





Fidelity Committee

of the

Tri-City Joint Mayors' Task Force on Homelessness
Community Action Partnership of Strafford County
577 Central Avenue, Suite 10, Dover NH 03820
December 12, 2019
6:00 PM

MAYORS

Mayor Caroline McCarley Mayor Karen Weston Mayor Dana Hilliard

Rochester Members
Jeremy Hutchinson
(Chairman)

Dover Members Charles Reynolds Todd Marsh (Vice Chair)

Barbara Holstein

Betsey Andrews Parker

Dina Gagnon

Workshop Meeting Summary

Members Absent:

- Jeremy Hutchinson
- Dina Gagnon

Introduction:

- Vice Chairperson Marsh reviewed the history and purpose of the Fidelity committee, including its charge to make recommendations based on the approved Master Plan.
- Vice Chairperson Marsh reported the following: The City of Rochester has developed an "Inclement Weather Special Event Permit" which will provide greater flexibility for property owners to use a structure, whose primary use is for something other than sheltering activities, for warming center services, for a limited number of persons while the permit is valid. The structure will be inspected by the Rochester Fire Chief or his/her designee, who will also determine number of occupants allowable. Permits can be applied for as early as tomorrow. The permit has been provided to the Cities of Dover and Somersworth for their review and consideration for use to assist their residents as well. This important and potentially lifesaving action as developed is a flexible response and works within the legal restrictions of the law. The challenges of unaffordable housing, substance misuse, and other life difficulties still exist, but this is an action that likely would not have been taken without public awareness and leadership from the Tri-City Mayors. More detailed information regarding the permit process can be obtained through the Rochester City Manager's office.

Small Group Work: Identify what is currently happening and identify where gaps exist. Determine next steps/recommendations

• The Fidelity Committee, with input from the public present, reviewed the Master Plan and identified potential formal recommendations. The committee discussed the importance of short term more urgent goals and recommendations, including emergency housing and longer term goals and recommendations. (See Addendum A: Master Plan worksheet submitted by Betsey Andrew Parker). There was no formal vote taken at this workshop on recommendations; to be discussed at the next Fidelity Committee meeting.

Next Regular Fidelity Committee Meeting <u>Thursday January 16th, 2020 Somersworth Middle School, Media Center Room.</u>

Adjournment

Adjournment at 8:06PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Givara on behalf of Todd Marsh, Vice Chair and Betsey Andrews Parker, Dover member

ADDENDUM A Fidelity CommitteeDec. 12, 2019 Pages 3 - 23

Strategy #1 – Create Seasonal Cold Weather Shelter

Narrative: Temporary seasonal winter shelters are a starting point to transition the homeless to permanent shelters with additional resources, transitional housing, and then finally to permanent housing. Emergency shelters provide individuals, families, and youth with a safe place to stay in the winter months, allow social service agencies time to connect individuals with services, meet municipality's legal obligations and create long term strategies for permanent housing placement.

municipality's legal obligations and create long term strategies for permanent housing placement.				
Recommended Actions	Tentative	Challenge to	Success	
	Starting	Implementation	Measurement*	
	Implementation			
	Timeline*			
Clarify a warming center verses shelter	Immediate Recommend definitions	 Unified definition Clarify what it means to each municipality 	 Formal communication to area agencies, government leaders, media Seeking documentation from community of their warming center v shelter definitions. Recommended the following definition of warming center: facility open set times provides place for people to sit, have warm/cold drink, charge phone, hygiene services open on a regular basis and be open overnight when a temperature triggers opening. Recommend the following 	
			definition for a shelter place to sleep, hygiene, basic services.	
Communicate strategy to opening warming centers	Immediate	Each municipality may have different strategy	Formal communication to area agencies, government leaders, media	

