

Mayor's Dover Task Force on Homelessness

Wednesday, November 29

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. Approval of Minutes, October 26, 2017
5. Reports from working groups
 - a. Development
 - i. Goals
 - ii. Progress
 - b. Daytime resources
 - i. Goals
 - ii. Progress
 - c. Emergency food and Code Purple
 - i. Goals
 - ii. Progress
6. New Business
7. Schedule of next two meetings
 - a. Wednesday, January 3, 2018 3:30-5:00 PM, Dover Library, Meeting Room A
 - b. Next?
8. Adjourn

Mayor's Homeless Task Force
October 26, 2017
Organizational Meeting

Minutes

DRAFT

Chairperson, Jeanine Kleimo welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that members vote on the minutes of the meeting held October 5, 2017. Herb Konowitz made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Sarah Keifer. All members present voted to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2017 meeting.

Jeanine provided an overview of the three workgroups that have been established:

- Emergency Shelter and food – which will identify strategies to meet the basic needs of shelter and food for those homeless in Dover.
- Daytime Resources– Will identify places and activities where Dover's homeless can be safe during the day and engage in productive activities to increase health and safety while homeless and to reduce time homeless.
- Development – to identify strategies for increasing housing opportunities affordable to those with extremely low incomes.

Jeanine indicated that Mayor Christiansen appoints people to the Task Force. We can identify others for the Task Force or workgroups, but must run those names by the Mayor for approval and possible appointment to the Task Force.

Alan Angel asked to add Trish Hill of Hopes and Dreams and Yvonne Heisler from Code Purple to the Task Force.

Jeanine asked each workgroup Chairperson to provide a short summary of the workgroups activities since the last meeting.

David Hugg reported that the Development workgroup had met for the first time earlier that day and are looking at some long-term and short-term solutions. They will be scheduling the next meeting in the next two weeks and the next meeting will focus on low-hanging fruit.

As Chair of the Daytime Resources Workgroup, Herb Konowitz reported that they had contacted Hopes and Dreams. It appears that Hopes and Dreams and Interfaith can work together to provide daytime resources in city of Dover. Hope & Dreams is funded by DSAMH: Delaware Substance Abuse and Mental Health, as well as private donations. It is located on 621 W. Division Street in Dover ([302.672.0425](tel:302.672.0425)). The executive director is Trish Hill.

They offer laundry, light breakfast and lunch; case management and a place to hang out during the day. Their hours are 830 – 430 PM. They offer ongoing mental health support groups that rotate during the day. (No bus tickets or cash assistance).

Their primary focus is mental health, but offer support for substance abuse individuals within the mental health framework. It is considered a Recovery Learning Center. Activities include art and music and group therapy. The sponsoring association: MHASP: The Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania (currently called: Mental Health Partnerships).

Herb indicated that they also had met with staff from Independent Resources in Dover. They work with people with all types of disabilities and focus on encouraging entrepreneurship. Herb explained that the Resource Center at Interfaith Mission can only handle 35 people at a time. Currently has no dedicated funding source and saw over 500 people in the last fiscal year.

Alan Angel reported as the Chairperson of the Emergency Shelter and Food workgroup that Cope Purple would have a kick-off event on November 15th. Kent County Code Purple “sanctuaries” will be open this year when temperatures are projected to fall below 32 degrees. He was unsure if there were adequate sanctuaries identified for all nights of the week for both men and women. He will provide that information at a later date. **Greg Bunkley asked to join Code Purple. (This is what my notes say, but may have meant he wanted to join the Emergency Shelter and Food working group).**

Alan indicated that they are looking for ways to identify scammers using homeless system. Valerie Bradshaw shared that if the person reports as homeless before 3:00 PM, they should be sent to the James Williams Service Center – 302-857-5000.

Jeanine reported on the Public Forums on Homelessness held at the Dover Library on the evenings of October 10 and 24. On October 10 the forum was a general information session on homelessness and attracted about 60 people. Fewer people attended on October 24th when the focus was more on Volunteer opportunities as well as a discussion of the needs of the homeless for such things as storage and laundry.

Tina Showalter announced that she had spoken to representatives of the Rotary and that they would like to be active in addressing homelessness in Dover. It was suggested that we develop a small short-term workgroup to address this and Tina and Greg agreed to work on this and possibly bring Rotary clubs and Churches together to discuss ways to get involved.

David Anderson spoke about an opportunity that he is aware of for non-profit organizations to receive computers from First State manufacturing.

Jeanine raised the issue of taking public comment at Task Force Meetings and the need to have a process to keep the meetings on track. Mr. Anderson, suggested that comment be asked for at the end of each agenda item, as waiting until the end of the meeting may reduce important

public input. No alternatives were offered and the Task Force will move forward accepting public comment for each agenda item at the end of Task Force discussion on that agenda item.

Jeanine brought up the issue of publicity and the work of the Task Force and the importance that everything be shared with the Mayor's Office before being shared publicly and that the Mayor office or individuals designated by the Mayor's office should be the only ones speaking to the media or in public forums about the work of the Task Force.

The next Task Force meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2017 and January 3, 2018 from 3:30 p.m. -5:00 p.m., location to be announced.

The Chair asked if there were other items before she adjourned the meeting. There were two announcements:

- Code Purple Kick off is November 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Hopes and Dreams
- Jeanine Kleimo will be receiving a lifetime achievement award on November 15, 2017 at the Wilmington riverfront. Tickets are required, speak with Herb if interested in attending.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 3:30 PM, in the City Hall Conference Room on the first floor.