



Rochesterians Engaging in Action with the Chronically Homeless

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Minutes February 4, 2019

Welcome and Introductions: Peter

Approved: January 7, 2019 Minutes and approved: February 4, 2019 Agenda with additions in announcements.

Reflection: Oscar reflected on where can REACH go from here and build on what we have begun? Peter visited a female guest in the hospital on Saturday. She is frail but looking good. She returned to REACH Home this afternoon.

- Next Meeting Reflection: Sarah

REACH Home 2018-19

Financial: David

Invoices going to the county totaling \$19,000. A check should arrive in mid-February. There is \$6,600 in the FLACE checking. We owe House of Mercy \$3,300 for payroll last week. They covered us because we didn't have enough in our account at the time. HoM is not in a hurry for us to pay them back. A total of \$31,000 has been spent this year with most of the expenses going to staff.

Grants: Sarah/Susan:

Susan has agreed to help Sarah write grants. Both of them are going to separate grant writing trainings this weekend. Many of the grants they are aware of do not cover operational costs for the shelter. If we receive a Wilson Foundation Grant, it will cover social work costs. Sarah and Susan are working on grants from the Wilson Foundation, Community Foundation and the Greater Rochester Health Foundation's Community Health Grants. They are looking for other grant sources. Some of the previously mentioned grants will cover new projects such as Tiny Homes so Susan and Sarah will be looking for specific next steps for needs in establishing our Tiny Home Village Model.

Manager's Report: Evelyn

REACH Home currently has 23 men, 10 women, total 33. Evelyn is willing to increase guests up to 39, but we have to be selective if we choose to be that full. One of our guests is back and needs transportation for chemo. Thank you to Marcia for all the transportation to DSS. You are appreciated! Evelyn would like to split the night shift, so a woman is on duty to help get women up in the morning. She will think about changing the shift hours. 9:00-11:00pm is a very busy time. Rats in the basement due to the side door being broken by a person who was not one of our guests. Dan fixed it, thanks! Former guests who have been placed in apartments are returning for social reasons and a meal. If they are behaving inappropriately, drunk, high, they will be asked to leave. We will provide dated, guest passes, and previous guests need to get approval from a manager to come into the shelter. Evelyn should also alert McCollaborative staff if one of their clients is being disruptive. There was an issue last night, police called, a guest was taken to the hospital for stitches. We need to add split shifts in evening and morning. Thanks to Oscar for the way he handled the situation.

Staffing: Dan

Email vote has approved a raise in salary for the House Manager to \$600.00 a week.

Social Work: Alex/Kevin

Claire, McCollaborative intern, joined the meeting. Currently the social work team is counting the numbers of guests placed in housing successfully. Alex will try to get the info to Peter for the newsletter. Currently 11 of our guests qualify through DHS for support. A roster census is being created and updated, thanks Deacon Dan.

Updated supply needs: John/Deb**REACH Home Needs – February 4, 2019**

Food Items: Coffee, cocoa, creamer, sugar, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, powdered drink mix, Ramen Noodles, snack food (evening snacks)

Household Items: Toilet bowl cleaner, detergent pods, paper napkins, paper towels, spray disinfectant (Lysol type) room deodorizers

Ice melt***

Personal Care Items: Shampoo, deodorant: need men's and women's shaving supplies, razors, shave cream

Bedding: Comforters, bath towels

Household Items for Welcome Wagon Sets: Canned goods, chicken noodle soup and tomato soup, canned macaroni-type meals, utensils, cups, bowls, dishes & plates, skillet and saucepans

Clothing: Belts, men's gloves, sturdy boots, men's scarves, men's underwear

Medical: Cold/cough pills not liquid without alcohol.

Deb is concerned about how often she is asking for donations. We assured her people are happy to give. Asking for gift cards or e-cards works well and easier for purchasing needed items.

Plumbing, Building: Dan

Fixed side door after break-in, office toilet needs resetting, fire escape still in progress.

Medical: Kiera/Connie

Medical/Dental van did not come due to the cold weather. Medical students are coming on Monday evenings. Virginia and Evelyn are keeping the meds well organized, thanks! Connie is happy to come in to wash feet when the evening van drops off new guests. Please call her.

Formation of Tiny Home Sub-committee: Peter

- Architectural drawings from RIT will be coming soon. It is time to form a Tiny Home Subcommittee. This will be one of the first actions of the board in mid-February
- Tiny Home Building Project: John, REACH is in a developmental process; phase one shelter, phase two tiny home village, and phase three a manufacturing center for construction of tiny homes. John is exploring organizations to help support our dreams. He has found some where our goals align with their vision.
- Peter will contact Pastor Santos, John would like to get volunteers working on the property this spring.

Announcements

- RMAPI Grant Announcements/Town Hall Meeting, Thursday February 7, 6:00-8:00pm, Baden Street Settlement, 500 North Clinton Ave.
- Board Meeting with Causewave: February 12, 2:00-3:30 (Last meeting) Kevin will not be able to attend as he will be in Albany



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- Feb. 12, local agency advocating for social causes, bus trip 5:30am-6:00 pm to Albany, contact Kevin if you want to go
- Abundance Co-op: South Wedge sponsoring REACH for the month of February, customers can round up bills and it will go to REACH. Benefits card holders can become members and receive 10% off their groceries. The social workers should alert their clients particularly those in Southview Towers. On February 22 REWACH representatives will attend an open house to talk about REWACH and have a display table. (Sarah, Marcia and maybe Peter)
- GENDA: (Gender Equity ...) Marcia became aware of a law recently passed that states that transgender people cannot be discriminated against. This impacts us for assigning rooms and transitioning guest names may be changed from official current ID, not a street name, and they have a right to use it by law. We don't normally allow street names. A transitioning person has rights. Need to change REACH policy to conform with law. Legally need to go by person's gender wishes. Most shelters allow a single room. We do not have the facilities for single rooms, but both men and women sleep in the common room. It rests on Evelyn, staff and social work team. People have a right to be recognized as the gender, name, identity they prefer. We need to respect their identity and be hospitable.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2019, 1:00 – 2:30 pm, Dimitri House

Agenda:

Don't forget Evelyn's Birthday, Feb. 27!