



Council on Housing Stability

April 16, 2024

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

Eric Adams

Patte Ardizzoni

Mayor Jim Bouley

George N. Copadis

Rob Dapice

Maria Devlin

Mayor George Hansel

Christina Dotson

Drew Holmes

Melissa Hatfield

Mayor Andrew Hosmer

Katy Easterly Martey

Warren Perry

Chris Santaniello

Miles Whitner

Maggie Pritchard

Rob Dapice

Robert Quinn

Senator James Gray

Rob Rodler

Anne Duncan Cooley

Robert Mack

Dominique Rust

Andrew Dorsett

1. Approval of minutes from February 14, 2024, CHS meeting – Christine Santaniello, Associate Commissioner Department of Health and Human Services

Chris Santaniello welcomed all Council members. The Council on Housing Stability’s meeting minutes from February 14, 2024, were unanimously approved.

Questions or comments on previously distributed materials were welcomed.

2. Overview of Alternative Housing Solutions, Jen Czysz, Executive Director, Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Workgroup Co-chair Jennifer Czysz reviewed the update previously shared with the meeting materials ([linked here](#)).

Alternative Forms of Housing: Rob Dapice urged the workgroup to think broader and seek out interventions that immediately address homelessness, identifying what is missing and if there are ways that we should consider investments otherwise.

Senator Gray noted concerns with density, and if you go outside the town center, you will need to incur additional expenses for water and sewer.

An inquiry was made if seasonal campgrounds could be permitted to be used in the wintertime as a temporary solution. Concerns about leech field capacity were raised.

Alternative housing takes time to develop—not in the building. It involves identifying the space and making it accommodating.

3. Criminal Records Impact on Housing Stability Team

Update & Introduction, Kadyja Mower, Person with Lived Experience

A Brief Review of Incarceration Data in NH, New Hampshire Center for Justice and Equity, Jo Porter, MPH, Strategic Advisor, The New Hampshire Center for Justice and Equity

Jo Porter noted that New Hampshire’s demographic profile is growing, and most of the gain stems from migration to the state, as the number of in-state deaths outnumber the births.

Other observations include the following:

- The young population is more racially diverse than ever.
- Communities of color live all across the state.
 - The Council was encouraged to think about leveraging this new population as a resource, think of NH as a group of folks with diverse experiences, backgrounds, etc., and weave this into their work.

- Incarceration in NH: Federal (700), State Prisons (1700), and Jails (1200) people on any given day.
- Currently, there are three adult prisons in the state of NH (2 in Concord, 1 in Berlin)
- The National narrative seems to be aligned with the state's numbers.

It was noted that standardizing incarceration data collection would be tremendously beneficial, but who would foot the bill for changing all data systems?

4. Legislative Update - Elissa Margolin, Director, Housing Action, New Hampshire

Elissa reviewed the legislation updates linked [here](#).

5. 1915i Update - Melissa Hatfield, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Homeless Services, Department of Health and Human Services

- As part of the 1915i initiative, DHHS will hold training for Medicaid providers. Those providers can enroll, and once initially trained, they can be subsequently trained for the required billing process.

6. 2024 Strategic Plan - Katherine Easterly Martey, Executive Director, Community Development Finance Authority

Katy reviewed some of the accomplishments since the launch of the Council's strategic plan, including:

- The work of identifying where systems have previously overlapped and now are in sync
- Providing CoCs with support

Katy asked Council members: Where have we been? Where do we want to go?

The Council owes a report to the elected officials by November that will include a retrospective summary and strategic plan for the future.

Council leadership has identified two prospective funders who may support the Council's future work.

The meeting participants were asked to note *why the Council has mattered to you?* Some answers included the following:

- To stay educated
- To influence the direction that Council members are headed in
- An opportunity to connect with experts in a way that builds consensus and priorities in the strategic plan.
- To continue to meet the needs in their role

The meeting participants were also asked *How has the Council influenced your work?*

Council members were urged to volunteer, form a team, review the Strategic Plan RFP, and engage a consultant.

Responsibilities could include the following:

- Identify the strategic planning priorities
- Finalize the Strategic Planning RFP
- Evaluate the proposals
- Hire a consultant to guide the Council through the strategic planning process.
- Identify how we can continue the existing structure moving forward (incl. the H&H Workgroup and the RL&C workgroup)

The following Council members volunteered, and the Council approved the team:

Noah Hodgetts, Melissa Hatfield, Ben Frost or Rob Dapice, Chris Santaniello, and Maria Devlin

This group will help guide the strategic planning process and escort the work forward, reporting progress back to the Council via email monthly.

7. Adjournment