
General Assembly Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday, April 16, 2020, 9:00AM-10:00AM

Location

Zoom Meeting

9:00 Meeting begins

Greetings and Introductions

First ever virtual meeting.

Overview of Statewide Response to COVID-19

- I. Vice Chair Cathy Kuhn explained the response to COVID-19 through the different levels in New Hampshire.
- II. Local level – Manchester Health Department leading the response. They are connecting with multiple agencies to create ensure that all needs are being met. If anyone in Manchester has concerns, challenges, etc. please reach out to the MHD for further guidance.
 - a. New Horizons shelter is opening a second facility to help with decompression. 40 individuals will stay at St. Casimir leaving 90 individuals at NH Shelter. New Horizons is looking for a second facility to further decompress their space.
- III. State level – the state released a four-step plan to combat COVID-19.
 - a. Work towards finding a location where individuals experiencing homelessness with COVID-19 symptoms can isolate. A location will be opening in Laconia on April 17, 2020.
 - b. Decompression of shelters by opening a facility. The state is working on opening a facility in Nashua to help alleviate shelters around the state.
 - c. Encouraging shelters throughout the state to work within their communities to open decompression sites.
 - d. Supporting local communities in safe outreach practices.
 - There are weekly calls at the state level regarding COVID-19.
 - Monday and Friday at noon with the Bureau of Housing Supports (866) 304-8625 Code: 2653424718
Updates and check-ins about how things are moving in the Homeless Services arena during COVID-19.
 - Wednesday at 10am with Housing Action New Hampshire
Focused on statewide response to COVID-19 for people experiencing homelessness and for other low income populations. People can contact Tom DeRosa at tom@housingactionnh.org or Elissa Margolin at elissa@housingactionnh.org to get signed up for the Zoom calls.
 - NH is receiving 1.25 billion dollars from the CARES Act. The MCoC intends to write a letter to the Mayor's Office to discuss how they believe the funds should be allocated. The MCoC leadership team wants providers to be able to have their experience lead the funding. **Please send Clerk Ellie Huot priorities of how you believe the funding should be allocated.** Her email is HuotE@WaypointNH.org
- IV. Federal level -- Multiple meetings have happened with a variety of state government officials; Congressman Pappas, Senator Shaheen and Senator Hassan. They are all interested in what is occurring on the front lines of this work and are well informed from meetings.
 - Madison Lightfoot, for Senator Shaheen, discussed how telehealth has rolled out since COVID-19. Madison requested that if people had information on how their organization has dealt with telehealth to reach out to her. Her contact information is Madison_Lightfoot@shaheen.senate.gov

Veterans Services Update during COVID-19

- I. Katie Tovar presented the update. 90% of providers are working remotely at this time. If identified veterans are without telephone access, staff will meet with them in person. Katie reported that this is becoming increasingly difficult due to locations shutting down. At the last Veterans Subcommittee meeting, there were 50 veterans identified in Manchester. The following are brief updates on specific providers throughout Manchester. Please see attached for a more thorough update.
- II. SSVF Harbor Homes- staff are working remotely. Staff are completing intakes via phone, doing weekly check-ins, holding conference calls, checking in with landlords and doing virtual tours of apartments.
- III. Manchester GPD is still running. They are completing intakes. Staff are suggesting that individuals apply for GPD before utilizing hotel funding.
- IV. VA – they are no longer providing transportation to individuals. Instead they are providing Uber gift cards. Staff are working remotely.
- V. Easterseals – staff are working remotely. The Auburn St. location is closed. Individuals can be referred to their email intake line or phone line. (603) 315-4354 or mvsintake@eastersealsnh.org
- VI. NH is still working on the By-Name List and intends to declare ending homelessness by the end of 2020.
- VII. Attached is a list of hotels in the area that are currently accepting homeless individuals. Chair Erin Kelly and Vice Chair Cathy Kuhn had a conversation with Madison Lightfoot regarding in hopes to gain more support from government/legislation to allow for more low-barrier ways to access hotel living for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Youth Services Update during COVID-19

