

Steering Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness

Meeting Notes June 18, 2019

Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce 2:00 3:30 pm

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

Absent: Peter Evers, Rosemary Heard,

Additional: Ellen Groh, CCEH; Ellen Fries, CCEH; Tenley Callahan, CCEH

Call to Order: Guests were introduced and all present introduced themselves.

Presentation: Thomas Donovan, LCMHC, LMHC, Clinical Manager, Riverbend.

LICSW, Vice President of Clinical Operations

Presentation on Doorway of Concord at Riverbend

Previously known as the Hub and Spoke - State is encouraging name change. "Doorway" - 9 in State. Grant funded by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services) through Concord Hospital to Riverbend.

- People can just walk in and get a human connection to help them - not just a list of numbers to call, and then get continued support and follow through.
- Not enough resources/treatment centers. 3 treatment centers in Concord - NONE accept medicaid.
- Clients need insurance #1
- Body - mind - spirit - often haven't seen MD for many years, need housing, have other medical conditions. Doorway tries to collaborate with everyone.
- Billing is coming which will create barriers to service.
- 71 clients currently - has grown every month as program becomes better known.
- 40 Pleasant St. Crisis Treatment Center (CTC) Want to be 24/7 but not enough staff available.
- 42 Pleasant (Jackman Building) will be all drug treatment/drug court. Security 24 hours thru Concord Hospital
- Neighbors have some concern - encouraged Doorway to reach out. They will.
- As much alcohol as other drugs.
- 98% of those in prison in Merrimack County are substance use related.
- COLLABORATORS:
 - Fire Department - Jeff Stewart - training staff, referring people to RB
 - FIT now has outreach workers going out to camps
 - CAP, same, and rent support, other assistance
- AFTERCARE PLANNING is key. None for hospitals, prison - people released into homelessness.
- Recovery Friendly Employers/Workplace program very helpful

HANH (Housing Action NH) is raising Affordable Housing Crisis issue with candidates – pressure on candidates to have a plan. Many events - ask HANH for assistance in making it count. **Our Homes our Votes 2020**

Reactions to presentation by Rosanne Haggerty at CCEH Annual Celebration on June 12, 2019: Discussion

We need to do our work and not wait for the STATE - too slow! Work with all the providers, with all the clients we can find and engage. Make our own list and go.

Need standard definition for all agencies to work from for data collection.

Current list is broad - will have to apply definition as clients come up.

Podcast on Bergen County is really great - send out - NPR interview- (10 minute audio clip, plus online article) <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2019/02/20/bergen-county-new-jersey-homelessness>

CCEH will get Roseanne's talk out on video/ and her slide show.

CCEH tried to get Concord Housing Authority and NHH to prioritize homeless for housing vouchers, but they said they didn't want others on the list wait even longer.

Need to approach again, with influence of Steering Committee.

CITY - make requirement for % of new developments set aside for low/moderate income.

How to preserve a mix in apartments in Concord?

Steering go to City Council to discuss?

Storrs St. Corridor - extension north to Horseshoe Pond - development will take place - address this issue of mixed use/mixed income housing. **TIME TO DISCUSS NOW!**

Get a City policy. Find other communities that have done this - examples.

Should we start a committee with more knowledge to work on land use... etc.? City Planning, NHHFA person, info to work from for creating policy for Concord. EG heard presentation - will try to get recording of that. Will brainstorm who might help with this.

Minutes of March meeting approved.

Discussion of potential new Steering Committee members: Rev. Jason Wells sent letter of interest and resume to City. Ellen Fries will send letter of interest and resume to Byron.

Review of updated draft governance document - not ready - next time will present their plan.

As a reminder, the Steering Committee is now meeting quarterly. The remaining meetings for 2019 are:

September 10th (Chamber room confirmed)

December 17th (Chamber room confirmed)

For questions, contact:

Ellen Groh

Concord Coalition to End Homelessness

ellen@concordhomeless.org

(603) 290-3375

Concordhomeless.org