				Recommend: dedicated page on city websites, social media, establish in advance to help navigate.
3.	Determine the climate/weather/conditions required to open warming centers and temporary emergency winter shelters	Immediate	Not a consistent threshold or agreement across municipalities	 Agreement on the climate/weather/conditions to open Cities open warming shelters. Mutual aid emergency shelter at County. Seek clarification from communities for triggers to open warming centers. Recommended trigger 32 degrees or other extreme weather circumstances. Recommend keep the warming centers open 24 hours during the weather emergencies; leverage volunteers.
4.	Fund seasonal winter shelters	FY 20 budget adoption Not complete	 Limited funding Multiple requests from various agencies, including existing shelters Resource reallocation Site control/zoning funding experienced operator community support/volunteers limited space Not enough time to make operational until winter 2019 	 Additional funding allocated to seasonal winter shelter 100 additional bed capacity available during the winter for shelter Barriers to zoning addressed before Winter 2019/2020 Permit process established for temporary emergency shelters at city level. Two cities looking at city owned properties for shelter options Dover and Rochester budgeted \$20k for emergency shelter. Further clarification needed on what this pays for and who it will pay.

		Additional funding without reducing funding to existing moderate and lower barrier shelters.	 Determine the capacity for center v shelters. Recommend all communities fund to support winter shelter activities. 	
Challenges being addressed				
Limited bed space at established	shelters			
Need for safe, cold weather shel	Need for safe, cold weather shelter with low barrier for entry			
Creating a diversion from sleepi	ng in the street, City-owned	l land, and other places not meant for human habitation		
Possible Collaborating Entities		Possible Funding Sources		
Municipal EMD, Inspection Services, Planning boards		Municipal		
and city councils				
Social service agencies		County		
Faith based		Foundation		
		Donations		
		Grants		

Narrative: Increase the availability and accessibility of both affordable, safe/stable and homeless housing through a combination of land use policy changes and subsidies for permanent and transitional housing development.

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Recommended Actions	Tentative	Challenge to	Success	
by	Starting	Implementation	Measurement*	
Priority	Implementation Timeline*			
Commit to review barriers and opportunities in zoning and planning	Summer/Fall 2019	 Existing ordinances Community perception Legal restrictions/ requirements Green space vs housing space 	DensityParkingMulti-use	
2. Conduct Regional Planning	Spring/Summer 2019	 Single municipal approach vs a collaborative communication Tri City approach Need to engage planning, welfare and conservation Securing joint municipal funding for agreed housing initiatives 	 Ongoing agenda item on municipal agenda Engage SRPC Engage workforce housing coalition Survey community perceptions and invite input Annual Joint board meetings of board related to land-use Consideration of access to green space (health) and hazard resilience (safety) in design of affordable housing 	
3. Make an investment in Affordable Housing	• Spring 2019 (Timeline can be lengthy so not	 Engage landlords and developers Coordinate funding for a coordinated system Partner with Greater Seacoast Coalition to 	 Leverage municipal funds to leverage new funds (i.e. site prep work, etc?) Municipalities successfully implementing property tax credit program New units available 	

	immediately	End Homelessness to	
	addressed	adapt and implement	
		possible property tax	
		credit program designed	
		to incentivize landlords	
		to keep units under	
		market rate, accept	
		tenants holding Housing	
		Choice Vouchers, and/or	
		work with local shelters	
		to move those	
		experiencing	
		homelessness into	
		permanent housing	
4. Analyze	Spring 2020	 Private developers 	 Density bonuses for including affordable units in
opportunities for		need incentives to	multi-unit housing developments
mixed income		include affordable	 Tax credit incentives for including affordable
affordable housing		housing	units in multi-unit housing developments
		 NIMBY concerns 	Affordable unit percentage requirements for
		from public	multi-unit housing developments

Challenges being addressed:

Lack of affordable housing contributes to homelessness across all walks of life and reduces ability to escape poverty and homelessness. Lack of affordable housing limits options for an aging population, leading some into eviction or foreclosure, and it also prevents younger residents from staying in New Hampshire or moving here.

Affordable housing is both a solution to existing homelessness and a form of prevention to avoid those at risk of homelessness losing their housing.

In addition, we need to be prepared for the future, thinking about climate change and hazard resilience. We need to be sure that we're not looking to build affordable housing in marginal lands that are going to be at most risk for extreme events in the future. We also need to be looking at where existing housing is and whether or not our lowest income communities are already vulnerable in their current states.

