

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2010
www.nashua-coc.org**

Call to order: 8:35 a.m. by Candace Gebhart.

Present: Peter Kelleher, Carol Furlong, Meghan Bilz, Barbara Alves, Mariellen Durso, Lisa Christie, and Candace Gebhart..

Minutes of October 13, 2010 (handout):

Minutes were reviewed. L. Christie motioned to accept the minutes as presented, which was seconded by B. Alves, and the motion carried.

Topics of Discussion:

- **SUPERNOFA UPDATE**

C. Gebhart stated that the SuperNOFA was ready to submit, and any questions should be directed to W. LeBlanc.

- **MATT BERNARD VIDEO**

C. Gebhart announced that the GNCOC General Meeting requested that the Matt Bernard video be shown- the first available time slot is in February. P. Kelleher stated that M. Bernard owns the video and he shows it himself. C. Furlong will contact him regarding showing the video to the GNCOC.

- **17 YEAR OLDS IN SHELTERS**

C. Gebhart stated that the shelters are seeing an increase in the number of 17 year olds (info. provided by K. Merrill and K. Paquette). M. Durso agreed, adding that many are also doubling up and that her staff cannot treat them without parental consent as they are under 18. DCYF has assisted in many cases to ensure that they get the care they need. M. Durso also stated that about 75% of 17 year olds are men and they are coming to get preventative treatment, which is a good thing- therefore they are established patients, allowing her staff to better treat them. M. Durso said that many are going in back doors at SNHMC and staying there as there is a lack of security. Most of these 17 year olds are from Nashua and some are from Merrimack. L. Christie said that schools are better at identifying homeless students. P. Kelleher added that there is a Strategic Framework meeting and that they are discussing homeless youth. They have developed an action plan; P. Kelleher suggested that the GNCOC should know about it. L. Christie stated that at least the youth that are doubling up have a place to stay. P. Kelleher stated that the police have been cooperative on this issue. M. Durso asked where to send these youth when they present to her staff. P. Kelleher answered that Nashua Children's Home. L. Christie said that the youth will leave the shelter if they know the shelter staff will call DCYF. She also mentioned that Sen. Shaheen has put aside some money for a youth shelter- waiting on updating the administrative rules- and thought that a collaborative of existing youth-serving agencies would be the best approach so that there would be no centralized location. B. Alves asked if these youth are addicted; L. Christie and M. Durso said no. L. Christie will follow up on the administrative rules issue.

- **POLITICAL CLIMATE:**

L. Christie asked how the GNCOC can be proactive and reach out to/educate newly elected officials. B. Alves asked if they should come to the Executive Committee meeting or the full CoC meeting. C. Gebhart stated that the full meeting would probably be better. P. Kelleher said these officials are going to be inundated with people and meetings, and L. Christie stated that the homeless service providers should be in the forefront. C. Gebhart suggested that the Community Relations subcommittee will send letter of introduction out to the Nashua officials. L. Christie suggested that the Community Relations subcommittee hold an informational breakfast. P. Kelleher stated that the provider community lost many advocates in this election. B. Alves said that Kelly Ayotte would like to visit Marguerite's Place and she would let everyone

know when so others can be introduced and to show how well the service providers in Nashua work together. C. Gebhart stated that a lot of time will now be devoted to advocating. P. Kelleher stated that the current political climate will certainly require more collaboration and that outcomes will be more important. M. Bilz said that Obama wanted more focus on outcomes, especially under ARRA. P. Kelleher stated that although it was in the plan, the CoC never did an award for people working in the community. B. Alves thought this might be a great time to do so for media/public relations. L. Christie said there needs to be a format for such an award. P. Kelleher said that the Manchester CoC is now sending newsletters out which may be a good idea for publicizing the award and other achievements, or perhaps a conference to celebrate achievements. C. Gebhart said that it is important not only to celebrate, but also to use as an educational opportunity. She asked how to secure attendance. P. Kelleher said it is important to highlight positives. M. Bilz asked if it would be a good idea to hold a statewide conference, but B. Alves and C. Gebhart said it would be better to keep it local. M. Durso said that voters are reactionary and want instant results and that there is a need to reach out to youth as they are becoming apathetic about issues and voting.

At 9:00, P. Kelleher was excused, and L. Christie stated that the Keystone Hall team is excellent- B. Alves and C. Gebhart agreed.

- **GNCOC SUBCOMMITTEES:**

C. Gebhart stated that the Ending Homelessness committee is floundering and is basically repeating what is said in the full CoC meeting as it has no tasks. The chair of that committee is looking for direction. C. Gebhart asked if this subcommittee was needed? Should it be overseen by the Executive Committee? Or should it be combined with the Community Relations subcommittee? B. Alves asked what the committee's purpose is. C. Gebhart said it was for the Ending Homelessness Plan, which is now completed and aligned with the NOFA goals. It is supposed to update the Plan, but this is done at the CoC meeting. L. Christie said such updates are not really happening. M. Durso suggested that the group take one plan item per meeting to discuss, update and report out to the full CoC, and that the group needs the power to do something. She asked if this group has the power to change the Plan? C. Furlong said that that subcommittee should not implement the plan, but to look at it one piece at a time as looking at the whole plan can be overwhelming. C. Gebhart asked how to get more participation on updating the plan's accomplishments. M. Durso said that the "doers are busy doing" and that could explain the lack of participation. C. Gebhart said email and specific assignment might be helpful. M. Bilz said such action could give the group energy. L. Christie said that having the meeting after the full CoC meeting helps. C. Gebhart said that the Wraparound and Data Collection groups are doing well. Community Relations will be reaching out to the new officials. The Legislative Affairs group is not active as Joan Schulze is no longer in office. L. Christie suggested sending her a thank-you letter. C. Gebhart asked if this group should reach out to legislators for this committee? L. Christie asked if there should be other members. C. Gebhart suggested sending letters and meeting with legislators and perhaps someone would step up. She wondered if officials would send representatives to the CoC meeting as Hodes did.

With no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20am.

Minutes taken by Meghan Bilz, Southern New Hampshire Services.