

Manchester Initiative for Supportive Housing

Minutes of June 13, 2007

Attendees:

Joan Dower, Mike Cunningham, Jay Stoppelman, Lynne Gustafson, Sue Hadge, Cindy Hall, Jack Cotter, John Gibbs, Rev. Karen Fedorchak, Dianne McPherson, Boris Gerber, Sarah Edwards, Kathleen Grover, Ken Harley, Gary Sweet, David Smith, Barb Frazier, Peg DeForge, Tom Stringfellow, Jody Wynn Rodiger, John Foley, Mary Foley, Joan O'Loughlin, George Nickerson, Tim Woods, Brad Mondschein, Susan Holmes, Mary Voiland, Jackie Campion.

Chair: David Blackwell

Reflection: Reading from the Book of Samuel about King David's sin. King David was given so much wealth and power, but he still craved more. First God condemns David and then forgives him. It's a story about mercy and compassion. How do we show mercy and compassion to those in need? What public policies seem to cry out to you for mercy and compassion?

Going forward, the host church will be responsible for the reflection.

Upon motion duly made and second, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt the minutes of May 23, 2007.

One correction to the minutes of May 23: Peg DeForge's name was added to the attendee list.

Merger of MISH and MCHC

David noted that we only have one item on the agenda: How are we going to merge Manchester Initiative for Supportive Housing and Manchester Congregations Housing Corporation? Last month we decided that MISH would not go away, allowing those who do not want to serve on the formal board to stay involved. The Committees will remain in MISH: Community Awareness, Core Group, Site Acquisition and Services.

David said that we have more people interested in being on the Board of MCHC than we have spots. The current board members (all present here tonight) are:

- Ken Harley - Community Baptist Church
- Sue Hadge - North United Methodist Church
- Boris Gerber - South United Methodist Church
- Jay Stoppelman - Temple Beth Sholom
- David Smith - Concordia Lutheran Church

Member Congregations of MCHC without a current Board member are:

- Center Congregation Church
- Emanuel Lutheran Church
- St. James Church
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church
- Unitarian Universalist Society East

According to the By-laws, each congregation is a member of MCHC and appoints one delegate (director). David asked how do we go about advising the congregations who are not members? The governing board of each church organization would ultimately have to vote and express interest in being a member of MCHC and appointing their delegate and alternate. The MCHC member congregations without a current representative would need to complete a Certification appointing their delegate and an alternate. If your church is not a current member of MCHC and interested in membership, it would need to fill out both a Resolution indicating their interest and then completing the Certification appointing their delegate and alternate. David has prepared blank copies of both the Certification and the Resolution for those interested.

There was discussion about ways to reach out to minority churches and organizations to ensure that our group is reflective of the community of Manchester. We need to reach out beyond the congregations who are represented at this meeting. We have to renew our community awareness goal of reaching out and spreading the word. Specific groups and congregations mentioned for our outreach campaign: Association of Puerto Ricans and Latinos of Manchester (APLUM); Students of Color (SOC); First Korean Presbyterian Church on Chapel Road (a member of MACC); the Faith Tabernacle Church on Woodbridge Street; the Presbyterian Church of Manchester at the end of Lydall Street; the Community Baptist Church and the Church of Latter Day Saints.

A question was raised as to whether the board needs to be spiritually based? We have five member-at-large seats and can invite groups that aren't religious-based, i.e, Manchester Community College. It was noted that MCHC's Certificate of Incorporation specifies MCHC is religious based; that member congregations of the corporation shall consist of those religious congregations that desire membership in the corporation. Member congregations shall be entitled to one director, and there is a limit of five members-at-large. MCHC is a non-member organization.

A question arose if MCHC has a mission statement. Though MCHC does not have a mission statement, MISH does. MCHC will adopt the MISH Statement: "To inform and educate the residents of Manchester including elected and appointed officials of the Town, key leaders in social services, business, law enforcement, the religious community, the varied cultural and ethnic groups, neighborhood leaders and the media about homelessness in Manchester, and supportive housing as a successful way to reduce or eliminate homelessness, and to create supportive housing in Manchester."

Upon reviewing the by-laws, it was noted that a formal annual meeting should be set with 14 days prior notice given. The annual meeting will be communicated to the Congregations who will identify their "congregation designated director."

The MCHC Annual Meeting is set for Wednesday, July 11 at 7:00 pm. St. Mary's Episcopal Church at 41 Park Street will host this meeting.

David reiterated that the process of being a director requires that the Congregation simply indicate that they are a member of MCHC and that this is their designee as a director at the Annual Meeting. The Certification form that David has prepared is to be used for this. If your Congregation is not presently a member of MCHC, please take a Resolution form and a Certification form.

Please Note: If you are not going to be at the July 11 meeting, please send Resolution/Certification to David Blackwell at 45 Yale Drive, Manchester, CT.

The members-at-large are voted by the member directors. If at-large members leave the Board, it's up to the remaining directors to vote a new at-large director. David noted he would like to be on the Board as a member-at-large.

There was also discussion of an Advisory Council having people who represent organizations such as Genesis Center, NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill), Department of Mental Retardation, MARC, and MACC.

It was suggested that the members of the Services Committee and the Site Acquisition Committee should meet soon.

The Corporation for Supportive Housing has sent a list of names of consultants. David suggested that we pass around the list of possible consultants from CSH, and folks who would like to be on the subcommittee to look at consultants can let him know.

Submitted by: Dianne McPherson