Possible Collaborating Entities	Possible Funding Sources
Workforce Housing Coalition	HUD/other federal grants
SRPC	State and/or local CDBG funds
Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission	Municipal funds
Planning Boards	Private foundation funds (may require non-profit partner as applicant)
NH Department of Health and Human	
Services, Bureau of Elderly and Adult	
Services and the NH State Plan on Aging	
Planning Committee	
Community Development staff	
The Housing Partnership	
Community Action Partnership of Strafford	
County	
Homeless Coalition of the Greater Seacoast	
NH Listens / Rochester Listens	

Strategy #3- Increase Homeless Prevention, Rapid Rehousing, and Supportive Housing Programs

Narrative: Helping households maintain their housing is less costly and more effective than helping households obtain housing after they become homeless. Reducing homelessness requires effective strategies to decrease the number of families and individuals who lose their housing and become homeless.

Recommended Actions by Priority	Tentative Starting Implementation Timeline*	Challenge to Implementation	Success Measurement*
Prevent evictions by expanding short-term rental assistance for person(s) on a fixed income	Immediate Completed	Funding reduction	 Reduced # of evictions Nonprofit outreach to landlords and clients Rapid Rehousing \$ pending with NOFA award for increase in funding via CAPSC Additional funding in state budget for prevention, eviction and youth homeless prevention. RFP will come from State of NH. Municipalities endorsed and have capacity to assist with eviction/prevention (rent, security deposit). Non-profits partner with cities to assist with Client Training Landlord training Financial support Case Management SEE THE GRID
2. Endorse and promote landlord education for eviction prevention	Immediate/ongoing Ongoing but completed	Assists landlords with identifying red flags earlier	 Earlier interventions to reduce evictions Landlords feel supported, empowered and confident

		Provides landlords with information on available resources	 Home for All- quarterly meetings, landlord education, programs for landlord incentives, ask Paige for detail. Recommendation to assist with promotion of these efforts to educate about services. Recommend sending education with tax bills, water bills. Recommend promoting resources on Public Access TV.
3. Support a centralized navigation to assistance eviction prevention system for both landlords and at risk tenants	Summer 2019	Provides landlords and atrisk tenants a clear way to access supports and services to prevent evictions	 Access to centralized system Reduced number of evictions Recognition of willingness to address this and technology is not clear on how to do Recommendation similar resource to landlords that Portsmouth offers which is to call Welfare if client behind in rent. Recommend to direct landlords to 211, welfare and CAP identify existing resource as the central point of contact for landlords to contact if behind in rent, utilities, etc.
4. Provide a long-term case managed rental subsidy program for individuals on a path to gainful employment		 Willing landlords Tight housing market/low vacancy Clients with bad referrals 	 Expand the residential utility assistance and security deposit programs to cover individuals and families that fall into the gap for services. Reduced evictions Increased # of landlord participation
5. Expand an array of homeless prevention services for homeless families		FundingIndividual family circumstances	 Reduced # people in shelters Reduced number of people in precarious housing situations (tents/cars/ couch surfing)

6. Promote criminal record clearing clinic and expungements to reduce barriers for housing		 Costs to clear records Qualified attorneys Funding or pro bono 	 # of records cleared # of housing obtained # jobs obtained
7. Financial record clearing		Costs to clear recordsQualified attorneysFunding or pro bono	 # of records cleared # of housing obtained # jobs obtained
8. Municipal review of City staff involvement in eviction proceedings		Municipal code challenges	Reduced evictions
9. Increased awareness of and access to legal aid for low income families		Costs to increase awarenessQualified attorneys	Reduced evictions
10. Weatherization of rental units and affordable housing to decrease energy costs		Costs of weatherization	 Utility cost saving Reduced displacement due to housing condition
11. Support local welfare, including local access, case management and flexible decision making to reduce eviction and homelessness	Immediate	 Municipal officials understanding of local welfare laws, including humanitarian purpose Potential initial increased costs 	 Reduced evictions Maximum self sufficiency Local and operation hours accessibility resulting in maximum emergency prevention and minimum transportation challenges to local welfare services, including homeless emergencies

