

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Executive Committee Meeting

June 8, 2011

Call to order: 8:30am by Chair, Wendy LeBlanc

Present: Janice Watson, Wendy LeBlanc, Peter Kelleher, Lori Piper, Barbara Alves, Annette Escalante, Bob Mack, Beth Todgham, Scott Costa, and Carol Furlong.

Minutes of May 11, 2011 (handout):

B. Alves motioned to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by P. Kelleher and the motion carried unanimously.

Topics of Discussion:

Lamprey Healthcare:

J. Watson from Lamprey Healthcare indicated they have lost 100% of their State funding for substance abuse, and therefore the Healthy Steps Program would be ending on 6/30/11. Lamprey is trying to find ways to keep the program alive and they are looking at potential alternatives. At this point the clients have not been told that the program will be ending.

Presenters (as they apply to the 10 Year Plan):

A lengthy discussion ensued about upcoming presenters to the regular GNCOC meetings took place. P. Kelleher recommended that a logical place to start may be to review the trends and numbers from the PIT count, and then determine based on that information who the EC should ask to speak at an upcoming meeting. This count shows progress in ending homelessness has gone very well. There have been very substantial reductions in the categories over the past 8 -9 years. Unsheltered persons of 90% or better is coming from the SNHS outreach person. That agency might be in the best position to report on this, as other agencies reported minimal numbers. The balance of 70 (out of 311) identified by SNHS, and the balance are primarily people in emergency shelters. He suggested that we have a newly homeless population with economically challenged persons coming in that have lost their homes to foreclosure, whereas in the past many persons were chronically homeless, and if assisting them may help to free up space for those that are not chronically homeless. The shelters and TH end up being very long term, functioning more as permanent housing in temporary locations, and that must make it more difficult for people to get into shelter beds. Based on the statistics it may make sense to invite those that can talk about helping to bring more permanent affordable housing to the area. When you see some of the results, the data is supposedly becoming purer, so it does appear the results are better. More expertise on affordable housing is needed. Part of this challenge is that the count is one point in time, whereas the reality is different. The data is only as good as the data provided. W. LeBlanc felt that the sheltered numbers are correct, but the unsheltered number is questionable. B. Mack asked whether we should change the collection of data method. B. Mack, J. Watson and B. Alves all indicate anecdotally that they are seeing more people who are coming from other states and other parts of the

state. The Plan tried to incorporate an interstate plan as part of the original 10 year plan, which never really happened. B. Mack is seeing more families coming into City Hall. The City is keeping the same funding level in City Welfare for next year. Their numbers have been steady over the past 2 years. There have been 70 units of housing created in the past couple of years. How to track the data for units that have been lost is another issue which needs to be explored. S. Costa indicated that Public Housing has 5000 on the Section 8 wait list. Public housing is down a bit because there are other options now in the community. Interest in public housing is down, for example the elderly have more options. The vacancy is not high with Public Housing with the elderly population. There are discussions that you could move some of the PH stock over to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher. Units of PH is 662 throughout area, and some tax credit programs (Park View) 14 units, 853 housing choice vouchers with about 800 vouchers being used. It was recommended at the EC meeting, that it would make sense to ask the Nashua Housing Authority to provide a presentation. B. Mack suggested that other housing providers also present. For example, he asked how many VA units, substance abuse units are there are in the City at this time. The Partnership for Successful Living will also help to present the overall housing numbers for those in the Continuum.

Data Gathering/HIC and PIT:

A discussion ensued that there continue to be challenges with gathering the data and the PIT.

New Officers:

W. LeBlanc indicated that in October 2011 a new slate of officers are needed as well as a new Clerk, as the two year term is up effective 9/30/11 of the slate currently serving.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Minutes taken by Lori M. Piper of Merrimack County Savings Bank