

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2010
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Call to order: 8:35 a.m. by Chair Wendy LeBlanc.

Present: Wendy LeBlanc, Bob Mack, Carol Furlong, Peter Kelleher, Meghan Bilz, Linda Newell, Barbara Alves, Lisa Christie, Lynn Censabella, Mariellen Durso, Lori Piper, and guest Jennifer Hinderer.

Minutes of February 10, 2010 (handout):

Minutes were reviewed and a correction clarifying that Lisa Christie had suggested at the February 10th meeting that the new library director be invited to an executive committee meeting. Thereafter, L. Christie motioned to accept the minutes as corrected, which was seconded by B. Mack and the motion carried.

Topics of Discussion:

W. LeBlanc welcomed and introduced the new director of the Nashua Library, Jennifer Hinderer to the meeting. Ms. Hinderer has been on the job six weeks. L. Christie took the opportunity to thank her for coming, and to let her know that the GNCOC recognizes that there are homeless people who utilize the library and we, as a group of social services agencies, would like to have a strong and collaborative working relationship with her and the library staff. Ms. Hinderer was asked to share with the group any struggles, challenges/obstacles that she may have encountered or heard about from her staff, and would like to discuss with this group.

Ms. Hinderer talked about wanting to understand where someone's 'Right to Privacy' starts and ends, and when can she make a call to one of the agencies to enlist help if needed in dealing with a homeless person on the library premises. She was made aware that there are homeless outreach workers in the City which she can call upon. The Executive Committee will ask that both Kathy Paquette, the SNHS Outreach Worker, and Susan Mead of the Greater Nashua Health Center at Community Council reach out and introduce themselves to Ms. Hinderer and to explain how they can be of service.

L. Christie suggested that S. Mead would likely be willing to go and provide a training to the library staff on the issues and challenges of mental illness. W. LeBlanc will connect S. Mead with J. Hinderer. Ms. Hinderer will also be added to the GNCOC email list so that she can be informed about what is happening in the community for the constituents that the GNCOC serves.

The attendees at the meeting, representing a diversity of non-profit agencies throughout the City, then each gave Ms. Hinderer a brief synopsis of what their organization does and the population it serves. P. Kelleher and members of his staff were going to provide a tour of Harbor Homes, the health clinic and Connections to Ms. Hinderer following the meeting. He also distributed a March 7, 2010 article written by an Associated Press journalist about the San Francisco Public Library, where hundreds of homeless people spend their days, and this library is the first in the country to hire a full time social worker to work with the homeless. Many other libraries across the country are trying a variety of approaches to deal with homeless library patrons who use the library for services other than typical library services.

May Presenters:

B. Mack suggested asking The Way Home, Harbor Homes and Greater Nashua Mental Health Center at Community Council to make presentations as a follow up to M. Ryan's presentation from the BHHS regarding way they have experienced relative to the application process, access and eligibility of the HPRP's ARRA stimulus funds.

Other Discussions:

B. Mack indicated that Carrie Schena, the new Urban Programs Director for the City of Nashua, has offered to meet with members of the GNCOC in order to receive input from the COC into the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan. W. LeBlanc commented that the ConPlan is a strategic plan required by HUD to set the City's goals/priorities as they relate to our federal funds with a focus on low-moderate income individuals and housing. It requires extensive public involvement, consultation and collaboration. L. Christie recommended that the Executive Committee have a pre-GNCOC meeting before the scheduled meeting with Ms. Schena to develop a comprehensive set of questions and comments that should be addressed. L. Censabella of the NHA requested that we be sure to focus on the impediments relative to the analysis of housing. She indicated that the City is required to update these regularly per federal requirements.

L. Christie asked B. Mack to comment, as newly elected President of the NH Local Welfare Administrators Association on any insights he had to offer. He indicated that he is trying to promote consistent procedures across all municipalities. He also mentioned that J. Greenberg from NPR is trying to put together a story about municipal welfare across NH.

M. Durso and B. Mack commented on their attempt to set up meetings with the emergency room staff at SNHMC and St. Joseph's Hospital to discuss how there could be better collaboration between the hospitals and the other healthcare centers in the City. They were successful in meeting with SNHMC's Patti Green and Joanne Thurston who indicated that see a lot of older (55+) homeless persons in the ER. They also indicate some addiction training for the staff would be helpful. Healthcare for the Homeless was spoken of very highly. A representative from St. Joseph's Hospital did not attend the meeting.

P. Kelleher spoke about the new collaborative "Vegas Project" between HHI/Keystone Hall, SNHMC and the Nashua PD. HHI/Keystone meet with intoxicated individuals at the ER upon the request of the hospital or NPD and try to refer these individuals to the appropriate resources. To date 13 persons have been helped, they were not necessarily homeless.

P. Kelleher informed the committee that N. Toumpas, Commissioner of DHHS will be coming to Rivier College on 3/31 from 5-7PM for a community discussion about the budget challenges.

P. Kelleher also informed the group that they have learned that the funding for Connections, which is \$35,000 and has been in place for 26 years will be cut to -0- effective with the State's new fiscal year. They are busily reaching out to others to see if, and how, that gap might be filled.

B. Alves invited everyone to join Marguerite's Place that evening, 3/10/2010 at Estabrook Grille to celebrate in the organization's unveiling of their new logo and to thank attendees for their support.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM.

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