

Meeting Begun: 11:32am

Agenda Approved: 11:35am

Minutes from Prior (November 13th, 2019) Meeting: Approved as written 11:36am

1. Members Present: Jodi Kelly, Will Eberle, Dawn Little, Ken Russell, Ericka Reil, Yvonne Byrd, Cameron Niedermayer, Rick DeAngelis, Morgan Brown via phone, Glen Hutcheson
 - a. Student Members: Alex Smart
 - b. Members of the Public: Betsey Parah, Sunni Leporati, Matthew Nunelley
2. Public Comments:
 - a. Sunny: Another Way Just got voted in as an assessment partner with the Continuum of Care
 - b. Betsey Parah- Bethany Church- Team met last week, and are monitoring staff is happy with how the shelter is being run, unsure what the Church's response would be if they were asked to increase capacity to 25 folks- will need to discuss with Good Sam.
3. Reviewing the Report and Presentation:
 - o Presentation:
 - The Power Point is just the same info in the report- not something additional- and is to guide the conversation of the HTF members
 - Dawn also has some additional short-term accomplishments:
 - Funding for transportation/etc. that were gained from direct effort from folks in this Committee and then the increased understanding
 - Glen- These were independent donations/ independently given because of the task force
 - Dawn discussed the HTF's charge and how this report addresses it
 - Dawn discussed second level gaps:
 - Like shelter/transportation/
 - Ericka-
 - Talking about accessible housing and ALSO affordable housing
 - o Rick: This is a preliminary report, and we've missed some big ticket items:
 - Inclusion in the City Plan- which is going on right now
 - Housing Trust Fund? How can we prioritize those who are homeless/special needs
 - Montpelier Housing Authority- Rental Assistance partnerships and requests
 - o Will: Rick's suggestions are really good- the City's plan is very important, and this will be an opportune time to address our involvement in it
 - o Discussion over budget ask:
 - Do we want to ask 10k for each year to support the shelter?
 - Do we want to include another ask for the upcoming budget fiscal year?
 - \$5k for two weeks operations
 - The HTF can plan to go to Council again Dec. 18th

4. Warming Spaces

- a. Dawn: The churches are NOT confined by the folks who are limited to Shelter residents
 - i. At locations who are being supplied food by Good Sam- those not at the shelter cannot share the food
 - ii. Warming stations should be open to everyone.
 - iii. It is up to the individual entities (churches) on who can get in, and if the food is donated from outside sources- the churches can decide who can be fed
- b. Dawn- Some folks are still not allowed in any of these spaces.
- c. Will- the funding for 211 has been restored, and should be back to 24/7 around December 1st.
 - i. Will- gap is still around the adverse weather transportation
 - 1. Ken- I think that's the conversation around raising private funds for taxi rides, etc.
 - a. Dawn- I've had these kinds of conversations
 - 2. Ken- Would this be a good thing to float to the Council?
 - ii. Ericka- it's hard to tell people they have to go to Capstone, but have no way to get there
- d. Transportation:
 - i. Jodi- what funds would we need to raise for a van/driver etc.?
 - ii. Dawn- this might be better or cost effective to provide taxis or gas money
 - 0. Jodi- I'm looking for how to donate to those initiatives?
 - iii. Glen- if we put transportation on the agenda for next week- we can look at linking it to other committees and how we can be helpful
- e. Morgan- what about looking into GMTA transportation resources? GMTA – I acknowledge that these are Medicaid specific service, but they do have drivers- maybe GMTA could ask if drivers can be made available at certain times to drive folks around who need to get to point a to b- that are homeless. We could see if they could make a contact person and have them 'play taxi' and reimburse them for gas? It is just a thought but it is a possibility- doesn't hurt to ask.
- f. Cameron- my request would be that this Committee go to the Board during budget request time to drill down on the HTF next FY request
- g. **Non-emergency & emergency health care needs (e.g. water, diabetes testing, Narcan)**
 - i. Ericka- what other street outreach groups around the state are doing is carrying Narcan around with them, and have safe diabetes areas (testing and storing insulin), getting rapid HIV and STD testing, along with getting pads, etc.
 - 1. Dawn- HIV testing is available
 - a. Does Another Way provide feminine toiletries? (Sunni is unaware)
 - b. Trinity Food Pantry also provides toiletries
 - c. Who did the most recent Narcan training? We should look into this to see if it is an ongoing offering?
 - 2. Ericka- We do need to store medication (insulin has to be temperature controlled)
 - ii. Glen- how are other places doing this (storing medication etc.)?