- I. Chair Erin Kelly gave the update. Waypoint’s Youth Resource Center, located at 326 Lincoln Street, has limited hours during COVID-19. The YRC is open Tuesdays 12-5 and Thursdays 11-5. The YRC is open for youth ages 12-23 struggling with housing instability. Clients can access the space to get basic needs; food, hygiene products, survival needs and the clothing closet. Case management is happening remotely. Clients can use the computer lab by appointment to fill out unemployment, ensure they’re receiving their stimulus check, etc. The YRC is still accepting new clients during this time. The Transitional Living Program sites are still running. There are 11 youth throughout the sites in Manchester. If you are connected to youth who you want to refer for case management you can reach case managers here:
 - 12-17 years old – Ellie Huot (603)801-4103 HuotE@WaypointNH.org
 - 18-23 years old – Monique Michon (603) 494-1021 MichonM@WaypointNH.org
 - Youth Resource Center - (603) 518-4170
- II. Jocelyne Pinsonneault, Manchester School District Homeless Liaison, gave an update. The School District is doing a great job of distributing food to students throughout the city. School buses are distributing school meals to bus stops throughout the city on Monday-Wednesday-Friday. Southern New Hampshire Services is distributing food for families during the weekend on Fridays. The Governor will also be issuing a decision on April 17th as to whether or not schools throughout NH will reopen on May 4th or stay closed for the rest of the year.

Outreach services available during COVID-19

- I. Matt Bouchie gave the update. Most agencies are still outreaching and are doing a lot of collaboration. The main focus has been to distribute food and check to see if people are becoming symptomatic. Outreach teams have been collaborating with HealthCare for the Homeless. HCH has been sending out a nurse practitioner multiple times a week to evaluate individuals who are outside.
- II. The Salvation Army has been providing meals daily between 3:30-4:30. They have been providing outreach workers around 25 meals daily to distribute to individuals who are outside.
- III. The Railroad Police did a sweep last week and removed individuals from the railroad tracks.

- The CDC came out with a recommendation to not break up encampments. The city of Manchester is not encouraging camp sites. However, unless it's private property, city property or a severe safety concern, the idea is that during COVID-19, the site will not be broken up.
- IV. Kirsten Barton has a package of personal protective equipment (PPE) that she will be giving to Matt Bouchie to distribute to outreach workers. The state was divided into 8 regions for PPE to be distributed through. Each region will be receiving “kits”. Kits will contain items for distribution due to COVID-19 including but not limited to; food, PPE, etc. The kits are going to be given to Matt Bouchie for him to then distribute. Please reach out to Matt at BouchieM@mhcgm.org to receive PPE for outreach purposes.

Food Distribution Resource Guide during COVID-19

- I. The MCoC Leadership team wants to create a Food Distribution Resource Guide specifically for COVID-19 times. The UNH Cooperative Extension is a great start but is not completely representative of all the options out there for individuals/families to receive food.
- II. **If you know of any food distribution areas throughout the city, please send the information to Clerk Ellie Huot at HuotE@WaypointNH.org**

Open Floor

- I. The libraries in Manchester have free WiFi on the property. The library has relaxed their restrictions and now anyone can apply for a library card online. Use of this library card will allow the user access to free shows, e-books and much more. Staff are working remotely but there is a chat service available on the website for users to ask questions.
- II. Mandy from the Bureau of Housing Supports discussed ESG funding. For current funding, they are attempting to lift barriers to make accessing the money easier. For additional funding for ESG, the money has to be released by April 26th at the latest. The guidelines for funding will be more flexible than ever.

*Erin wants to apologize for the meeting ending abruptly. It was due to an organizational limit on the number of Zoom calls allowed at once.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 18, 2020

10:00 Meeting Concludes

Minutes Prepared By

Ellie Huot

Waypoint- Runaway and Homeless Youth Social Worker