

Mayor's Dover Task Force on Homelessness

Thursday, October 26, 2017

3:30-5:00 PM

Dover City Hall Conference Room, First Floor

Agenda

1. Call to order, Jeanine Kleimo
2. Identification of volunteer to take minutes
3. Introductions of attendees
4. Summary of initial meeting
5. Reports from working groups
 - a. Development
 - b. Daytime resources
 - c. Emergency food and Code Purple
6. Report from October public forums
7. Discussion about public input and comment at task force meetings/when to permit this
8. Publicity and reporting: when to publicize efforts vs. responding to the press
9. Schedule of next two meetings
 - a. Monday, November 20, 3:30-5:00 PM, Dover Library, Meeting Room A
 - b. Next?
10. Adjourn

Mayor's Homeless Task Force
October 5, 2017
Organizational Meeting

Minutes

DRAFT

Mayor Robin Christiansen welcomed everyone. He recognized the work done by the Blue Ribbon Panel and thanked the members of the Task Force for their willingness to serve.

The meeting was opened by Dr. Jerry Abrams, the Chairman of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Homelessness.

Dr. Abrams welcome everyone and asked members of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Homelessness who were present to introduce themselves. The Members of the Mayor's Task Force introduced themselves. Dr. Abrams invited guests in attendance to introduce themselves.

Dr. Abrams gave an overview of the work accomplished by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel and the "A Housing Pathway for the Homeless."

Discussion was held about establishing the leadership and organization of the Task Force.

Herb Konowitz nominated Jeanine Kleimo to serve as Chairman of the Task Force. David Anderson seconded. There was discussion to determine if others might be interested in the Chairman position. No one stated an interest. All were in favor.

Dr. Abrams turned the meeting over to Jeanine Kleimo.

The Task Force is too large for all to work together all the time with efficient results. There was discussion about smaller working groups:

Food & Emergency Group

Code Purple has a new president: Yvonne Heisler. Margie Cyr will call her to ask if she is interested in serving on this group.

Development Group

Need for organization to develop affordable housing and increase available shelter space. There is a need to identify objectives to be accomplished for the short term. A look needs to be taken at properties that may be developed and other changes that need to be made.

The Interfaith Mission has some options for properties that might be developed. There needs to be a holistic plan so that the agencies are working together and not competing with each other.

Daytime Support Group

Currently Interfaith Resource Center and the Library are over used and neither have the capacity to serve all the homeless population in the day time. The people who are homeless need a place to be. There is a need for one-stop referral information, active support and guidance. The State Service Centers have been the contact for this in the past.

The Rick VanStory shelter in Wilmington has closed but the day shelter in Dover remains open.

Hopes & Dreams is a new daytime resource center located on Division Street.

Tricia Hill is the new director.

Roy Sudler asked if the meetings of the Task Force will follow the rules of Roberts Rules of Order. Mrs. Kleimo replied that since this is the organizational meeting of the Task Force, brainstorming and free flow of information is important. Once the structure of the Task Force has been established and there is an order of business with a structured agenda, Roberts Rules of Order will be followed.

Donna Snyder-White spoke to the need to leverage access and coordination of available resources.

Bill Farley would like to see the names of the all the Homeless persons collected. Dave Anderson asked about 211's gathering of this data. Mrs. Snyder-White said that 211 collects zip codes and basic information which is sent to the Homeless Planning Council. Tina Showalter said that this information is gathered by the Housing Alliance and entered into their database for referral to either short or long term housing needs.

Margie Cyr voiced concern that there were not enough beds for the needs. Mrs. Showalter said there were enough beds but that they are disproportionately located.

Allan Angel wants to follow the money. He believes the money is disproportionately located also.

Mr. Angel suggested that Bill Farley serve as Vice Chair of the Task Force. Mr. Farley suggested that a City employee such as Dave Hugg should serve in this capacity. Mr. Hugg believes it is more appropriate for a non-City employee serve in this capacity.

Mr. Sudler suggested Valerie Bradshaw serve as Vice Chair of the Task Force. Mr. Anderson moved and Ellis Loudon seconded that Mrs. Bradshaw serve as the Vice Chair. All were in favor.

Sue Harris said there is a file of contact information and a database of names already established.

Andria Bennett will look into the money situation for Mr. Angel.

Dave Hugg and Sarah Keiffer will serve as Co-Chairs of the Development Group.

Herb Konowitz will chair the Daytime Support Group. It is necessary to determine what the demand is and what is needed. Perhaps Tricia Hill will serve on this Group. Andria Bennett will help with this group also.

Allan Angel will chair the Food & Emergency Group.

Margie Cyr will schedule meeting space. Mrs. Showalter offered the use of the conference room in the Housing Alliance's space in Citizen's Bank building. City Hall can also be used if the Library is not available.

Bill Farley will serve as the Veteran's liaison.

Ellis Loudon will serve as the Faith Communities' liaison.

Donna Snyder-White will serve as the 211 liaison.

The Task Force will meet monthly. Working Groups will meet more often. Mrs. Kleimo will send out possible dates for the next meetings.

Email communication should include everyone on the task force so that communication is clear.

Discussion was held about including non-Task Force members on the working groups. It was agreed that this was essential.

Dr. Abrams urged the Task Force to keep the focus on bricks and mortar. Physical facilities are needed and asked the members of the Task Force to review the "Housing Pathway" document.

There will be a Homelessness Forum, Part 2, on October 10 and 24 at 6:00 PM at the Library. The 10th will be a report from the Blue Ribbon Panel and the 24th will be an introduction of the Task Force and opportunities for participation.

The meeting was adjourned.