

## **MCoC Leadership Meeting**

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### **Date and Time**

Thursday, June 1, 2023, 9 AM – 10 AM

### **Location**

Zoom - <https://waypointnh-org.zoom.us/j/86065683661?pwd=Y3U0R24xMEDkRzI2T3ZCMm9yc2Jxdz09>

**Attendees:** Matthew McCall, Caitlin Cormier, Jen Bryden, Todd Fleming, Adrienne Beloin, Matt Bouchie, Peter Janelle, Lindsey Lussier, Katie Parent, Kadyja Harris, Lauren Berman-Lefebvre, Erica Brooks, Kris Hall

**Not in attendance:** Meg Shea, Katie Tovar Paciulan, Sarah Jones

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

#### **Topic 1: Follow Up on Action Plan**

Are there people we want to target directly to get into any of the particular workgroups? Are there people in our agencies that have experience and knowledge that would benefit these goals:

- CoC Monitoring System
- Housing Opportunities and shifting those
- Coordination with HealthCare System

Matt noted that we will want to make sure we can provide the information to the CoC and the general community to raise awareness of what we are doing. We want to include people with lived experience in the process. The question is, how do we bring in a variety of people to each group?

Adrienne would like to be involved in the data collection piece and bringing in the city perspective. This is a goal that she has, as well. She notes that we can present the information and spread awareness of how money is used and where it goes to the community so that individuals who make budget decisions/vote can have a better understanding of where the money is being used or where it is needed.

Jen noted that finding people is easy, but finding people who are interested and consistent in their involvement can be difficult. Matt noted that we might be able to make it so that people can be involved once, a couple of times to provide feedback, or consistently, depending on their ability to be involved.

#### **Topic 2: Merger Discussions with Nashua**

Wendy and Matt spoke about why merging Manchester and Nashua CoCs might be a good idea and what the benefits could be. As we cover some of the same counties and there is crossover between the CoCs, merging might make sense. It would also allow for expanding services to different areas. Wendy is planning to have a conversation with their leadership team about it, but no commitments have been



made. There have not been a lot of larger merger discussions in the past month, there will be continued TA involvement. Manchester is just observing currently, Nashua and BoS are the primary ones having the conversations about merging. There are mixed feelings in the Nashua CoC, but one or two board members are very interested in merging. The challenges that the CoC is having might be fueling some of that interest. There is no saying how this will play out, especially once funding and programming is discussed in depth.

### **Topic 3: Data and Equity TA Update**

The TA has asked the leaders to check in with the CoCs to set a few goals about what we are trying to achieve. Matt shared some of their ideas:

- Increase use of data to make informed decisions about programming and policies.
  - When we are doing NOFOs and looking at programs, are we using data?
- Provide better data to CoC members around outcomes and output.
- Provide better data to communities.
- Identify gaps in services and inequities through rigorous data review.

The people running the TA are data-driven, so they should be helpful in determining how we can better collect data to determine how we can provide equitable services. In looking at Manchester's data, the team is looking at what the data tells them and where there are gaps in what the data tells them. They looked at the data that has been collected for Manchester CoC, which is available on the HUD website. If you look at the MCoC versus the other two CoCs in the state, there's a difference in how our distribution looks. There is often a larger percentage of people of color in the poverty community and number of individuals experiencing homelessness, but Manchester's does not do that and it is interesting to consider why this trend is not showing in Manchester. Is it an issue with how data is being collected, or because the number of people is so small, or is there an issue with how we are providing services, etc. These are all thoughts that are being considered.

### **Topic 5: Leadership Terms**

Five people's terms on the Leadership Team are ending in October. We might want to look at having these terms change so we don't have five members-at-large, the Vice-Chair, and Clerk all ending at the same time. Caitlin noted that the other five members-at-large and Chair also expire at the same time, and they were set up this way because they are only two-year terms.

Matt checked in individually with everyone whose term is ending, and most people are considering running again. However, there will be one position where the individual is choosing not to run. If there is anyone who is in our organizations who would like to join the CoC Leadership team, keep that in mind.

### **Topic 4: City Update**

Adrienne discussed that there are several initiatives coming up.

Tuesday, June 6 there is a board meeting with the mayor where decisions on funding and initiatives will be made to finalize the mayor's budget. Adrienne will propose where funding will go for her budget, then they have to approve where the money goes. This has brought up a debate about whether some of the services that are being proposed are harmful or if unhoused individuals are benefiting from the services. Adrienne notes that some individuals see these support services as enabling, and she is working to combat this mindset.

Adrienne is proposing keeping the emergency shelter and expanding the property usage at Beech Street to build out the Engagement Center at that site to provide services to all individuals within the city who experience homelessness. There is a public comment session on Tuesday night at 7 PM that several people are going to go to and provide comments. Public comments happen first. Then, the budget proposals happen.

Jen asked how they determine "who deserves what" and that being a PLE, this is a frustrating concept. Adrienne noted that the services being proposed are not to help people get comfortable in homelessness, but in providing consistent and safe spaces for people to move forward.

Adrienne wants to provide some education to the board about the work that is being done at a later date.

Todd notes that once the CIP Budget is approved, planning will be working with ESG Subrecipients. We anticipate that funding from HUD will be available for reimbursement in August or September. The new fiscal year will begin 7/1/2023.

### **Topic 6: Subcommittee Updates**

Community Care Team – They did not meet in May; they are meeting Wednesday June 7 at DH Clinic in person. Three or four agencies have asked to join or re-join this meeting. They talk about some of the most vulnerable people in the area. They would like to get the attendance back up. Email Matt Bouchie to join: bouchiem@mhcg.org.

Homeless Outreach Collaborative – Peter noted that there is a monthly meeting. At their last meeting, they discussed what was happening with the Beech Street and YWCA shelters. Peter announced that the Mental Health Center applied to SAMHSA for a grant to continue their outreach effort; this would be effective with the fall and would coincide with the ending of the current funding. They also continued the discussion about the ending of the ERAP program on June 15. They are looking for alternatives because there are still 23 family units with minor children that are still occupied. There is great concern about what will happen with those folks.

Matt B noted that they met with outreach workers last week to discuss the trends being seen and concerns about places being cleared and how to find people as they are moving about. If the Beech Street and women's shelter are not continued, there was discussions about where people would go. The hope is that the funding continues. They also talked a little more about the BoS subcommittee is making on the standards for outreach workers. They are going through a document from San Diego that outlines what the hope is for these standards. Once it is done, they will bring it to the whole subcommittee to determine

if that is something that Manchester wants to do. This would involve certification for outreach workers to include trainings and requirements.

Coordinated Entry – Lindsey shared that on June 13 from 9 AM to 11 AM, they will have an in person training for Coordinated Entry training with ICA, Lauren, and Lindsey. The registration link is available for anyone who wants to sign up.

Veterans – Not available

Youth – Not available. We have not had an update in a while and should consider who will join the group.

Zero Suicide Homelessness Coalition – Kerri is not available today. Kerri will send out an invitation for people to join this subcommittee as well.

**Next Meeting:** July 6, 2023; 9 – 10 AM via Zoom

**9:42 am Meeting Concludes**

**Minutes Prepared By:**  
**Caitlin Cormier – Waypoint**  
**MCoC Clerk**