

**Concord Steering Committee for Plan to End Homelessness**

**February 13, 2018**

**Concord Chamber of Commerce**

**Meeting Notes**

***DRAFT 2***

**Present:** Tim Sink, Claudia Walker, Ruth Perencevich, Lew Feldstein, Byron Champlin, Ron White, Pamela Puleo

Also: Ellen Groh (CCEH Exec Director, facilitator), Ellen Fries, Maggie Fogarty (CCEH Board)

**Guests:** Lorna Tobin, CCEH Intern from NHTI

Ellen Groh called the meeting to order 2:12 PM

**Review and Approval of January Minutes:** Accepted

**Updates**

**Winter Shelter:**

Statistics presented. Average to date is 31 per night. Very few did **not** originate in Concord. Discussion: May be largely due to not receiving state funding and not being on 211. McKenna also expanded and possibly absorbed some. Also, we are in good economic times and more jobs are available.

Only 3 families have used the shelter this winter. One moved on to Families in Transition, one to Carey House in Laconia, one banned due to drinking IN the shelter.

Next month: Steer Committee would like to see breakdown per month- average per night, and range of people each night

**Resource Center:**

Report of who comes to the RC - vast majority from Concord. A few from Boscawen and Franklin, just a very few from anywhere else.

Who would we want to have a "Town Meeting" with to discuss issues? Does not make sense to meet with towns who do not have populations taking advantage of our services

**Housing First:**

Still seeking housing for one individual who has been evicted and is difficult to house. Angela Spinney, CCEH Program Director, is working very hard with him. CCEH's partner agency in Portsmouth is suggesting that if we can't use the additional 4 rental assistance vouchers that were awarded by HUD recently in a rapid fashion, they would want to use our rental assistance in Portsmouth, because it counts against you in HUD application scoring if you don't use all your funding.

HUD is revising its rules about project based vouchers. Allowed giving a preference for homeless people  
- Ellen will study it and report back.

CCEH caseworker finds the most challenges with the HF Clients who were housed in public housing. May be because they are being watched more by the other residents who are elderly or disabled and therefore around to watch and to report on/complain about them.

### **Refreshing the Plan to End Homelessness**

Special thanks to Rosemary for her work on updating the matrix.

See Document (matrix of goals)

Under Priority #1

Ron asked if we ask if clients are Veterans. YES. CCEH asks and knows the connections to make/the organizations to send them to for service and housing.

All looked at the Goals and agreed.

Do we number priorities? What is a goal? Ending homelessness? Providing shelter? The items this committee has generated through this process will be termed a priority under that goal.

Under Priority #2

Is there truly a need for affordable housing in Concord?

Incentivize creation of low income housing in Concord? Priority under Plan Goal II needs to be re-written.

We may have housing stock, but not affordable to those most in need, or landlords unwilling to rent to those most in need.

NEW wording for Priority under Plan Goal II: Assess and support solutions for providing a range of housing options for homeless people.

Plan Goal III: Increase knowledge.... add "including cost benefits of the housing first model" to the end of the last sentence.

Maybe Lorna, the NHTI Intern, or the Carsey Institute could do research into what the cost benefits may actually be in Concord with real examples. It would be excellent to be able to compare before-housing and after-housing costs incurred for medical care, transportation to care, jail/police costs, etc. of a few people who were formerly chronically homeless.

ACTION ITEM: Pamela will check with the proper committees at Concord Hospital about permission and if/how to get the medical information. Patient financial services and security committee. Will find out what they would need to release the information.

Could County Corrections figure out those costs? Yes, quite easily.

Should we offer an incentive, such as a gift card, to the people who allow their names to be used for research? YES

SB 392 establishing a commission to study and evaluate the impact of the discharge of state prisoners was passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee - Has not gone to House Committee yet.

**Plan Goal III:** Increase knowledge about homelessness in Concord....: Advocacy efforts are increased.

Change from "Town Meetings" to "community meetings", and add in service organizations, civic organizations, present at Town Council meetings. . We would focus on NH towns where there are residents who are coming to the Winter Shelter or Resource Center (listing that town as their zip code of last permanent address)

**Goal IV:** Outcome - A Housing Choice Voucher Priority is in place in support of housing chronically homeless people within the City of Concord. Neither NH HFA or CH+RA are currently in favor of offering a preference for individuals who are chronically homeless - challenging to figure out best approach for getting support for this.

How do we move the decision makers? How market this idea? Need input from experts in communications. Jaime Simoes, Steve Varnum, Scott Spradling, Laurie Storey-Mansom suggested for seeking assistance on this.

**Goal V:**

Create a clear governance structure - Byron, Pamela, Claudia, Rosemary - Pamela will convene.

Agreed that Committee needs broad representation of stakeholders, diversity. Must be willing to be active.

Governance team named above will make a proposal – terms of service, whose representation needed, make recommendation on whether committee needs a chair, Secretary, etc.

"Committee will consider a model for membership that might include..."

Should we ask the City to provide secretary, etc.? Byron will investigate.

Longevity of this Plan Committee? Does committee declare Functional Zero and stop meeting?

c. How/when to present to City Council - Byron also to follow up on this.

No "Priority" **numbers** any more. All are "Priorities" under their Goal.

Next Steps - work on governance issues, Byron talk with City

Continue to meet on a monthly basis going forward.

Next Meeting March 20, 2:00 PM Chamber

Notes submitted by Ellen Fries