

GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE

Meeting Minutes

Nashua City Hall Auditorium

December 7, 2005

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1. Call to Order: 8:00 a.m. by Vice-Chair Wendy Furnari.
2. All present introduced themselves and visitors were welcomed.
3. Minutes of November 2, 2005: (handout) K. Nihuis motioned the minutes be accepted, G. Hicks-Grogan seconded and the motion carried.
4. Report of Executive Committee: W. Furnari reported that this committee met twice since the motion was passed by the GNCOC to have the Executive Committee discuss and propose a replacement for Chairperson, K. Nijhuis. D. Lozeau nominated Lori Cardin as a candidate for the Chair position on behalf of the Executive Committee, stating that she is someone who has a sense of the housing issues and knowledge of what the GNCOC does. She reported on Cardin's background qualifications and her knowledge of the Continuum's needs. L. Cardin said it was an honor to be nominated, and said that she has ten years of experience relative to housing issues from her years as an Alderman and experience with the homelessness concerns from serving on the Human Affairs Committee. Furnari then motioned that Cardin be elected the new Chair of the GNCOC, L. Christie seconded and the motion carried
5. Ending Homelessness Committee Update: B. Mack reported that this committee continues to work on the Plan and is making significant progress. There are many projects in the planning i.e. revolving loan fund, looking for chairs for their subcommittees. They will meet again today at 9:00 am and all are invited to attend if interested in helping. W. Furnari said she has been attending this committee for several years now without much participation except for attending meetings and just recently joined the Ending Homelessness Committee. She feels this is where most of the work gets done for the homelessness issues, and they really need more people to help.
6. Project Homeless Connect: B. Mack reported that there are 20 agencies signed up to participate in this event which takes place tomorrow at the Main Street Methodist church in Nashua. Set up will be at 10:00 and people will start coming in at 11:00. They have many items and information to give to the homeless as well providing a few health services. Lunch will also be provided. Mack said he greatly appreciated the help of the planning committee for this event.
7. Mentorship Bank Presentation: Robin Daning explained her program and its history, which evolved out of the Guardianship Program, a program that provides legal decisions for people who cannot make their own decisions, into the

Mentorship Bank concept, which helps people to make better decisions in their lives with the help of a mentor. She explained that 4500 people in New Hampshire have permanent legal guardians. Placing people in the Mentorship program helps to maintain the autonomy of the individuals who need help. There is less restriction than the Guardianship Program. She has been talking with agencies to help with their clients. The client must first want a mentor and be able to articulate their needs and expectations from the mentor. The Mentorship Bank matches compatible mentors with clients. The mentor does not tell them what to do and can be dismissed at any time by the client so it is “equal and safe”. Most of the work is done over the phone with at least one monthly meeting face to face of one hour. Daning answered questions about the service. She said the mentors were people with values but not a friend or case management worker to the clients.

8. Continua Reports: D. Lozeau read a report from T. Epaphras stating that the Manchester COC met on November 16th when Marianne Savarese from the Homeless Mobile Health Team gave a presentation. Linda Newell from the HMIS also made a presentation. Their annual elections were held and Brother Paul Crawford of Catholic Charities was elected Chair. An update on the Manchester 10 year Plan to End Homelessness was given as well as committee reports. Their next quarterly meeting will be February 22, 2006 at the HUD office at 12:00 noon.

M. Auer reported that BOSCOC has met on November 21st and they are planning to do a lot of changes and restructuring and write a new draft of their “Guiding Principals”. They are looking into other things they should be doing besides working on the SuperNOFA. They have decided to change their meeting place from month to month to get to all areas of the State. They decided they would be willing to share the ranking process for the SuperNOFA with CNCOC if there was still an interest.

P. Kelleher reported that the Governor has been interacting with the committee working on the State Ending Homelessness Plan, which has been meeting for the last two years. They hope to have a completed draft ready by December 21st. He explained how they have been gathering information and said that they were still accepting input from anyone interested. Nashua’s work has been noted by the State. K. Nijhuis asked what would happen after their Plan was completed. Kelleher indicated that they would most likely be monitoring its progress. Nijhuis suggested a report on the ICH Plan be included regularly on the GNCOC Agenda. M. Auer reiterated how the State has recognized Nashua’s work. L. Christie said that ICH recently added homeless people to their committee.
9. Upcoming Meetings:
 - a. Executive Committee Meeting – December 21st , 8:00 am – Harbor Homes board room, 78 Main St, Nashua.
 - b. Ending Homelessness Committee – December 7th, 9:00 am Room 208, City Hall.
 - c. General Meeting GNCOC – January 4th, 8:00 am, City Hall, **Room 208**

10. Announcements: P. Kelleher announced that Harbor Homes would be moving into the High Street location this month.

R. Daning said that the Mentorship Bank was having a raffle and she had tickets if anyone was interested.

L. Newell had sample graphs of HMIS reports to pass out for anyone interested.

K. Nijhuis and B. Mack announced the \$1.4 million grant for HIV housing was being formally awarded to the City on December 9th at City Hall in the Aldermanic Chambers. There was applause for all the people who had worked on this grant.

K. Nijhuis announced the Neighborhood Housing Service's Casimir Place was near completion and would be having a dedication ceremony on December 21st at 3:00 pm at the site. They will soon be looking for residents for the 28 units.

D. Lozeau reported that the Southern New Hampshire Services project on Temple Street was moving along and that it would provide 43 more units.

P. Kelleher suggested we find a resource person to cronicle all that is happening in housing in the area. There is a story to be told.

11. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.