

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care  
Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 11, 2010  
[www.nashua-coc.org](http://www.nashua-coc.org)**

**Call to order:** 8:35 a.m. by Chair Wendy LeBlanc.

**Present:** Wendy LeBlanc, Bob Mack, Peter Kelleher, Meghan Bilz, Barbara Alves, Mariellen Durso, Lisa Christie, Lori Wilshire, Candace Gebhart, and Lori Piper.

**Minutes of June 10, 2010 (handout):**

Minutes were reviewed. M. Gebhart pointed out two typographical corrections to be made on page two, paragraph 5, the word 'due' should have read 'do' in line 2, and paragraph 6, the word 'end' should have been capitalized 'End' in line 2. Thereafter, M. Bilz motioned to accept the minutes as presented, which was seconded by B. Mack, and the motion carried.

**Topics of Discussion:**

- **HUD HEARTH ACT**

W. LeBlanc reported that she had attended a conference in June relative to the changes that HUD has put forth on the Homeless Assistance Programs. She indicated that the changes are being implemented so that the focus is on the outcomes of prevention, rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing. W. LeBlanc indicated that most of the changes will affect the NOFA that will be released in the Spring/Summer 2011, and some of the changes to be implemented over several years. She indicated that there will need to be a lead agency, or collaborative applicant (is the new term) chosen by the COC to submit the NOFA application and then appropriately disburse the funds to the various agencies that are awarded under the NOFA. This collaborative applicant will be eligible for 3% for administrative expenses. The collaborative applicant could apply to become a United Funding Agency (UFA) or HUD could designate a collaborative applicant as the UFA. UFA will be responsible for audits and fiscal controls. More to follow through the public comment period, which is unknown at this time.

- **SuperNOFA**

W. LeBlanc indicated there has been no news yet as to when the SuperNOFA will be released. However some of the work, such as the Housing Inventory Chart, PIT count and NOFA registration have all been completed. She will check with Gina Schaak from TAC as to the status of when it is expected to come out and its due date.

- **Political Climate/Open Discussion:**

There was an open discussion about the 7/21/10 Nashua Telegraph article regarding the Mayor's plans to raze the Labine building and convert the site to a park and also the comments in the article by the Mayor of her long range vision for the area which includes demolishing the nearby low-income Bronstein Apartments to convert West Pearl Street to two-way traffic to provide better access to downtown. Concern was expressed about the impact on low income families and the impact on the City's homeless issues. It was discussed that the executive committee of the COC would like to be notified, or brought into the loop, by the Nashua Housing Authority, which holds jurisdiction over the Bronstein Apartments, regarding the potential removal of this housing, and its ultimate impact to the low-income and homeless population. It was discussed that NHA has 700 public housing units and another 800 +/- section 8 vouchers. C. Gebhart offered to contact Lynn Censabella to request renewed attendance at this Executive Committee meeting from a NHA representative so that we can have accurate information about these types of situations.

A discussion ensued relative to the homeless veteran population. P. Kelleher shared with the group that there are 130,000 veterans in NH, approximately 400 homeless NH veterans, and HHI has room for a total of 60, and that 85% of the veterans they have provided housing to are coming from the Greater Nashua COC catchment community, and those outside of Greater Nashua have returned to the area because they used to live here or have family in the area.

L. Wilshire indicated that she received a call from Kathy Hersh regarding getting a plan together to address impediments to fair housing. The meeting has been set for 8/25, and L. Wilshire will be on vacation. She has recommended that another representative from the Executive COC attend the meeting.

A discussion then took place regarding the idea of the COC work together on 1-2 more complex situations at each monthly meeting, whereby an agency could bring forth a particularly challenging situation to hopefully generate other ideas from the members on how to resolve. After much discussion it was recommended that the cases go to the Wrap Around Committee initially, and if they can not be resolved through that committee, that the Wrap Around bring the situation to the full Continuum for discussion. It was agreed that W. LeBlanc would re-brief the full Continuum on the mission of the COC's Wrap Around Committee, and would also ask each reporting committee to keep their comments to pertinent information that is necessary, in order to try and provide additional time at the meetings for discussion of complex issues. C. Gebhart suggested that the committee reports be written, following more of a 'consensus agenda' format. This will be explained by W. LeBlanc at the next full COC meeting as well.

With no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35am.

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