

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Wendy LeBlanc at 8:30AM.

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

The minutes of September 12, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Barbara Alves motioned to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded by Peter Kelleher and the motion carried unanimously.

Topics for Discussion:

- **Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)**

Wendy indicated that this is a reminder to complete your housing inventory charts and the chart is targeted to homeless persons only. Even if the programs that different agencies are offering are not NOFA funded they still need to be added to the chart, according to HUD.

- **Vice-Chair**

A discussion took place given that the current vice-chair has resigned his position due to a career change. Wendy reminded all that her term as Chair of the Continuum expires in October 2013, and therefore it may make sense to try and locate a new vice-chair that would be willing and have the skill set to potentially take on the Chairperson role next year. A further discussion ensued about the possibility of the GNCOC applying for approval to name a Unified Funding Agency (UFA) for the COC. This was something that could have been applied for in this years NOFA process, however a significant amount of information would have needed to be provided during the registration process, and given the limited time allowed for registration, Wendy reported that there was not sufficient time to complete the paperwork. However under the new HEARTH Act there may be some planning funds available which could be used to plan for a UFA in the future. The discussion centered around the likely agency candidate to take on the UFA would be Harbor Homes. Given this, Peter Kelleher has been asked to suggest a replacement vice-chair from HHI, as the consensus, at least to this point, is that it makes sense for the future Chair to be an employee of the UFA, as funds will be allocated by HUD to support the work that this individual would do on behalf of the GNCOC. Peter Kelleher suggested that we take some time over the next few months to understand the new HEARTH Act and the UFA requirements to help the executive committee be in a position to make a recommendation to the full COC board as to whether a UFA makes sense for the GNCOC. If the COC decides that a UFA is appropriate, then it is likely that during the 2013 NOFA process the GNCOC would make application for this status. There is a lot of work to be done between now and then.

- **All Grantee Meeting**

Lisa reported that she went to the 9/27/12 HUD meeting in Boston. She indicated that it was clear that there will be more compliance oversight forthcoming, and that there was little time allotted at the meeting for questions/feedback from the participants. There will be another meeting of this group in October in Manchester if others would like to attend.

- **HEARTH Act new requirements**

Peter Kelleher provided a brief summary of some of the new requirements of HEARTH Act for the UFA. There are numerous questions that would need to be considered and answered as part of the process going forward, such as performance targets, centralized coordinated assessment system, standards established, single HMIS lead, etc. to name just a few. There is a significant amount of work to be done to establish a UFA.

- **Bridges**

Wendy LeBlanc and Lori Piper had lunch with Dawn Reams, Executive Director of Bridges to explain the new requirements of the HEARTH Act and how it is important that a member agency of the domestic violence community be represented as part of the Executive Committee of the GNCOC. Dawn indicated that Lara Rice will begin coming to the Executive COC meetings. Wendy also indicated that we also need to work on getting school and law enforcement representation at the meetings as well.

- **Community Relations/Nashua High School**

Bob Mack indicated that the Community Relations Committee has begun to develop a relationship with the high schools. Mo Daniels a new volunteer with the committee is helping to spearhead this effort. They met with the Nashua High School North principal and he has tasked some of his marketing teaching staff with having students develop a marketing plan, media, etc. about the GNCOC and that this may have an impact on bringing more awareness to the issue of youth homelessness. Mariellen Durso suggested that Community Relations Committee may want to consider making a presentation to the health center's nursing advisory board, which is also actively involved with the high schools on these issues. Youth homelessness is one of the populations that need more targeting. The principal indicates there is more youth homelessness than is realized, and working on a stronger connection between the GNCOC and the schools to bring more awareness to youth homelessness would be a good thing.

- **NOFA**

Wendy indicated that the registration was completed, and it was more involved than in the past. There were several questions that needed to be answered about structure, etc. Wendy worked with the TAC consultant to help in the process. The new TAC consultant had some additional suggestions for the application. Wendy also shared that the ability to import data from the previous year is not going to be available this year, and it is going to take an enormous amount of time to input all this information. It may require more support from committee members than in past years. Lori Piper offered if there is some general administrative work to be done that her administrative assistant may be able to provide some of that support.

- **Advocacy issues/discussion**

Lisa Christie shared what happened at the planning board meeting on October 4th surrounding their request for a change of use to rehab and add to an existing building to move the soup kitchen to. The plan was denied, and the NSKS is regrouping to figure out what they will do next. The reasons given for the denial were safety and the change it would make to the neighborhood as the reasons for the denial. It was suggested that the Telegraph be approached about an editorial and she indicated they have already begun those discussions, and have had a lot of support coming forth from the community.

Bob Mack brought the new Nashua Tree Streets Neighborhood Analysis and Overview to the meeting and suggested it is good reading for the committee members to have a more thorough understanding of the challenges within the 'tree streets' and the opportunities that also exist. Kathy Hersh, Director of Community Development & Planning for the City of Nashua asked Bob Mack to share the report with the Executive COC committee and would welcome any feedback.

Mariellen Durso indicated they now fully occupy their new building again following the rehab work due to the flooding. She also reminded the group of the upcoming Health Fair, that they are currently interviewing to add a pediatrician to their staff.

Wendy LeBlanc reminded us that the GNCOC is a non-partisan group and asked all to continue to be mindful and respectful of others.

Beth Todgham indicated that Gregg from the Asset Building Coalition would appreciate the opportunity to present to the GNCOC. A slot is available for December. Beth will discuss this with Gregg and get back to the committee on his ability to make this meeting. We are in need of another presenter for December. Peter Kelleher suggested that a Possibility may be for someone to present on the new HEARTH Act requirements.

Peter Kelleher recently attended the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council and he indicated that agencies may want to be watching out for the 'fiscal cliff' that is slated to occur in January if there is not congressional intervention at the federal level, and the impact this could have on the various COC agencies and their clients.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:30AM.

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