Challenges being addressed					
Stabilize households prior	r to them becoming ho	omeless			
Promote individuals in be	coming self-sufficient	t			
Reduce evictions for those	e unable to sustain a r	ent increase			
Landlords do not have res	sources to assist tenan	ts who might be in challenging situa	ations (i.e. starting to get behind in rent),		
educational resources mig	th help with warning	signs, red flags where landlord migl	ht encourage tenant to contact social services (i.e.		
one month rent is easier to	support than dealing	with three months back rent and/or	eviction).		
Possible Collaborating En	ntities	Possible Funding Sources			
Workforce Housing Coalition					
Developers	Developers				
New Hampshire Legal Assistance (Housing					
Justice Program)					
Seacoast Landlord Associ	Seacoast Landlord Association				
Gift of Warmth					

Strategy #4-Support Access to transportation

Narrative: Providing transportation services to the homeless population, and to those at risk of becoming homeless, is critical for access to healthcare, supportive services and employment.				
Recommended Actions by Priority	Tentative Starting Implementation Timeline*	Challenge to Implementation	Success Measurement*	
Create database of current providers of transportation to the homeless population and those at risk of homelessness to identify and resolve gaps and overlap in service	July 2019	 Identifying all potential providers and their types & times of service Funding to develop and maintain database Identifying gaps in service (time & type) that "need" to be filled Funding to pay for services that will cover the gaps 	 Completed database of providers Identification of gaps and overlap Expanded coverage for identified gaps Elimination of redundant services 	
Create database of current vehicles and support infrastructure that is available for transport of homeless populations.	July 2019	 Identifying all potential vehicles and their availability for use Liability of use 	 Complete database of available fleet Complete database of user infrastructure such us bus stops, sidewalks, etc. 	
Connect the homeless to available programs such (e.g. Medicaid, VA, etc.) for access to qualifying transportation services	Immediate	 Identifying eligible users Gathering and processing required info to achieve user eligibility Identifying programs that provide transport service specific/certain populations 	Increased # of individuals connected to federal and state programs that can offer transportation services to those individuals.	
Create database of current providers of transportation to the homeless population	July 2019	• Identifying all potential providers and their types & times of service	Completed database of providersIdentification of gaps and overlap	

and those at risk of homelessness to identify and resolve gaps and overlap in service		 Funding to develop and maintain database Identifying gaps in service (time & type) that need to be filled Funding to pay for services that will cover the gaps 	 Expanded coverage for identified gaps Elimination of redundant services
Identify impediments (liability, funding, etc.) to the development of transportation services to the homeless and develop solutions	Summer 2019	 Gathering all relevant info from providers re restrictions/ limitations of service Limitations of existing funding 	Reduced impact from identified impediments
Identify funding mechanisms that can support ongoing, and increased, service to homeless.	Summer 2019	 Time to research funding mechanisms Ability/time to seek/prepare requests for funding 	 Database of existing funding sources Identification of potential funding sources Identification of opportunities to leverage funds
Identify and modify land use practices that result in impediments to transportation to the homeless.	Ongoing	 Time to identify and evaluate local, county and state actions for their potential hindrance Time to identify and evaluate local, county and state actions for their potential hindrance 	 Municipal actions (infrastructure, zoning, etc.) support reduction of identified impediments. Increase in engagement by private sector re support of transportation to homeless population.
Challenges being addressed Costs of services			
Financial support			
Coordination of services	lie and private that	t hinder access to transportation	
Land use practices, both pub	ne and private, that	i innuci access to transportation	

Availability of transportation 24/7/365				
Reaching homeless population to determine eligibility for services				
Governmental and private sector actions that f	Governmental and private sector actions that fail to promote access to transportation services			
Possible Collaborating Entities	Possible Funding Sources			
COAST	Federal Transportation Programs			
Municipalities	Municipalities Federal Transportation Programs			
County				
Strafford Regional Planning Commission				
VA				
DHHS/CTS DHHS/CTS				
NHDOT				
Homeless Shelters				

