

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2009
www.nashua-coc.org**

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

All present introduced themselves and visitors welcomed.

Minutes of October 7, 2009 (handout): Corrections were noted on page 1, paragraph 8 and page 2, paragraph 2. J. Leclerc motioned to accept the minutes with corrections. B. Mack seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Presentation of Nashua Pastoral Care Center:

C. Connor provided a background of the Care Center. She mentioned that the Care Center is a 501C (3) organization. Since 1987 the Care Center has not had any religious ties but it was originally tied to the Episcopal Church on Main Street. When the center first opened it consisted of ~~1~~one employee and today there are 13.

The mission of the center is to work with individuals in crisis. Some are homeless or maybe trying to avoid homelessness. Individuals speak with a case manager who will assist or refer them to other agencies.

The Center provides services from **Transitional Housing**, Financial Literacy, Prevention and Intervention of Homelessness. The Care Center also is co administer with the Salvation Army for the Holiday **Gift** Program. She also mentioned that the last day to sign up for Holiday assistance is November 4, 2009, 10 am to 12 pm and 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

J. Karwatske explained each program in detail. The Transitional Housing program is a 2 year program which provides assistance to women between the ages of 18 and 35 with children. The program provides case management and assists with job training or preparing for a higher education.

Prevention and Intervention assists with rent, utilities and housing security deposits which each month the Center processes about 12-18 loans.

Subsidized programs include the Governor's Loan Fund which is designed specifically for homeless families. There is also a revolving mortgage fund which provides \$2,500.00 for mortgage assistance.

W. LeBlanc asked about the application process and J. Karwatske indicated that it is important that all applications are completely filled out.

J. Karwatske indicated that the Care Center helps with bus tickets, gas cards, small childcare expenses and referrals to the Dental Connections. She mentioned there is also prescription assistance if medically necessary.

E. Brady asked what if someone asked for Holiday assistance in December. J. Karwatske indicated that sometimes the Care Center will take late applications.

J. Koliss asked what happens to people when agencies run out of funds. M. Durso mentioned that her agency does not turn any one away.

Harbor Care Clinic Presentation:

K. Fortin mentioned that the clinic received money through the Stimulus Act. The funding is for 2 years and is monitored by HRSA. She indicated that the clinic works closely with the Nashua Area Health Center and referrals are received from many agencies.

K. Fortin is the only full time staff; there is one part time MD and an APRN starting soon.

Dr. O'Shea said there are many great and interesting stories. She also mentioned there are many challenges including hiring new staff and setting up evening hours.

K. Fortin indicated the clinic has been providing seasonal flu vaccines for the homeless. They have also been coordinating with the City, Healthy at Home and the local hospitals.

S. Mead thanked K. Fortin and Dr. O'Shea on behalf of her clients and mentioned that she had been getting good feedback.

M. Thornton asked about referrals. Dr. O'Shea indicated it varies patient to patient. Referrals come from Lamprey, Hitchcock, Southern NH Medical Center and St. Joseph's Hospital.

Announcements and Discussions:

L. Goodman mentioned she attended a Social Security Disability Conference at U Mass Lowell. She heard many inspiring stories and indicated that maybe NH would like to have a similar conference. W. LeBlanc indicated it may be similar to the ~~Sears~~-SOAR program.

M. Durso mentioned that the emergency rooms are being overwhelmed with people with flu like symptoms and The Hitchcock Clinic is adding more hours due to the long waits. She also added that Lamprey will be open from 6pm to 8pm for their clients with flu like symptoms only.

R. Peterson shared that the Greater Nashua Asset Building Coalition is gearing up for the Free Income Tax Preparation Program set to begin in January 2010. Recruitment flyers for tax preparers and greeters, tax prep site schedules and service "coupons" were available. Over a million dollars is not being claimed in tax credits locally which could be of substantial benefit to community residents.

B. Mack reminded everyone of the Project Homeless Connect on Dec ember 9th at 45 High Street from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. He indicated that 18 agencies have already signed up.

N. Goodwin mentioned the Thanksgiving Dinner being held at 45 High Street on November 24th.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Berube, Keystone Hall