

## GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE

### Meeting Minutes

Nashua City Hall Auditorium

September 6, 2006

[www.nashua-coc.org](http://www.nashua-coc.org)

1. Call to Order: 8:05 a.m. Chair Lori Wilshire.
2. All present introduced themselves and visitors were welcomed.
3. Minutes of August 2, 2006: (handout) B. Mack motioned to table the minutes until the next regular meeting, P. Kelleher seconded and the motion carried.
4. Report of Executive Committee: L. Wilshire reminded everyone that election of officers was coming up next month and asked if anyone was interested in serving as an officer or wanted to nominate someone, to please give the names to her by September 17<sup>th</sup>. This committee met on August 16<sup>th</sup> with representatives from both of the area hospitals to discuss discharge-planning issues. They also discussed the possibility of the GNCOC obtaining its own 501 (c) 3 status. It was agreed not to pursue this at this time. There is a need for more members of the GNCOC to participate in the Sub-Committees.
5. Ending Homelessness Committee: B. Mack reported that his committee met last month and continues to work through its sub-committees to meet the goals and objectives set forth in the Ending Homelessness Plan. L. Wilshire added that this committee especially needs more members because it has the largest share of responsibility.
6. GAPS Committee: (handout) J. Russell referred everyone to the handout with the tabulation of the last homeless count taken in July. The slight downward trend seemed normal for the summer months. The next homeless count will take place in October.
7. SuperNOFA Committee: M. Auer reminded everyone to continue to work on goals. L. Newell said that HUD needs every funded agency to participate in the HMIS reporting system. Non-funded agencies are encouraged to participate but a final decision from HUD has not been made yet.
8. Community Relations Committee: M. Febonio reported that this committee met on August 22<sup>nd</sup> in Merrimack. They are working on updating the GNCOC website and need the most current information from the membership. They will also be sending letters to other organizations inviting them to join the GNCOC. They want to put together a power-point presentation to use for public awareness. They will meet again next week. M. Wirbal invited them to come to the Rotary Club sometime next winter to present it.
9. Legislative Affairs Committee: C. Rosenwald reported that this committee met last month and listened to presentations from P. Kelleher of Harbor Homes Inc. speaking about cost savings of permanent supportive housing, a presentation he had made to the Governor, and W. Furnari about funding cuts concerning the HIV/AIDS Task Force.
10. Continua Reports: No report from MCOC this month. BOSCOG – M. Auer said they are restructuring their COC similar to Nashua for the most part. Every month they review their goals to be ready for the SuperNOFA when it comes out next year. She reminded

all of the upcoming Homeless Providers Conference on September 26<sup>th</sup>. ICH – P. Kelleher said this group meets on the second Monday of each month and is looking for additional members. If you know of anyone, please give the name to P. Kelleher. They have invited the Governor to attend the Homeless Providers Conference to endorse the State Ending Homelessness Plan.

11. Rapid Re-housing: K. Nijhuis reported that this committee is working on streamlining the application process for the homeless persons toward the assistance they need. They are developing a one-time application/information sheet, which can be copied and taken to various, participating assistance agencies. They are also working toward having a list of landlords willing to help house the homeless whose vacancies can be listed on the COC website and where one e-mail could be sent to them looking for apartments for specific clients by the agencies. L. Wilshire referred to the handout announcing a conference entitled “Successful Affordable Housing Strategies” taking place in Manchester on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Presentation – Project Homeless Connect Update**: B. Mack introduced John O’Brien from United States Inter-Agency Council who was invited to speak to the membership about the national Project Homeless Connect, which this year in Nashua will be on December 6, 2006. J. O’Brien reported that Nashua had the largest and best-coordinated event in New England last year. He attended and found it to be a very positive experience. Last year 27 cities participated across the country. This year over 40 will participate. The emphasis at this event is “one day, one stop” assistance/information for the homeless. The idea is to have all the services possible together in one place, not a service fair, but a place to offer the homeless help and guidance all in one place, on one day. He has found this to be something that changes the nature of a community’s response to homelessness. A place where partnerships between the business community (for jobs and housing), the homeless providers, the police departments, faith-based organizations, health agencies and the media come together to help the homeless in their community. They are looking to offer outcomes the same day such as, haircuts, physical exams, hook up to voice mail, eye exams and glasses, food and clothing. They hope to remove barriers and make people feel comfortable and welcome and get their feedback. L. Wilshire thanked O’Brien for coming to make this presentation on behalf of the GNCOC.

12. Upcoming Meetings:
  - a. Ending Homelessness – September 6, 2006, 9:00 am, City Hall, Room 208
  - b. Community Relations – September 12, 2006, 9:00 am, Keystone Hall
  - c. Executive Committee: September 20, 2006, 8:00 am, Harbor Homes
  - d. Legislative Affairs Committee: September 25, 2006, 10:00 am, Harbor Homes
  - e. GNCOC Meeting – October 4, 2006, 8:00 am, City Hall Auditorium
  - f. GAPS – TBA
  - g. Rapid Re-housing - TBA

13. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.