1. Ericka- in Bennington, there is a Peer support group that offers has a 24/7 refrigerator
- iii. Will- District office of health director Joan Marie Misek can coordinate training regarding Narcan
- iv. Ericka- condoms etc. are also needed as people are also coupling together for warmth in this weather
- v. Glen- Do we support Another Way on this effort?
 1. Sunni- Another Way does have condoms in the bathroom, and all staff are trained on Narcan
- vi. Will- I think that emergency services would be really interested in expanding the syringe exchange in Barre to this area?
- vii. Will- Capstone has an 'essential items' closet for toiletries etc. Is this something we can tap into?
- viii. Morgan- this gets back to transportation- because people can't drive to get these locations to get the supplies
- ix. Alex Smart- There is a club at her school that could raise support and can get supplies- specifically feminine products
- x. Ken- Medical storage? Can we talk to the Fire Department?
 1. Cameron- we can ask? The biggest issue is that they are not always there and their schedule doesn't allow them to be open to the public all the time.
- xi. Yvonne- what if we talk to the pharmacies to hold on to the medicine?
 1. Ericka- this could work for some but not all medicine
- xii. Jodi- Could the PD set up a small fridge in the lobby?
 1. Cameron will follow up and ask.
- xiii. Morgan- would we be able to ask the warming shelters to store medicine for folks who are not staying there.
 1. Rick- I think we could handle toiletries but not medicine
 2. Dawn- I would be worried about those who are banned and how this would play out

1. Donations/ Funding

- a. Will is talking to DownStreet about funding and managing independent donations for this committee- they will be following up on this this week
- b. Yvonne was also looking into this for the City to manage these specific donations
 - i. We hypothetically could do this- would need very clear policies about what the money could and could NOT be used for
 - ii. Clear policy on eligibility for receiving funds etc.
 - iii. This would also be tax eligible
 - iv. Yvonne would be willing to administer this through her department
 - v. Yvonne- Whoever administers it (this taskforce should develop the guidelines and clear directions on what happen)
- c. Yvonne- no matter who sets it up- this taskforce has to make the rules
- d. Rick- I have a huge concerns with this- This would be in direct conflict with local agencies who also collect donations for homelessness outreach

- i. Dawn- I think we've run into issues with folks wanting to just donate a sleeping bag, etc.
 - ii. Yvonne- Are the things we would be looking for funds for duplicative?
 - iii. Dawn- I see that raising money for transportation etc.
 - iv. Cameron- I don't see us running any appeals for fundraising
 - v. Jodi- I don't want this to be our intention- just immediate needs
- e. Rick- (Do they take direct donations)? We do have bus vouchers etc., but I want to make sure and cognizant to not compete. I'll think about policies
 - i. Jodi- I was thinking that we could do fundraisers for things like expanding shelter services if we don't get money from the City
 - ii. Glen- I think that's a great idea- we can coordinate and donate to Good Sam- that this could be a partnership. We can be the channeling organization
- . Dawn- There needs to be transparency about who does what? And what services and options there are for specific things. Good Sam should get money for what they do- and we need to be upfront about the gaps
- a. Morgan- I don't see it as competition- I think that funds can be donated for services that Good Sam doesn't provide- and there needs to be a way to give money to fill the gaps that this task force has identified. I don't agree about giving money to Good Sam if we raise funds for other things- Good Sam doesn't serve everyone
- . Ken- we have to protect existing institutions- but our HTF goals are trying to identify and fill gaps. But we have to be thoughtful and exacting with our protocols
- a. Yvonne- what our next steps would be?
 - i. Ken- Looking at policies / mechanics. Benchmarking against other agencies?
 - ii. Dawn- Look at the gaps- what are the existing agencies able to expand into the gaps and then work with them to do that or fund the gaps if not.
 - 1. We do not want to extend undue control, but we do want to make sure money is spent specifically to fill gaps

2. Reschedule of lunch for service providers for obtaining accurate count of people who are homeless

- a. Nov. 26th, Noon-2pm at the Garage

9. Lockers Update

- a. \$750 grants- for doing good in the community
 - i. Ken will be the applier
 - ii. Cameron will draft a version this week
- b. Cameron is going to pull permits for installing lockers in the back of the building, to serve as an option
- c. Yvonne- Can we use the City's bus stop as a location, in the event that the buses use the transportation center?
 - i. Cameron can ask Planning if this is an option
 - ii. Morgan: should the bus stop no longer be needed- we need to explore this option
 - 1. If need be- in the meantime, could we install another bus stop?

Adjournment: 1:01pm