

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2015

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Ana Pancine, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:05 A.M. Ana reviewed the meeting structure and then introduction were made by all.

The minutes of the October 7, 2015 were reviewed. Bob Mack and Barbara Alves noted corrections. A motion to accept the minutes as corrected was made by Barbara Alves and seconded by Candace Gebhart. The motion passed.

Ana reviewed the project ranking chart for the COC application which had also been sent to the GNCO membership by email on October 28, 2015. She explained the ranking process which was done by an unbiased panel, and gave the group an opportunity to ask questions. The COC application is due by November 20, 2015. Bob Mack mentioned that there was only one application for a bonus project this year. There were no questions or concerns noted.

Presentation: Employment Services

Tom Lopez of Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter gave an overview of the employment program he administers at NSKS. They can serve anyone homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Tom does a consultation to help client determine strengths and areas of interest. Client must be seen at least once a week. They can use the computer lab, phones and may receive bus tickets or other services to eliminate barriers to finding employment. They may also get referrals for clothing or other needs. Volunteers and interns staff the computer lab and assist clients in resume writing, job search or learning English through Rosetta Stone.

Andrea Reed of Harbor Homes' Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program gave an overview of her program. This is a Department of Labor grant meant to serve veterans who have served at least one day of active duty. Veterans must not have a dishonorable discharge to receive services. She does a short assessment, mock applications, helps with resumes, and shows clients how to use a computer. She helps determine the barriers to gaining employment and with discretionary donations, may provide for support not allowed through the grant, such as getting a tire repaired. Andrea showed a chart of her program tracking.

Gary Hooper of Greater Nashua Mental Health Center's supportive employment program gave an overview of his program. Persons with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness who are connected to GNMHC are eligible. No one is excluded from services due to substance use or mental illness symptoms. This program focuses on competitive employment and includes benefits counseling and rapid job search. The employment coordinators work as part of the client's treatment team, which also includes their case manager, therapist and psychiatrist.

Tom gave information about the Employment Connect committee of the GNCOC. He explained that the group meets monthly to touch base regarding eligibility for various programs and also to avoid duplication of services. Not all meeting participants are employment providers, some are case managers who want to have a good understanding of what programs are available.

Tom and Andrea recognized three employers with whom they have developed great relationships; Josh's Toys and Games, Home Depot and Exxon Mobile and provided recognition plaques.

Andrea briefly explained the Veteran Stand Down event she has each year.

Q: How many staff at each program and how many clients served?

A: HVRP: 2 staff and one PT vacancy, 170 clients

GNMHC: 4 staff, 120-130 clients

NSKS: one staff and varying volunteers/interns, 534 clients.

Tom did note that clients that may fit into GNMHC's or HHI's programs are referred for more intensive services.

Q: Does a client need to be a patient at GNMHC in order to get employment services?

A: Yes

Amy Brady from the VA talked about her role as a veteran employment coordinator. She helps veterans navigate resources by training employment staff at various agencies and to provide them with resources.

Q: Can the veteran resources be used by non-veterans?

A: No one is turned away at training programs and IDs are not checked but the materials and presentations are geared towards veterans, although much of the content could be useful to anyone. Amy will send flyers with contact info to Ana to distribute to the GNCOC.

Q: Can someone share any info about the ABLE program?

A: ABLE is a program for seniors (over 55) looking to return to work. They receive job training by working at non-profits and the program pays their wages.

Tom announced that the Employment Connect committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2:30 at 2 Quincy Street, and invited anyone interested to attend.

Announcements:

Wendy LeBlanc shared that the Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force will be holding their annual World AIDS Day open house and candlelight vigil at 4:00PM on Tuesday, December 1 at their office at 12 Amherst St.

Bob Mack asked everyone to Save the Date for the GNCOC's annual Project Homeless Connect on January 27, 2016. This will be the same day as Nashua's annual Point In Time homeless count. We are still waiting for the State to choose the date for the PIT but it is usually the last Wednesday in January.

Rick Rutter announced that the Southern NH Rescue Mission will be serving a Thanksgiving brunch from 8-1 on Thanksgiving, in addition to their Sunday-before-Thanksgiving dinner.

Laurie Goodman reminded everyone that open enrollment for Marketplace insurance has begun and there are options for low cost insurance premiums. Staff at Harbor Care Health and Wellness Center can help get folks signed up.

Sylvia Gale announced that the NH Coalition to End Homelessness' Granite Leaders program is underway.

Maureen Griffin from NH works reminded folks that she is a resource for employment counseling for those who may not fit into other employment programs.

Tom Doucet from H.E.A.R.T.S. shared that there will be 2 more respite beds opening in Keene and 2 more in Conway.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:05AM.

Minutes taken by Wendy LeBlanc, Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force