



Rochesterians Engaging in Action for the Chronically Homeless

PO Box 10845, Rochester, NY, 14610

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REACH Meeting minutes 3/19/18

We welcomed Caitlyn Holcombe a student at John Fisher who is working on a project about homelessness. Lulu led us in a reflection on “reflection” and spoke of her own journey. Motions to adopt minutes and approve agenda were passed,

Treasurers Report- David: County money came through, as well as grant. Bank account is positive at this time (well over 30,000\$). Please submit and bills/ receipts to David ASAP. Marj’s church (Church of the Good Shepard) also gave a gift card as well. Lulu will take to use for the house needs.

REACH Home Updates- Oscar & Lulu: REACH Home lost a guest recently, Andrew Hendricks. REACH has been very supportive to Andrew’s family. Our thoughts & prayers are with them!
Staff- Short staffed right now, a few staff issues, but working through it. All shifts are being covered right now.

March 28th- Social Work meeting at REACH to work towards closing, housing residents and future plans for those in need (Andy can give us more information as it gets closer), DHS will be present, potential landlords, etc.

Maintenance- Deacon Dan: No issues reported at this time.

Monroe County future shelters- Andy, Ashlee & Kevin: REACH committee should discuss alternatives to shelters next winter season, as there may be some push back on opening future temporary shelters, due to OTDA changes/standards. We are hoping to discuss permanent housing options within the next few months (i.e. rooming houses, warming centers). Andy will discuss this with us more in the upcoming weeks.

REACH Advocacy Future Planning- Peter: Supporting Permanent Supportive Housing & more advocacy. By Laws and incorporation are in process. To complete the paper work we need to form a Board of Directors. Discussion was held on; What kind of board members do we want? What skills do we need represented on the board? community involvement etc.

We discussed the following skill sets:

Lawyer

Real Estate

Accountant

Homeless individual (s)

Social Worker (s)/ Mental Health & Addiction

Work skills development / Life skills development (basic hygiene, cooking, etc.)

Someone familiar with rules/regulations for housing

Fundraising/development

Social media skills

Leadership skills

House maintenance

Healthcare

Veteran’s services

Systems Navigator



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Group is voting for 3 skill sets that we believe are needed the most- (As a Group)

*Looking for skill sets and those who have been involved with REACH from day one, with passion, vision, management, and development

Think about must haves for the board, in terms of functions, that the team is interested in incorporating. Please do so by the next large group meeting & bring thoughts with you to discuss with the group. We will also need a permanent address, in the future, to become incorporated. Please think about and share any ideas that you may have.

Dan reminded us of the first REACH home's Executive Team as a model we worked with before. The Executive team consisted of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Operations, Communications, and Social Work.

City Hall Citizen Budget Input Session- John C: (3/19/18 at 6-8pm) Budget deductions regarding the 10 branch libraries & concerns over losing the LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) Program, which provides resources to the Monroe County Homeless population. Many of our homeless individuals and families utilize the library system and collaborative programs, such as LROC, so John is asking our committee to advocate on behalf of this issue. If anyone can attend tonight, City Hall (30 Church Street), please do so. **Thank you John! Motion to endorse John's Letter passed.** See letter attached.

Newsletter- Committee decided to continue the newsletter; Peter are requested that the cost of an account with Constant Contact come out of operations, since REACH has money coming in. Thank you Sarah & Peter for covering costs up until now!! Renewal is in April, Peter will renew the contract then.

Ecumenical Good Friday March- Event goes through the city & highlights social issues (crime, poverty, homelessness, etc.). Peter is speaking in one of the stations, #6. The title of his talk is, "It Is Finished" and he will be talking about REACH. The walk will be in the Maplewood/Edgerton Neighborhood. *Gather at Aquinas Institute, 1227 Dewey Ave, Rochester at 8:45 am.*

Assembly Bill (Andrew Hevesi) - "Home Stability Support"- maintaining funds in affordable housing. Please reach out to the NYS Senators and NYS Assembly. Peter handed out the info sheet at today's meeting with contact information & additional information. REACH members are encouraged to call/email their state representatives to indicate their support.

Realty Tour- Mike Gill: Cost is \$20.00 per person and the tour is on March 24, 2018. Please REACH out to Mike Gill for additional information.

Next steps/ Announcements:

Next large group meeting- April 2, 2018 at Dimitri House. - Jeannie Gloss will lead the reflection.

Next small group meeting- March 26, 2018 at Dimitri House (Ashlee, Andy, Kevin, Deb, Marj, Mike, Shannon, and Deacon Dan)



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John's statement to the budget hearing:

City Hall Citizen Budget Input Session 3/19/18 6-8pm

Good Evening, (Self Introduction)

On behalf of the advisory council of REACH, (Rochesterians Engaged in Action for the Chronically Homeless), I am asking for the full restoration of funding for the Rochester Public Library and its ten City-funded neighborhood branches. They serve our impoverished residents in unheralded and vitally important ways that typically escape public attention.

Library personnel often serve as the "first responders" to situations of actual and potential homelessness for families, individuals and school-aged youth.

The Library Resource Outreach Center (LROC) enables staff at several branches to provide helpful information to patrons on regularly-scheduled opportunities. LROC is a collaboration between the Rochester Public Library and local human service agencies to offer *accessible services without barriers* to the homeless and those in danger of becoming homeless. LROC provides information on housing, food, clothing, shelter, income, case management, medical care, legal assistance and employment. No appointment necessary.

On a different note, several of the cash-strapped residential programs that provide overnight shelter for the homeless are unable to pay staff to provide daytime services. Consequently, the overnight residents must leave the shelter and then return much later in the day. *Where do they go?*

Many homeless persons use urban public libraries to stay warm, safe and preserve their social contacts.

I have observed library staff treat these individuals with dignity and educate them how to use electronic media to access needed services and information. Branch libraries are trusted and convenient meeting-places to maintain person-to-person vital contact with Social Workers, Veterans service providers and medical professionals.

Restoring the \$326,000 cutback to the Rochester Public Library is a wise proactive measure to mitigate the effects of homelessness. Act now or pay the social and financial consequences later.

Adopted by the REACH Team 3/19/18