

Futures Peer Support Program Development Workgroup

Minutes April 29th 2009 Minutes

Alternative Crisis House

Please note the date for the next meeting: May 20th, 10-2 pm, Unitarian Church, Montpelier, VT

Attendance: Xenia W. Kaitlin H, L. Kimball, J Marindino, S. Morgan, Kitty Gallagher, K, Martell, Linda Corey, K. Lorentz on, J. New, N. Nichols, K. swift. P Cochran. Ed Paquin (sorry I did not get the sign in list for spelling)

Opening comments : we need a date and it looks like the May 20, 2009 and it is confirmed this will be the final date for alternative Crisis House Committee. The meeting will be 10-2:00 with a light lunch a half hour will be provided for lunch and you may continue eating during the meeting but we will resume at 12:30 sharp to continue the afternoon session until 2:00.

E. Paquin: the amount of \$230, 000 not spent disappears June 30, 2009.

Okie everyone got that

Lenora starts and explain why some areas are ruled out or in and shows map.

HARTFORD/ WRJ...expensive, quality of housing, lack of community support evidenced by history, lack of available properties none at time of search

Rutland/ surrounding areas. Castleton former Spectrum House youth place. Ok ;location but needs allot of cosmetic work, sits on a long drive/hill (KL says and confirms with LK a bit of a scary property in presentation. In town location option beautiful Main Street Castleton. Limited parking, some accessibility issues bit probably could be dealt with.

Presents property that meets needs of privacy, accessibility, number of bedrooms, handicap access, solid, parking, outbuildins, flat open land 4 miles to Rutland 2 miles to Wallingford in Clarendon Vermont. Referred to as yellow house.

St Johnsbury,,agency has a peer program they are working with to establish a crisis house within agency..not really interested

Randolph...picked as a model community of what should be available but housing stock limited in the 5 bedroom category, Community welcoming

Options explored Build rent or buy.... Building too expensive, rents are very high in anything with 5 bedrooms, 1500/month min plus utilities for anything, Purchasing in this housing climate just makes sense.

Back to “yellow house The budget used and presented because that is the only figure we have to go on \$230, 000. Nick mentions that in the final report should contain debriefing parameters for specific property chosen (gee that doesn’t sound right but it is what I recorded)

SALARIES

Exec. director 40,000

Blue cross/ blue shield \$475 (comments sounds low \$600) could be diff plan.

Program coordinator or Assistant director Full time with benefits (?? 13/hr)

Xenia says assistant director more accurate than program director

Part time assistant \$13.00/ team member \$10.00

LK explains the exec Director would serve time and hours like everyone including weekend hours to fulfill full time hours

Taxes would be checked into locally to determine tax status..\$500.00 could be considered as a tax donation for the facility because we do use services ...plowing, fire and police.

Major discussions took place regarding pay scales. \$10.00 an hour is challenged KG but KL says actually \$10 or less is what peers are getting full time \$ 10 is in line even if we do not like it with or without benefits. A committee would be designed to look at pay scale issues and take care of personnel policies addressing such issues but for the budget report this is what is being used.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Volunteers not paid to attend trainings but would be allowed to go

The progress of staff/ volunteers would be followed for one year

Xenia recommends leaving out research piece and save a lot of money at \$250,00/hr nod head agreement

There is a lack of empowering language in overall documents presented

A discussion around guest involvement and inclusion in day to day operations

Somebody mentions let’s spend some time self evaluating before we even think about bringing in Yale like a couple of years It will take that long to work out simple kinks

Scheduling issues for the house were brought up in general people felt there might be something off in the hours needed Lenora will double check with Nick.

Xenia brings up Board issues interim board and board policies, governance article . She would like to talk about this. Everyone agrees it is a good idea. Karen will check with Lenora and get back to Xenia because of little time left.

END OF MINUTES – 12pm

PLEASEAT THIS TIME ALL COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE WILL GO THROUGH KAREN (NOT BECAUSE LK DOES NOT WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU BUT TAKING TOO MANY COMMENTS SUGGESSTION ETC AT THIS LATE DATES GETS OVERWHELMING For her). I am in communication daily with Lenora this week passing comments to and fro and it has started and it is busy. But she will get your message. She is not taking on new areas of the state for review at this time for the obvious reason. This really needed to be given to her a long time ago. She did check out all areas starting with her own Windsor county area. (Windsor, Hartford, Hartland, Queechee, WRJ)

PLEASE REMEMBER THE YELLOW HOUSE PROPERTYS IS A MODEL PROPERTY ON WHICH TO BASE FIGURES AND PROGRAMMING. LK SIMPLY HAD TO FIND SOMETHING THAT MET HE PARAMETERS THE COMMITTEE SET FORTH (IF YOU WERE NOT ATTENDING MEETINGS YOU MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN ON THOSE DISCUSSIONS AND MAY NOT KNOW THE PARAMETERS discussed) SOME COMMUNITIES WERE RULED OUT A WHILE AGO BASED ON COSTS,SUITABLE HOUSING STOCK, HISTORIES OF NOT SUPPORTING RESIDENTIAL HOUSING.

OVERWHELMINGLY THIS HOUSE MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL, PRIVATE AND HAVE A FEELING OF SECURITY AND RESPECT FOR GUESTS and AFFORDABLE. This came out of winter meetings. It cannot be too far in the boonies and must be easy to transport oneself to...bus, taxi, car. In other words real back roads that are rough in winter probably not suitable. It would be helpful to have a community nearby with amenities but it does not have to be a village location, hospitals nearby... not a big factor but medical services would be a plus (general health care not psych). Views peaceful setting access to some alternative type programs or facilities would be nice. I took these comments from earlier meetings plus some recent ones.

We did go back and forth for awhile and decided overwhelmingly that the nature of the community agency or hospital are not necessarily factors in locating this house as it depends on neither of these facilities for referrals. It was thought that maybe an CMH

agency would come forth or could be found that would support the endeavor and its mission but that never really happened maybe for a lot of reasons and was decided by the consultant to not be used as a parameter. LK correct this if I am wrong.

We look forward to hearing from you this week

Respectfully submitted

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