

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Nashua City Hall, November 2, 2016

Chair Ana Pancine called the meeting to order at 8:03AM. Introductions were made by all.

The minutes of the October 5, 2016 minutes were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Barbara Alves and seconded by Candace Gebhart. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation #1:

Aly McKnight, Substance Misuse Continuum of Care Coordinator for the City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services presented on the program she is coordinating. She first reviewed the structure of Public Health services within the State in regards to Substance Misuse and explained that the program she is working on is based at Nashua Public Health and has been named “Beyond Influence”.

Aly’s job is to gather information and build structures based on expertise within the community, connect resources and assess the availability of substance use disorder (SUD) services, as well as to identify gaps and coordinate efforts. She reports back to the State on progress and also receives feedback and ideas of best practices from them.

She discussed the Mayor’s Opioid Task force and how that relates. She said that the first meeting took place on January 21, 2016 and was started to improve communication between agencies providing SUD services and to develop a plan to address this crisis. They meet every two weeks and the meetings are open to anyone.

Aly showed us some slides regarding the collective impact process that they are following. She was asked how the immediate needs are being met and how this project is addressing the significant numbers of those overdosing and dying from opioid use. She shared that currently there are approximately 100,000 persons in New Hampshire with mental illness and substance use disorder, but only enough resources to serve 5,000. She then shared information on short term actions that are taking place, such as Naloxone/Narcan trainings and the new statewide crisis line (1-244-711-HELP) being run by Keystone Hall. Peter Keller mentioned that since the crisis line started in early June, there have been over 900 calls and over 2300 referrals made.

It was asked if this project is somehow connected to the Medicaid 1115 Waiver that is focusing on SUD and Aly replied that the Southern NH Health System, the lead agency for the 1115 Waiver is part of the Mayor’s Task Force.

Aly gave a bit more details about the Naloxone/Narcan trainings and then as time was running out, spoke briefly about the importance of an assessment by a qualified SUD counselor because everyone’s recovery needs are different. Peter also mentioned that an 11 bed medical detox will be opening at 45 High Street in the next few weeks.

Presentation #2:

Keith Ballingall of Health Apply, talked with the group about the Southern New Hampshire Collaborative, a group of agencies working together to share information and resources in regards to enrolling folks into health insurance plans. He said that this was an outgrowth of when the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was implemented and everyone needed to learn to figure out how to enroll people depending on their income.

He spoke briefly about open enrollment for ACA Marketplace for those between 138%-400% of the federal poverty level (FPL) being 11/1/16-1/31/17. He also mentioned Medicare open enrollment and said that for folks who are “dual-eligible” (Medicare and Medicaid) they may do well with a Medicare Advantage plan which can and vision and dental coverage.

He went on to explain that there can be “work-arounds” for some folks, particularly legal immigrants who have not yet met the 5-year residency requirement. If denied by Medicaid but under 138% of the FPL, they are eligible for ACA coverage and may also get low costs.

The agencies currently participating in the Southern NH Collaborative are Health Apply, Harbor Homes, Manchester Community Health Department, and the Balinese Community. Others who are involved in insurance enrollment are welcome to join the group.

Announcements:

Beth Todgham shared information and a flyer about the Early Childhood planning committee sponsored by United Way and NH Listens. There will be a meeting on 11/18/16 at Nashua Community College for interested stakeholders in regards to developing a plan to give young people a good start in life.

Amy Brady from the VA shared some statistics in regards to the Transitional Living programs and outcomes that show 66% of veterans who left the program were employed, as compared to the target of 45%. She also said that 58% of people in permanent housing are employed, compared with 35% of target. She also mentioned that it is National Career Development month and on 11/16 there will be a job fair for veterans at McIntyre Ski area in Manchester.

Laurie Goodman wanted folks to know that despite the news that insurance premiums have increased, there is still great tax credit assistance on the Marketplace and we should let people know not to focus on that piece of news and sign up themselves to see the cost-savings available.

April Houten distributed brochures about the services available through the National Guard for veterans.

Tom Lopez mentioned that the next Employment Connect meeting will take place on 11/8 at 3:00Pm at Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter.

Erica Rivera from Neighborworks shared that there is a meeting tonight at PAL regarding the possibility of adding a bridge from the Heritage Trail to Mine Falls.

Dan Weeks distributed information on how to find out where to vote and what to bring.

Maryse Wirbal shared that the Front Door Agency will be doing their last round of sign-ups for Christmas assistance on 11/4 from 3:30-6:30 and on 11/7 from 3:00-5:00. She also asked that if other agencies are doing gift assistance to please send her the list of names of people who they are helping so there is enough help for everyone.

Peter Kelleher reminded everyone of the annual Partnership for Successful Living Thanksgiving dinner to be held on Tuesday, November 22nd.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04AM

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