



Rochesterians Engaging in Action for the Chronically Homeless

PO Box 10845, Rochester, NY, 14610

Minutes April 2, 2018

Minutes from March 19 and the Agenda for April 2 were approved.

REACH Home Updates

Shannon, Oscar, Lulu

- Deb, Marge, John, Laurie and Andy have made some decisions concerning the storage or distribution of the material goods used to support our residents. Their recommendation is to keep most items for future use except for clothing. Will be able to store items in the house free of charge, thank you to Dimitri House! John and other volunteers will mothball the stuff. Appliances can stay where they are. We are **looking for plastic totes and large space vacuum bags**, have gotten coupons for totes/bags, seeking more. Staybridge Suites will be offering us quilts in the spring and Deb has new sheets/pillows. We will contact colleges about plastic covered mattresses as the term comes to an end.
- Clothes will be distributed to residents and then the remainder to Matthews Closet or Asbury.
- Over the counter medications: Heide will coordinate with Lulu.
- M,W, F, Sat 9-5 clean up beginning April 16.
- Wade (Lorenzo) Monroe funeral, Friday 9:30-1:00 at Memories on Hudson Avenue. He was a REACH resident as well as St. Joe's and House of Mercy. Many staff wish to attend. John and Sarah will staff the house.
- House has been chaotic last few weeks, residents are stir crazy and worried about where they will go. Good open house last Wednesday with shelter representatives.
- Toilet leak first floor.
- Virginia cleaning and organizing the basement.
- Clean up at Tent City today, news coming tomorrow AM.
- Oscar held a wonderful house meeting that Peter observed on Saturday evening.
- 15 residents are almost ready to move out to permanent places, a few more almost ready.
- Lulu has been checking in with everyone each day. Many are really nervous about their moves.
- We also have staff that will be moving on. It hard to leave this work, it is like a family 24/7.
- Motion to pay staff a one-week salary bonus at closing.
- To facilitate paper work and shelter closing reports Lulu and Shannon will be paid staff until the end of the month.
- Continued discussion may occur at the next meeting on what the appropriate amount for bonuses should be.

Reflection : Jeannie led us in a reflection, the Prayer of St. Francis, thank you, Jeannie.

Treasurer's Report

David

- Approximately \$11,000 in our checking account with another \$10,000 expected from the county in reimbursements for February.
- There will be two more weeks of payroll that should be less than \$6,000.
- RG&E bill of about \$900 to pay and probably one or two more months to pay utilities.

Communication/Decision Making Discussion

All

- Concerns were expressed that decisions are being made without the full participation of the REACH Advocacy team. Several people feel that they are unclear about what is happening and

where REACH is moving in the future. People feel that there is information being shared and meetings being held without including everyone.

- In some cases, as REACH members we need to meet with others to explore opportunities for housing options whether it is for tiny homes, shelters or permanent housing options. All of these opportunities are aligned with our mission statement. All final decisions come back to the whole group for discussion and consent when appropriate.
- Questions were answered about the building owned by the Episcopal Diocese. **(The name of the church should be kept confidential at this time.)**
 - Nick and Peter presented a possible draft plan to the congregation because nothing can be explored until they agree that they are willing to consider having their building used for permanent, supported apartments.
 - The congregation was asked to let Peter know if they wanted to begin moving forward on exploring the idea of giving Providence Housing, a potential developer, site control of their property in order to explore if a proposal for permanent, supported housing is workable.

Monroe County/Future Shelters

Andy

- The city loves REACH and Dimitri has been wonderful, but the state is not happy with temporary shelters that have unsafe practices and may not allow any new shelters next year. If we are considering a shelter we will need to start earlier, and it may have to be an all year round “warming house.” Practices such as; staff on stipends, minimal inspections etc. will be questioned.

REACH Advocacy Future Planning

Peter

- As a result of the discussion at our last REACH meeting about possible people for a REACH board, Peter and Sarah met for coffee last week with Mary Hadley to seek her suggestions and/or willingness to participate on the REACH board. Mary is not interested in a position on the board, but works for a not-for-profit company, Causewave. They provide support for organizations such as REACH who need help to establish boards, write strategic plans etc. She has created a proposal for REACH’s consideration of what Causewave could help us do.
- Please read this proposal and be ready to discuss it at one of our upcoming meetings. Watch for it on an upcoming agenda perhaps after REACH Home is closed and we have more time.

Next Steps/Announcements:

All

- There is a woman staying in a tent on property owned by Spectrum and located near Bivona Child Advocacy Center. She chooses to stay in a tent rather than a shelter and has been there for several years. She along with a few others may be forced to move. A local church has said they will donate use of their property to locate a camper for her use. Peter asked if REACH would be willing to make a donation to help with the cost of the camper. Some people said that we should wait to see whether the woman really wants to move to the camper. Some felt that we need to strongly advocate for the campers to be allowed to stay where they are. Decided to wait before approving a donation.
- We decided to host a **Celebration Picnic** inviting people who have volunteered this year on **Wednesday, April 18 at 4:00**. Please think of people who might provide donations for the meal.

Next Meeting: April 9, 2 pm at Dimitri House

Reflection: Becky

Agenda: REACH Home Closing, Celebration Picnic

The full team will be meeting every Monday for the next few weeks.