

Concord Homeless Steering Committee Draft Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2025

2:00 pm Chamber of Commerce

Present: Schlosser, Sink, Heyward, Whitney-Gill, Lorden, Nafshi,, Guy, Perenevich, Surmanis, Janzen, Haggerty, Madden, Champlin, Moulton, Palmeri

Guests (Partial list): T. Gladstone, C. Gladstone, Toth, Petrin, Curran, McGonagle, Wolcott, A. Alexander, Dunn Owen

The February Minutes were approved.

Funding for the Project Manager position – NH Charitable Foundation may be a significant funding source. Total need is about \$220,000 over two years. Granite United Way has agreed to serve as our fiscal agent. The City of Concord may be a funding source as well, but that discussion was tabled pending word from Charitable Foundation and other philanthropic sources.

Working groups reports:

- The Veteran's working group is meeting bi-weekly. Down to six homeless veterans from 12 total.
- The Common Operating System working group has been meeting regularly. Prevent, Serve and Support is a simple schema that the group is working with. They are focusing on documenting the Prevention part of the system currently. Second priority is mapping service provision. The group is developing a written plan.
- Additional Housing Group – Working to streamline the process of securing housing, including clarifying the process with NHHFA for amending tenant selection plans in tax credit buildings. Has identified a solution to security deposit barriers to present to landlords: rental insurance policies in lieu of security deposit. Additional resources will be required but the need for cash security deposits could be reduced. Payment plans were also discussed. Either way, there is a need to create a security deposit fund.
- Communication – Rosanne reported to the City Council regarding this committee's activities. The goal is to get on the City Council agenda regularly (quarterly?) either in person or through written reports. Getting a combined agency report to share with the City Council. A person with professional communications experience is being considered as a new committee member.
- Housing 80 homeless persons–It would be helpful to track the number of homeless people housed each month to monitor progress. This would have to include all area agencies (including Family Promise, Friends Family Shelter, Waypoint, etc.). Current case conferencing includes
 - Monthly Merrimack County Case Conference hosted by BHS,
 - Monthly Capital Area Street Outreach (CASOC) hosted by CAP, and

- POWER Hour, weekly huddle on challenging clients (CAP, PD and others).

Rosanne suggested getting regular updates from case conferencing meetings to enable the committee to understand the specific barriers people are facing in accessing housing to inform the Work Group's priorities.

There are many bills in the legislature addressing housing from ADU's to zoning changes. Lots of positive momentum. There is a listserv that Rosanne will provide from Housing Action New Hampshire that tracks the status of key housing bills before the legislature.

Agency funding - There is concern that federal funding for services for the homeless could dry up, but so far federal funding to agencies has continued. State funding has been more vulnerable. Mental health funding is also vulnerable. Maintaining mental health is critical to keeping people housed.

Short term goals:

improving our data so that we understand the scope and dynamics of homelessness in Concord. In terms of current data collection, numbers are rising. Reconciling the numbers of people entering and exiting homelessness on the data report has not been easy, and there are consistent discrepancies. It's known that increases happen in the winter; we will have a better sense of numbers in spring. Contributing to the increase may have been a TB outbreak in Manchester this year, sending folks north. We expect to see higher numbers as our data collection capabilities improve.

Another goal is a warming station plan for next year. CCEH, FK, CAP, Merrimack County, PD(Nicole,) FD, Concord Hospital and others should be involved in planning for this. Barret will discuss with the Fire Chief. Plan should include supplemental training for a cadre of contingent volunteers.

Brief meeting evaluation:

What went well-Huge brain power in the room

Opportunities to improve—more focus on now actions; immediate needs (now); quick updates from members; more brainstorming, less report out.

Other business – Andrea introduced Concord Kind, an emerging volunteer group working with agencies assisting the homeless. They have requested City approval to allow unhoused residents to do clean ups in the Basin Street area and elsewhere. Jim will work with Concord Kind on a write up to present to Concord authorities.

Next meeting June 17, 2-3:30 pm, Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Sink, CCE, IOM
President, GCCOC