Strategy #5-Enhance access to quality healthcare, mental health and education

Na	Narrative: Collaborate with community agencies to improve the health and safety of the homeless.				
	ecommended Actions	Tentative	Challenge to	hallenge to Success	
by Pr	riority	Starting Implementation Timeline*	Implementation	Measurement*	
1.	Participate in Community Care Team (CCT) meetings to coordinate services among providers	ongoing	Resource allocation of staff time	 Increased # of participants at CCT Reduced homelessness 	
2.	Connect the homeless to Medicare/Medicare, Social Security, Disability benefits, Affordable Care Act	Ongoing	 Access to paperwork required for program certification Transportation to appointments Access to computers/printers/photocopiers 	 # individuals connected to services Reduce homelessness 	
	Work with social service providers to reduce barriers to healthcare, mental health and education services, including but not limited to re-zoning for service delivery, reduced rent/free space in unused municipal buildings, etc.	Spring 2019	 Zoning requirements differ in each city Services to be provided Support from leadership and community 	 Increase # of providers offering community-based services in partner locations Reduced homelessness 	
4.	Assist homeless with access to vital records, including providing a fee waiver for verified	Immediate	 Access to computers/printers/photocopiers Resource of time to help clients with accessing records 	 # agencies and welfare offering access to internet, copiers, etc. Eliminating fees for vital record for homeless and low-income residents 	

	financial hardship housing situations		 Wait time on phone with state and federal agencies Clients must connect with a approved provider to verify hardship and need for fee waiver 	•	Shortened length of homelessness Homeless prevention
5.	Implement Cloud Based Systems to access vital records	July 2019	 Transportation to municipal offices/DMV IT infrastructure at each city Each municipality may not have capacity to implement Budget 	•	Clients can access records offsite
6.	Case managers at social service agencies	July 2019	 Workforce shortage Funding does not allow for case management Not enough funding/need to braid funding for positions 	•	Increase case managers in Tri City area Maximum self sufficiency Homeless prevention Shortened length of homelessness
7.	Increase access to affordable and quality food resources for health benefits	ongoing	 Cost of fresh food Storage options Ability to heat/cook fresh food Food deserts, etc 	•	Development of partnership with Seacoast Eat Local, food pantries, and other related orgs.
8.	Increase awareness and use of free and reduced lunch options for public school students (all three cities are experiencing high rates of unpaid lunch balances and lower	Fall 2019	 Awareness of sign ups Confusion over forms Stigma of sign up 	•	Track unpaid school lunch accounts and numbers signed up for free and reduced lunches (reduction in unpaid expected, initial increase, then hopefully decrease in free/reduced sign ups).

than past sign ups for			
than past sign ups for			
free/reduced lunch) 9. Assist homeless community members and advocates with camp clean up Challenges being addressed	Immediate March 2019	 Stigma Zoning ordinances Sharps containers Access to camps Where to place garbage 	 Agencies/advocates permitted to use waste facilities for disposal Medical waste disposal secured Agencies/Advocates not penalized for helping homeless camp sites
• Educate and inform all in	ndividuals and fami	lies of services	
• Increase access to service	es in the communit	y where people reside to eliminate trans	sportation barriers
• Increased collaboration a			-
• Eliminate barrier of cost	for vital records		
Possible Collaborating Entit	Possible Collaborating Entities Possible Funding Sources		
		Municipal funding- CIP for infrastruc	ture improvements
Frisbie Memorial Hospital		Federal grants	
Greater Seacoast Community Health Center			
(formally Avis Goodwin and Families First)			
	Community Partners		
Seacoast Mental Health			
	NH Department of Health and Human		
Services District Offices			
Seacoast Eat Local			
Relief Parenting			
(https://www.reliefparenting.com/)			
New Hampshire Women's F	Foundation		

Strategy #6- Support efforts to decrease Substance Use Disorder and increase prevention

Narrative:	Narrative:			
Recommended Actions by Priority	Tentative Starting Implementation Timeline*	Challenge to Implementation	Success Measurement*	
Develop respite and recovery housing	Immediate	 Lack of access to respite care Overcome capital funding needs to create short term respite care Code enforcement and zoning barriers 	 Increasing percentage of individuals with SUD and mental health issues with access to respite care Longer sustained recovery rates Reduced hospitalization and reduced incarceration rates 	
2. Create LEAD (Law Enforcement Assistance Diversion) programs in each community	July 2019	Personnel ResourcesFundingPolicies and Procedures	 Decrease number of individuals sentenced Increase number of individuals diverted to treatment Clarify cost of SUD to municipalities 	
3. Reduce barriers that prohibit development/ placement of substance use services/recovery	July 2019	 Define data so they are consistent across municipalities Data to be collected Define how this data will be used 	 Increase treatment, recovery housing and respite recovery center beds by a minimum of 25 Increase homeless transitional housing beds by a minimum of 100 Increase agencies providing day out services for recovery 	

