Concord Plan to End Homelessness
Meeting Notes
October 29, 2013

Committee Members Present: Patrick Tufts, Susan Howland, Cathy Kuhn, John Hoyt, Dan Andrus, Jackie Whatmough, Maggie Fogarty, Tim Sink, Jerry Madden, Jim Bouley, Maureen Ryan, Peter Evers, Bret Longgood, Val Guy, John Duval, Jerry Kingwill, David Frydman, Paul Rizzi

Others Present: Amy Lockwood (facilitator), Bill Davis, Jacob Wasag, Tom Fredenberg

Project Timeline

Patrick reviewed the updated project timeline. Over the month of November we will write the plan, including committee edits, and circulate it to the community for comments.

The committee will meet in early December to review and discuss a draft final plan.

The ultimate goal will be to present a plan to the City Council in January.

Summary of Work to Date

Maggie Fogarty presented a summary of work to date developed by NH Listens. The group discussed it. Observations included:

- The summary contains some inaccurate statistics because it reflects discussions that occurred (even with some inaccurate statistics raised in discussion). The report needs to clearly and simply quantify homelessness in Concord overall, in subgroups, etc. It needs to make clear distinctions between actual facts about homelessness and discussion content.
    - HMIS has come a long way in tracking accurate data in the last several years. Maureen Ryan can develop an accurate picture of Concord area homeless statistics.
- Age bands of homeless people are important for analysis of need, and because the public is interested in them.
- The report should contain visuals that assist people in understanding the situation easily.
- Riverbend staff raised the question about the link between addiction and homelessness, and the related costs of addressing this. This may be an area in which new resources will be available in the future.

- The question was raised about whether now is the time to connect with prison system officials about better managing ex-offenders as they are released. Jim McGonagle would be a helpful resources for finding the right Department of Corrections people.

Community Input

Susan Howland distributed a final summary of community input given via electronic surveys. Major findings will be in the report.

Housing First in Concord

Susan Howland, Cathy Kuhn and Maureen Ryan discussed housing first approaches in Concord. Families in Transition has a program that has many Housing First elements in it right now – it is scattered site. A key issue in developing Housing First solutions is identifying long term funding. Typically this includes a mix of:

- Section 8 rental subsidies for tenants
- CDBG
- Emergency Solutions Grants
- City/ local resources

In states where these efforts are successful, often state agencies that issue housing funds have created set-asides for Low Income Housing Tax Credits and other federal resources that allow these projects to take priority. Explaining the need for this type of policy change is an advocacy activity that Concord leaders could take on in the short term.

Strategies for the Plan

The group discussed strategies for the Plan to End Homelessness. A draft of the strategies identifies follows at the end of this document.

Other Notes for the Report

Committee members listed information they would like to have before deciding on final strategies for the plan:

- A sketch of a funding plan for each strategy to help assess feasibility of adopting them (would dollars be new or not new; hard or easy to get?)
- The report needs to note all the good work that is happening now

- The report needs to make clear how new strategies tie into the agencies and work that is happening now

Next Steps
- Maureen Ryan will use HMIS and PIT data for Concord homelessness over the last 3 years, including age bands and other demographic characteristics to the extent possible.
- Amy Lockwood will send a note to schedule the December meeting
- The Planning Team will schedule a public meeting to comment on the draft

- INSERT STRATEGIES HERE