

Council on Housing Stability
January 2025 Meeting
January 13, 2025
Room 468 (DHHS - SOPS Brown Conference Room 468)
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM



Participants

Miles Whitener
Andrew Dorsett
Rob Dapice
Patti Ardizzoni
Chris Schleyer
Nick Taylor
Andre Briere
Melissa Hatfield
Maggie Pritchard
Sue Fulton

Patricia Tilley
Nicole Desilets-Bixler
Katja Fox
Robert Mack
Maria Devlin
Ben Amsden
Katy Easterly Martey
LaTonya Muccioli
Dominique Rust
Eric Adams

1. Welcome

The Council unanimously approved the minutes from the October 18, 2024 Council meeting. Katy Easterly Martey welcomed the guests, introduced Nick Taylor as the new Executive Director of Housing Action New Hampshire and invited participants online and in person to introduce themselves.

2. NH Coalition to End Homelessness - State of Homelessness in New Hampshire

Annual Report - Jennifer Chisholm, Executive Director of the NH Coalition to End Homelessness

Jennifer introduced the 2024 edition of the Coalition's State of Homelessness in New Hampshire report, which is informed by both HMIS(2023, highlighting all of the data from across the state entered into Housing Management Information Systems) and Point in Time Count data (January 2023).

- In 2023, New Hampshire had the highest percentage increase in homelessness among the states, from 1,491 to 1,605, representing a 52.1% increase.
- The United States had just a 12% increase during that same time.

- According to newly released 2024 HMIS data, the total number of people who experienced homelessness in the calendar year 2023 in New Hampshire was 6,806.
- Chronic homelessness is defined as an individual who has experienced homelessness for over a year with a disability condition.
- In the 2023 PIT count, NH experienced just under a 52% increase from 2022 to 2023 in chronic homelessness.
- According to 2023 PIT data, there was a 70% jump between 2023 and 2024, which means that unsheltered homelessness is up almost 300% from 2019.
- One out of five youths, or one out of five people in the Point-in-Time count, was a youth under 18, which is better than NH had been doing historically - down from about 25%.
- New Hampshire is the only state in New England and one of only 10 states in the entire nation that does not have a medical respite.
- The veteran model is progressing, and a dip in the point-in-time count numbers was noted. Veterans services and documentation support the decrease in Veteran Homelessness. Funding is there for services, and it is a more robust support system.
- People under the rainbow are overrepresented in New Hampshire's homeless population

Discussion

The Point in Time Count presents its challenges, but over the past few years, New Hampshire has come together to take a more organized, coordinated approach.

The State of Homelessness in New Hampshire report is available [here](#).

Jennifer's contact information is as follows:

Jennifer Chisholm, LICSW, MLADC (she/her)

Executive Director

NH Coalition to End Homelessness

jchisholm@nhceh.org

<http://www.nhceh.org>

The role of the Council is to share this data and feel comfortable sharing it. Jen is available to join local conversations.

The Council should seek to understand the solutions that have successfully addressed Veteran homelessness and identify if a particular committee is working on Veteran Homelessness.

Bob Mack would like to review unsheltered homelessness, understand where the 70% increase in homelessness came from, and examine the number of homeless shelter beds. There is a lot of outreach in Nashua. Are the winter beds being used?

Maria Devlin believes there is movement - some people moved out of the BOS into other CoCs.

Rob Dapice asked what tool we might use to understand the oddly shifting numbers better.

DHHS is working with ICA, which has created a report (not ready for public consumption) that tracks a person from entry to exit. The report can be accessed on a municipal level, identifying where the person lived and what shelters they landed in.

Maria Devlin noted that not everyone uses HMIS. Veteran Homelessness is working well because of information transparency and coordination. BOS COC has a list because the coordinated entry system is expanding, which leads to a better count and a better list of people.

Melissa Hatfield explained that the 2023 sheltered numbers were higher than normal because the NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program (NHERAP) supported 829 people in hotels on the night of the PIT in 2023. This counts as sheltered homelessness, causing a unique spike in 2023. Taking the 829 people out of the equation, there was an increase of 329 people who were sheltered from 2023 – 2024. This increase can be attributed to creating the Cold Weather Shelter program, funded through HB2.

Maggie Pritchard suggested the Council bring together ideas about medical respite to another meeting. The NHH Conference had an example from Vermont illustrating who came together. Could we bring that initiative back to the Council?

Melissa Hatfield noted this has been researched historically and can speak to the research uncovered by the Medical Respite workgroup a few years ago.

3. Policy Framework Workgroup - Carmen Lorentz, Executive Director at Lakes Region Community Developers and Steve Duprey, Former New Hampshire State Representative

Steve Duprey and Carmen Lorentz reviewed the Policy Framework, [linked here](#), and encouraged the Council members to consider what policies will have the most significant impact with the smallest lift?

A lot of policy focuses on statewide initiatives, how can we impact/strengthen local and regional networks of people to come together to afford housing?

How do we provide homeowners with initiatives to promote multigenerational home sharing?

How do we develop services and rehousing, boost reimbursement, increase the # of beds available, and ease burdens on shelter costs? How should the Council focus on specific populations, prevent youth homelessness, and support those coming out of prisons?

Suggestion: Pick a handful of policies and offer updates at each Council meeting.

Rob Dapice motioned to approve the Policy Framework. All Council members approved.

4. Current and Emerging Housing Leadership - Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka highlighted the legislation she is seeing prioritized and how the Council can align itself appropriately. Over 60 housing bills are coming through. Some are seeking to strike a new balance with municipal housing authorities.

In terms of priorities, the Senator suggested the Council try to adhere to the agenda with the most impactful policies around housing production - more right-sized housing, and more units. The Senator also emphasized that while this would be a tough budget year, housing is the number one issue.

The hope is to increase funding for the Housing Champions program.

The state would authorize NH Housing to provide guarantees on mixed-use loan deals to bring more projects

to market.

Senator Tara Reardon is exploring Montana's 'choose your own policy model' previously discussed at New Hampshire Housing's policy conference in the fall. Can cities and towns make their own choices?

ADUs are also under heavy discussion.

The Housing Caucus will meet this Friday and bring four additional people into the Caucus to review the bills in discussion. The Senator hopes to have a slate of bills the Housing Caucus will support going through this session. It is interesting to see so much interest in this issue...Speaks to the importance of the issue. The challenge is to ensure we are passing policies that work. If a bill has a backing - it should be built to contribute to the housing issues constructively.

Discussion

Katy Easterly Martey questioned: How can the Council best align with the proposed legislation this year? What should the Council consider? How do we identify the top priorities?

Katy also suggested it isn't why housing anymore - it is how housing.

Nick Taylor mentioned using the framework to steer the conversation and identify what can be the most impactful.

Katy Easterly Martey expressed excitement about the overlap and the focus so far.

5. Strategic Planning Update - Katy Easterly Martey, Executive Director, CDFA

Council leadership continues to develop the strategic plan, which starts with an evaluation of the previous strategic plan to inform the process moving forward and identify what we are going to prioritize over the coming three years.

The Housing Champions Program is releasing more funding opportunities over the next week or two - encouraging municipalities to permit more housing projects.

6. Adjourn