

## General Assembly Meeting

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### **Date and Time**

Thursday, June 17, 2021, 9:00AM-10:00AM

### **Location**

Zoom Meeting

### **Attendees:**

Erin Kelly, Ellie Huot, Stephanie Savard, Matthew Bouchie, Bianca Beaudoin, Tyler Wands, Meghan Shea, Jocelyne Pinsonneault, Kristine Hall, Candace Cappio Gebhart, Robyn Malchanoff, Matthew Bouchie, Cindy Bringhurst, Denise Syrek, Keith Howard, Katie Tovar Paciulan, Christina Shepard, Elizabeth DiMaggio, Dee Santoso, Kendra Hickey, Jasmine Harris, Kelsey Sanborn, Andrea Reed, Mary Sliney, Kelly McKenney, Cindy Thomas, Sarah Urquhart, Todd Fleming, Lindsey Lussier, Larry Nice, Stacey Lazzar, Mackenzie Baney, Kristi Schott, Victoria Bagshaw, Julia Vieira, Nicole St. Hilaire, Samuel Dahlberg, Mary Chevalier, Marie Poole, Lorrinda Estabrook, Brian Mooney, Thomas Carter, Chertina Walker & Evan Shneider

### **9:00 Meeting begins**

#### **Emergency Housing Voucher Update**

The New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority and Manchester Housing and Refinance Authority were awarded Emergency Housing Vouchers to distribute to individuals/families throughout Manchester. Individuals/families interested in obtaining a voucher MUST be entered into Coordinated Entry in HMIS to be eligible for the voucher. There are 4 Coordinated Entry verifiers in Manchester to send completed applications and referral forms to.

Families – Encrypted emails to Kylie Grenier: [kgrenier@fitnh.org](mailto:kgrenier@fitnh.org)

Individuals over 25 – Encrypted emails to Megan Spencer: [spencerm@mhcgm.org](mailto:spencerm@mhcgm.org)

Individuals 18-24 – Encrypted emails to Monique Michon: [michonm@waypointnh.org](mailto:michonm@waypointnh.org)

DV/SA/Human Trafficking – Encrypted emails to Kendra Hickey: [kenddrah@ywcanh.org](mailto:kenddrah@ywcanh.org)

MHRA received 27 vouchers and NHHFA received 30 vouchers.

If your organization cannot enter into HMIS, please make a referral to the most appropriate community support that enters into HMIS. These vouchers will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. 211 will be providing information regarding the vouchers to individuals/families who are calling in and looking for housing support.

#### **The Way Home Merger**

Chair Erin Kelly introduced Marie Poole from Easter Seals to discuss their merger with The Way Home. The merger will become official on July 1, 2021. Easter Seals has been working with The Way Home to identify all of their programming as Easter Seals would like to increase their housing footprint.

#### **Job Corps Monthly Meeting**

Chair Erin Kelly discussed a new monthly meeting. A monthly meeting with stakeholders/providers and Job Corps staff will be starting some time in August. This will be an opportunity for providers in the community to collaborate with Job Corps staff around youth and young adults who are attempting to access services at Job Corps. Please reach out to Ellie at [HuotE@WaypointNH.org](mailto:HuotE@WaypointNH.org) if you're interested in attending these meetings.

#### **Director of Homelessness Initiatives Update**

General Assembly Member and Director of Homelessness Initiatives Schonna Greene gave an update of initiatives she's been working on since starting her position in April. Schonna has been working on a Request For Proposal to renovate buildings throughout the city. Schonna has been working to create a website and it will be going live soon. Schonna discussed the encampments that has been being removed from the city. Once a larger encampment is removed, the individuals living there will disperse throughout the city and it's become increasingly more difficult for outreach workers to locate individuals/clients. Schonna asked Chair Erin Kelly if there was an application process to become a member of the General Assembly. Chair Erin replied that there isn't an application process – individual can reach out to the chair via email if they're interested joining the General Assembly.

### **Federal Update**

General Assembly Member Madison Lightfoot of Senator Jeanne Shaheen's office gave an update on upcoming Federal changes. The American Rescue Plan was approved to bring \$1.5 Billion of Federal Funding to the State of New Hampshire. \$995 million will be distributed on the State level. The remainder of the funding will be allocated on a county level based on population. There will be webinars released to discuss how this funding can be utilized. Madison also reported that HUD is discussing changing their definition of homelessness to include couch surfing.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

- Outreach – They have meetings every 2 weeks to stay in contact. Individuals in encampments are scattering due to their sites being taken down. Meeting topics have been also focused on summer weather items – sunscreen, baby wipes, etc.
- Coordinated Entry – Megan Spencer has taken over as Chair since Mark Stokes left his position at FIT-NH. They looked at the Balance of State manual with a Manchester lens in order to keep continuity for individuals/families who are moving between CoCs. The subcommittee is attempting to bring more community partners into the Coordinated Entry list.
- Veteran's - The subcommittee is going through their by-name list in Manchester. Their intention was to declare a functional zero by June 30<sup>th</sup> but that will not be happening. There have been a lot of veterans recently identified as chronically homeless. The Veterans subcommittee will not be having their July meeting due to summer vacations.
- Community Care Team – They have been meeting monthly with low attendance, only 6-7 organizations for the past few meetings. The organizations who have been in attendance have been discussing what the barrier is for other organizations to attend. Chair Matt Bouchie will be sending out an email to see if a different meeting date/time works better.
- Youth – 4 initiatives in progress; a Youth Count survey for all young people aged 12-25 in Manchester, a Community Assessment that just had funding approved by NHCF, YHDP grant that is being applied for and better collaboration with Job Corps

### **Open Floor**

-Member at Large Todd Fleming gave an update on an RFP that would bring \$4.7 million into the city. \$2.7 million would be City Home Funds and the remaining \$2 million would be subject to meeting home regulations (permanent housing development, etc.) Please reach out to Todd Fleming at [tfleming@manchesternh.gov](mailto:tfleming@manchesternh.gov) with any questions about city funding through CIP.

-General Assembly Member Andrea Reed gave an update on programming available through Harbor Homes Inc. They have a new program called "Bees" that helps with employment. This program is broken down into two options: employment support and mental health support or just employment support. Their Grant Per Dieu (GPD) programs now offer mental health counseling through 45 High Street in Nashua, NH. as part of its required program. The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Grant Program (HVRP) can now accept clients in the VASH program housed by VA programs.

This would happen if they're housed and in need of employment as they have case management to help. The HVRP can take those in danger of losing their housing and SSVF clients.

-There will be a special meeting in July due to needing voting on HMIS vendor changes that cannot wait until the regularly scheduled August meeting.

**10:00 Meeting Concludes**

*Next Meeting: TBD July*

**Minutes Prepared By:  
Ellie Huot – Waypoint  
MCoC Clerk**