4. Enhance recovery- friendly workplace initiative	Immediate	 Lack of job training programs for trades Lack of use of current vocational schools Ban the box Reduce stigma Increase employer education Increase employee Education 	 Increase in employed individuals struggling SUD Increase in training programs Increase workplace cultures with reduced stigma
5. Municipalities are "Recovery Friendly Workplaces"	Fall 2019	"Ban the box" initiative- will this conflict with insurance carriers	Recovery Friendly Workplace designation (partnership with local Chambers of Commerce)
6. Partner with Wentworth-Douglass as the regional funded HUB for single point of entry into SUD treatment system	Immediate	 Development of increased spokes Development of stronger spokes 	 Increased access to recovery and healthcare services Increased communication between service providers
7. Support access to affordable health care	Immediate	 Is the City providing these services to model good practice? Transportation Cost of insurance/ medication Qualified providers 	 More individuals accessing medical care in non- Emergency Room settings More individuals accessing mental health care and treatment Reduced costs to hospitals and municipalities
8Assist with funding "spoke" services that will ultimately serve		Funding	

those entering the HUB		Lack of effective co- occurring disorders services		
9. Community Action awareness day	July 2019	Define what services are promoted	Information on services promoted in the community	
		Perception of community	Education about SUD widely available	
			Reduction in NIMBY	
Challenges being address	ed			
The lack of transitional or	respite housing mea	ans that individuals are coming ou	at of detox, out of incarceration without proper	
supports to maintain recov	supports to maintain recovery and get themselves into a stable situation.			
There are not sufficient SUD treatment providers; we need to promote area provider services- use the Pro Business Model for SUD				
Cost of municipal expenses needs to be visible so that it becomes clear that providing housing and recovery services is a net decrease				
in expenditures for municipalities in the longer-term.				
Possible Collaborating En	ntities	Possible Funding Sources		
Municipalities		CSBG		
Police Departments	•			
Chambers of Commerce (recovery friendly DEA		DEA		
workplaces, ban the box, etc)				
		City Budget Line Item		

Strategy #7- Engaging the Community to End Homelessness

Narrative: Individuals within the communities can become more engaged and help (year round not just holidays). Things like mentorship, job opportunities, big brother/big sister, etc, CAP grow an extra row, volunteering, donating items, helping with camp clean-ups, etc. A strategy like this can also help to break down the walls of "us" and "them" and help communities prepare to understand why ordinance changes might be needed, etc.

D				
Recommended Actions		Challenge to	Success	
by	Starting	Implementation	Measurement*	
Priority	Implementation			
	Timeline*			
1. Appointment of a	Immediate	 Continuing 	An ongoing and engaged task force that informs	
small board to		involvement	municipalities on progress, and promotes continued	
continue meeting		community	accountability	
quarterly to review		volunteers		
progress jointly with				
city planners (or				
who ever is				
appointed lead for				
this for each city) –				
see Manchester plan				
for model of how				
steering committee				
set up (others too).				
2. Community	Immediate/Ongoing	Coordinating an	An engaged citizenry	
outreach campaigns		outreach campaign		
(i/e through NH		• Identifying leadership to		
Listens, etc) –		carry it out		
around				
homelessness/				

affordable housing,				
etc				
3. Create mechanisms for community education and input	Immediately	 Time Resources Childcare for meetings Identifying leadership Transportation 	Forum conducted (public input for plan) Listening sessions / community engagement forums though NH Listens, etc to begin to reduce the stigma	
Challenges being address	sed			
Reducing NIMBY				
Generates support for mu	inicipal involvement/f	unding at the tax payer level		
Creates a stronger sense of community				
Possible Collaborating Entities		Possible Funding Sources		
Greater Seacoast Coalition to End		United Ways		
Homelessness		NH Charitable Foundation		
Workforce Housing Coal	Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater		Municipalities	
Seacoast		Leveraged support from partners		
Local planning departments				
Local media				