

Homelessness Task Force Meeting Notes
Wednesday, October 30, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Council Chambers, City Hall, Montpelier

Notes:

Present: Glen (Council) Yvonne, Dawn Little, Ericka Rell, Jodi Kelly, Will Eberly, Cameron Niedermayer, Ken Russell, Zach

Community Members: Rick DeAngelis, Matthew Nunelley, Morgan Brown, Sunny Leporati (Another Way) Betsy Parrah (Bethany Church)

11:37 Public Comments:

- Rick- Shelter will be opening November 1st.
- Sunny- Another Way will be extending hours
 - Mon- Thursday 1-5
 - Friday-Sunday through 8:30pm
- Rick: the state has released a report on Housing Opportunity-Program (HOP) which is very relevant.

Last Week's Minutes: Approved 11:39am

Updates:

- Ken wanted to discuss his trip to California and the experiences of those experiencing homelessness in CA
 - 9th circuit decision- Ken discussed that the 9th circuit court of appeals- overturned Boise's decision to ban public camping on public land if there is not sufficient shelter space. This is currently with the Supreme Court. This only covers the western part of the County at this time.

Dawn:

- a. Some of the Coordinated Entry list had expired releases (Capstone) so she was unable to overlap lists- narrows her focus a bit
 - i. Will discussed a work-around by creating other unique identifiers?
 1. There is a discussion around HIPPA information and how we can get around sharing information to make sure we can accurately track folks
 - ii. Jodi has offered a space to hold a meeting between different agencies and lunch to check in on the numbers of homeless folks. Yvonne is willing to facilitate this meeting. If there is a meeting to track and count folks.
 1. Dawn discussed how hard it is to track folks through their street name?
 2. Will offered to bring in homeless folks?

- b. Will- Says that the Coordinated Entry team estimates about 100 (on the list) of folks experiencing homelessness in the County
 - i. Will estimates between 200-300 individuals experiencing homelessness that are maybe not captured on their Coordinated Entry list
 - ii. Another Way is also looking at who is not being served by the Coordinated Entry
 - 1. Dawn would like to meet to discuss with Another Way
- c. Glen- it would be great to have a precise number, but it's more important to have a general sense, if we need to push for expanded services- we need to know how much we have to expand it.
 - i. 43-55 people range
- d. Morgan: Wanted to consider hosting a lunch for homeless folks as well as the agencies
 - i. Ericka- I think this is a good idea- attacking the issue from multiple angles
- e. Yvonne- So I'm hearing, have a lunch with agencies- cross reference the lists between the agencies (to get an accurate count of those experiencing homelessness in Montpelier).
Potential invite list:
 - i. Sgt Basset from the Burlington PD
 - ii. Dawn Little
 - iii. Toni Grout- Capstone
 - iv. Meal Sites- (regular representatives)
 - v. Shelter Mangers
 - 1. Another Way
 - vi. Montpelier PD
 - vii. Washington County Mental Health
 - viii. Library- Carolyn?
 - ix. Pathways Vermont
 - x. Joanne from Montpelier
 - xi. Will can send the invitation once the date/time
- i. Thinking that we can get this in in the next 2-3weeks
- f. Presentation to Council
 - i. Discussion re: timing and budget requests

- Discussion around Housing needs:
 1. Rental Units not the issue- issues about suitability for housing
 - a. Credit/Evictions/Jobs/etc.
 - b. Not just the units, but the money and capital available

Inventory for Warming Spaces:

Sunny: Warming Stations that are opening:

- Mon- Christ Church Mont
- Tues: Trinity
- Wed: St. Aug
- Thursday Unitarian
- Friday- Another Way provides meal
- Wednesday- Another Way Breakfast

Ericka: I can see that there is a gap for children

- Rick Good Sam does not host Children

Will: Will create a calendar out of this schedule Ericka provided.

Dawn- a lot of the gaps are those that cannot use the warming shelters or Good Sam. There is a huge difference in who will be served.

Storage for Individual Supplies (LOCKERS):

- Finding Supplies and getting those lockers
 - Storage: Jodi- What about that back area in the back of Christ Church?
 - Dawn- who would make that choice?
- Glen- we could put it in the Police Station?
- City Hall?
- Another Way?
 - Banned folks coming onto the property?
 - Sunny will check
 - We could look at adding lockers- we can look at adding these.
- Morgan- wanted to make sure that the lockers are in a central place for those who are not able to get to Another Way

- Ken- As an ask of the interfaith alliance and the business community
 - Maybe asking Abuchon to donate locks?
- **NEXT STEPS:**
 - **Report Draft**
 - **Ken/Will/Dawn Will start compiling**
 - **Prospective Funders**
 - **The Community forum??**
 - **Ask for money**
 - **Locker situation**
 - **Get pictures and dimensions**