

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2008
Nashua City Hall Auditorium
www.nashua-coc.org

Call to order: 8:05 a.m. by Chair Wendy Furnari

All present introduced themselves and visitors welcomed.

Minutes of May 7, 2008 (handout): B. Mack noted a correction on page 3, paragraph 3. L. Wilshire noted a correction on page 2, paragraph 8. L. Wilshire motioned to accept the minutes with corrections. L. Christie seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Election of Co Vice-Chairs: W. Furnari mentioned that P. Kelleher and C. Gebhart have agreed to be Co Vice-Chairs of the Continuum and asked for a motion to elect. L. Wilshire motioned. J. Leclerc seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Keystone Hall Presentation: P. Kelleher and S. Swank gave a presentation of Project Recovering Lives. The PRL program has six agencies affiliated and experienced staff which includes 5 LADCs and a physician. Some of the highlights of the program include crisis intervention, sobriety maintenance, transitional living program and permanent housing.

P. Kelleher mentioned that the program has been operating since November of 2007 has been in collaboration with DCYF and DOC. He also explained that the DOC side of the grant will provide assessments and screening of at least 125 people and the DCYF side of the grant will provide services for at least 50 people.

S. Swank mentioned that the program also provides wrap around services which include referrals on a daily basis and helping individuals access Medicaid and set up prescription referrals. P. Kelleher mentioned that Project Recovering Lives is the brain child of the Governor's Commission.

P. Kelleher indicated that one of the findings has been that the education level of some of the individuals is shockingly low and S. Swank added that 60-70% have dropped out of school during the 11th or 12th grade and have not received their GED.

S. Swank mentioned that the program has 12 sessions which are 3 hours long. P. Kelleher indicated that the screening component is 6 months of intensive outpatient.

B. Doolan asked if the referrals were required through DCYF or DOC. S. Swank replied yes. P. Kelleher explained that 98% of participation has been through the DOC and DCYF has been the other extreme. S. Swank indicated that incentives are helpful.

R. Gelinas asked if the DOC is mandating GEDs and S. Swank replied not always.

P. Kelleher mentioned that the programs first graduation ceremony was held at Harbor Homes. He indicated that family members attended and the ceremony was very touching.

B. Doolan asked if there would be any connection to housing. S. Swank indicated that both Harbor Homes, Inc. and Maple Street Shelter have been utilized. She also explained that 13-14 individuals have been placed in detox and moved into transitional or permanent housing programs.

W. Furnari made a comment regarding DCYF and DOC referrals. She mentioned that an individual can ask someone in the system about the program. P. Kelleher indicated that Greater Nashua has been the priority. The State Dept. of Corrections is second, County Dept. of Corrections is third and then all others.

B. Mack asked about costs. P. Kelleher responded that the program is free to all individuals. He explained that childcare is also available.

T. Epaphras asked where legal issues were referred. S. Swank explained that all referrals usually go through LARK.

J. Bresnahan mentioned that there are now 4 different Intensive Out Patient (IOP) programs running weekly.

G. Pilarski from DCYF explained that a voluntary case can be opened and the department works on keeping families together.

J. Bresnahan indicated that some of the graduates from the first program are interested in providing support groups.

Announcements:

B. Bissett handed out brochures and explained the new VASH program. The program is Veteran Administrative Supported Housing. He explained that the program is similar to HUD's Section 8 program and provides supported services linked to medical and psychiatric care. The State of New Hampshire was awarded 35 vouchers and the Manchester Housing Authority will be the contact point for the vouchers. The veterans will need to be willing to live in the Manchester area for one year and then the voucher will be portable.

W. Furnari asked if the veterans from Buckingham Place would be eligible. B. Bissett responded yes, he also indicated that veterans with children will rank high.

R. Gelinas asked if NH residents would have priority. B. Bissett indicated that hopefully they will but it has not been mandated as of yet. L. Censabella mentioned that anyone can apply and the Manchester Housing Authority can set preferences internally.

B. Bissett indicated that there is no need for income with the Section 8 vouchers. If there is income, the rent would be based on 30% of the individual's income.

L. Newall provided handouts of the current APR'S for everyone to review.

B. Mack reminded everyone of the Emergency Preparedness conference on June 5, 2008 at Rivier College. He indicated that if anyone is interested in attending they can call 589-4547.

It was also mentioned that there would be a city wide Crime Watch Committee meeting at the Nashua Police Department on June 11, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Berube, Harbor Homes, Inc.