree.

County would be the same process.

What if we take County funds? Would it attract people from elsewhere? No (Ron), County needs to have buy-in.

Ron thinks it would be a good idea to get other ending homelessness organizations together statewide to discuss issues around homelessness. Have County host this?

**One sheet, simple data for hearing.** Shelter data, who, age, where from, police calls, volunteer history, in kind donors, human stories (people testify)

If there is police contact at the shelter, arrestees go to Merrimack County Jail. Therefore, county has a vested interest - more expensive to incarcerate than to shelter.

Be sure to ask G UW for funding... Merrimack County allocations committee

Announcements:

Ron brought up a possible bill of concern: HB 229 (Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup>). It deals with homeless shelters and shared facilities, regarding owners rights and whether tenants' rights/eviction rules might have to pertain to these types of facilities. Maggie: HANH - NH and Legal Assist. not overly concerned about this bill. Residents in shelters do not earn tenancy rights. May accidentally over reach. Maggie will be at the hearing will be there and let us know if there is a need for people to testify.

**Funding for Plan to End Homelessness.** When the Plan was adopted, CCEH applied for \$ to create Ellen's position - received funding from G UW and NH Charitable Foundation. Later received funding from Lincoln Financial Foundation for Housing First Concord, a priority under the Plan.

Will need to fill that hole as the grants will not go on forever. CCEH wants to begin a Major Donor Campaign, hand in hand with selling tax credits for shelter space...

We're seeking input and feedback from Steering Committee - and seeking permission to contact you as we seek potential donors to connect with.

Major Donor Campaign discussion: Pam - need major donors who are already our donors - will not get *new* major donors. Have this group look at current donors and say who might help.

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Also need to grow donor base. Use volunteers at shelter as a base for fundraising. Offering potential donors 3 opportunities to give! Major Donor campaign, SouperFest and Tax Credits.

Need to share the human side – this is not “good old boy fundraising.” Moment for Mission - that works! Get people to engage in the work, then ask for money.

Hospital and CATCH prefers that our fundraising volunteer Jack call them with a list to discuss – these organizations have their own fundraising to do.

**“Refreshing” the Plan to End Homelessness:** Maggie Fogarty points out that Concord's Plan to End Homelessness is coming up on 3 years old. We need it to remain relevant and fresh to inform our work. We have new data, new partners and we have had an impact thus far. It is now time to look at the changed context, fold that into a fresher plan.

Is this a good time to do this? How should we go about it? What role does the Steering Committee play? We are sensitive to not wanting to take too much time from this group. How best do this in a relevant and strategic manner? Do at a meeting time in March. Need facilitator? Does the City have to be involved in the process in some way as this is a City owned group? Get Ellen Koenig as facilitator?

Assess the original plan - what has changed? Data, info, what has been done?

Suggested CCEH do an Environmental scan... do in-house. SWAT analysis. Internal and external factors. Getting better or worse?

Accomplishments vs. Goals. A college program might be seeking a project like this. MBA with focus on strategic analysis. Capstone project. UNH, New England College, NHTI ...

Invite Mayor into plan.

Strategic planning - do every 2 years. Will go back to CCEH underpinnings.

**SOUPERFEST!!!** March 18 at Rundlett Junior High. Claudia is Honorary Chair and invites all to come, sponsor, be a part of it!!! It is truly a warm and wonderful community event with Fun for kids of all ages from 2 to 5 pm and Soup, bread and desserts from 4 to 7pm. It is the signature fundraiser of the CCEH.

**In the future this committee will meet the THIRD Tuesday of every other month.**

**Next meetings are: March 21, May 16**

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm

Notes respectfully submitted by Ellen Fries