

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care  
Executive Committee Meeting  
August 10, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 8:35am by Chair, Wendy LeBlanc

Present at the meeting were Bob Mack, Beth Todgham, Wendy LeBlanc, Candace Gebhart, Peter Kelleher, Lisa Christie, Mariellen Durso, Barbara Alves, Annette Escalante, and Lori Piper.

B. Alves motioned to accept the minutes with a minor typographical correction, seconded by A. Escalante and the motion carried unanimously.

**Topics of Discussion**

**GNCOC Officers:**

W. LeBlanc indicated that this is the last meeting that C. Gebhart will be attending as the Legal Aid Office will be leaving its Nashua location and operating out of Manchester. C. Gebhart was thanked for her service as Vice Chair of the GNCOC and all the important work that she has done as part of our various GNCOC committees.

W. LeBlanc indicated that since the last executive meeting and since the last GNCOC meeting when it was announced that nominations were needed for both the Vice Chair position and the Clerk's position that she has received no feedback or offers of support. She also indicated that a new Chair for the Data Gathering Committee is needed as well. A. Escalante indicated that she may have someone that Clerk and someone who could work on the Data Gathering Committee, and M. Durso indicated she would check to see if someone at Lamprey Health may be able to step into the Clerk's position. W. LeBlanc was going to reach out to J. Leclerc, K. Merrill and L. Skibba to see if any of them might have an interest in the Vice Chair position. P. Kelleher indicated that the EC might want to think about the leadership skills needed for these positions going forward. However, it was recognized by all that these are challenging spots to fill, given the volunteer nature of the COC as well as the cutbacks that agencies are experiencing and everyone's plates are full.

**Replacement on ICH Task Force:**

C. Gebhart has been the representative from the GNCOC on the ICH Task Force. She briefed the EC on the current status. The task force has been reviewing all the homeless plans in the State at the direction of the Governor's Council. There will be one or two more meetings and she will coordinate with P. Kelleher and L. Christie as to the dates of the next meeting, so that one of them (as current members of the ICH, but not the task force) can attend on behalf of the GNCOC going forward. She indicated that when the ICH is reconvened it will likely move to a bi-monthly basis and the size of the group may be scaled back. K. Beaulieu, who was recently hired by Families in Transition (FIT) is doing a lot of outreach and is involved in the task force project to help align the various homeless plans, so that the ICH can move forward with the commonalities amongst the groups, with the intent that the ICH may have a more cohesive statewide approach to the issues of homelessness and how the various plans are approaching the solutions. Members around the table expressed some concerns that homeless subpopulations may need to be addressed in a variety of ways, given the varied number of governmental agencies that different non-profits must report to regarding the homeless population and the action steps they are taking to address it.

**Data Gathering and HMIS:**

W. LeBlanc indicated that there continue to be concerns about collecting the data to ensure proper reporting of individuals moving from transitional into permanent housing. D. Curley would like to try and resolve where the disconnect may be by having the agencies that report into HMIS on TH and PH attend a meeting and discuss solutions so that we can reach the HUD goal that has been set. The EC agreed this would be a good idea and W. LeBlanc will coordinate with D. Curley to set up the meeting with the correct participants. P. Kelleher indicated that the outcomes could be improved by the 21 new VASH based units that can move from TH and PH. A.

Escalante indicated she would like someone from her office at the table as they struggle with this particular data collection item.

**SuperNOFA:**

W. LeBlanc indicated that there was a pre-registration process which she has taken care of. The SuperNOFA has not been released but she will keep everyone posted when it is released and the timeline that is set for completion. G Schaak is being contracted with again this year, but on a lesser scale because of the state cutbacks. HHI has had to scale back from the \$8000 to \$6000, and they will invoice the other SuperNOFA agencies based on their pro-rated basis. V. Sarlo for HHI will provide more assistance this year, as will B. Dolan from Marguerites Place.

**September GNCOC Presenters:**

Scott Costa from the Nashua Housing Authority will be presenting, as will Harbor Homes. W. LeBlanc had been asked by a GNCOC member if the Nashua Boys and Girls Club could present at a future meeting. She asked the EC about the tie in to the new plan to have any presenters tie in the 10 Year plan to end homelessness. L. Christie indicated that there is certainly a tie in with the families that have been homeless who have stayed at both the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter and at Marguerites Place. They will be invited to present in November and be asked to focus on the teens and children that are homeless in their programs at the Boys and Girls Club.

**October GNCOC Meeting:**

New officers will be elected at the October GNCOC meeting.

**Other Business:**

B. Alves shared that she recently had to ask someone to leave their program, and it necessitated calling on other agencies for some help. She indicated there was a lot of cooperation by many agencies and she was appreciative of how everyone came together to lend a hand. It was indicative of the good relationship that many agencies have developed over the years that are all part of the GNCOC.

M. Durso provided an update regarding Lamprey Healthcare. They were handed some funding cuts that impacted nine positions in primary care and family planning for the uninsured. Substance abuse treatment is available but the hours have been modified. The teen clinic is still operating but under a remodeled restructuring. They have had to cut across the board. The most significant impact is the waiting time period for a new patient. They must prioritize, and major acute cases take priority. She also indicated that J. Watson is in Nashua 3 days a week rather than 5.

P. Kelleher shared that they were recently notified that they have been awarded \$200,000 for veteran supportive services. He also indicated that the HHI Health Clinic is growing because of cuts in other healthcare areas, and they are receiving more referrals due to this.

B. Mack indicated that the city's welfare mediation program has been eliminated. He also indicated that at the State level there will be a reconfiguration of how household incomes for families receiving TANF benefits will be counted, and it is his understanding that SSI income will now be counted as part of the income to determine TANF benefit funding levels.

L. Christie once again thanked C. Gebhart of NH Legal Aid for all of the excellent assistance that she and staff have provided to those in need in the city of Nashua for many years. C. Gebhart reiterated that they remain available via phone or email.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40AM.

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