

**GNCOC Executive Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
March 11, 2009**

**Present:** Wendy Furnari, HIV Task Force, Chair  
Peter Kelleher, HHI, KH, HIV Task Force, Vice Chair  
Kim Berube, Keystone Hall, Clerk  
Linda Newell, Community Service Council  
Mariellen Durso, Nashua Area Health Center  
Lori Wilshire, Nashua Children's Home  
Bob Mack, Nashua City Welfare  
Lisa Christie, Nashua Soup Kitchen  
Barbara Alves, Marguerite's Place & MP Housing  
Meghan Bilz, Southern NH Services  
Ellen Barr, Granite State Organizing Project  
Stephen Edington, Granite State Organizing Project  
Elaine Griffeth, Granite State Organizing Project  
Carol Furlong, Harbor Homes, Inc.

**Call to Order:**

W. Furnari opened the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

**Minutes:**

W. Furnari asked everyone to review the minutes from the February 11, 2009 meeting. L. Wilshire noted a correction on page 2, paragraph 3. L. Wilshire motioned to accept the corrected minutes. B. Alves seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Granite State Organizing Project:**

S. Edington explained that this group works on a variety of issues involving civic and labor groups. He mentioned a recent event when the Board of Aldermen was discussing school cuts. The GSOP was able to arrange meetings so that individuals were able to share their concerns. The Adult Learning Center was looking to cut programs and the GSOP was able to work with Congressman Hodes office to continue the programs.

E. Griffeth indicated she is aware of the Continuum and she is thankful for the work that has been done. She mentioned that they are looking at the plan for 2012 and ways to support the effort of housing and education in the forefront.

M. Durso said that there is a significant increase in "new homeless" at the health center. She mentioned some of her clients were victims of a recent fire in Nashua. As a result these individuals were left with nothing including identification and were left dealing with stress and fear. Many of the local agencies were able to provide some type of support.

P. Kelleher indicated that the GNCOG is a great partnership but sometimes the group is limited to what can be accomplished. Data shows that within the first six years the HIV & AIDS numbers are down to zero or close to zero. Health & Human Services has announced a significant cut in this program. We don't want to see the HIV population homeless.

E. Griffeth mentioned the Melville Trust which provides grants for support services and the need to plan for these services.

B. Mack discussed untapped resources and land trust programs. There is money being held for specific purposes and he indicated he is not sure how to start that piece of the plan.

P. Kelleher mentioned that Melville Charitable Trust in CT was a NH company and advertised in NH for over a decade. He explained a delegate from MA went to CT and asked for a point of trust plan and this is something NH has wanted to do. The focus of the ten year plan is to keep implementation going forward.

### **Topics for Discussion:**

L. Wilshire mentioned that HUD requires a road map for CDBG funding. At this time there are two resolutions competing in City Hall. The funding started at 1.4 million and it is now down to 750,000 due to cuts that HUD made.

There is a concern because the agencies at the table have a lot to lose at the administrative and Federal Level. Some money could get restored but everyone needs to voice their concerns.

L. Wilshire shared that the Human Affairs Committee allocated to use the full 15% of funds but was challenged by operation down to \$15,000.

W. Furnari asked for an example of a benefit to the Human Resource Agencies. L. Wilshire indicated changes in youth, affordable housing and elderly.

L. Wilshire said that anyone can be involved in the planning committee but the application does not have to be submitted until May of 2010.

W. Furnari asked what everyone can do. L. Wilshire suggested that everyone talk to all of the Aldermen.

M. Durso said that this could be a intimidating process for some if they are not guided. This will affect individuals that are less likely to attend a public hearing.

L. Wilshire the meeting will be as follows: March 19, 2009- Aldermen meet, March 30, 2009 a public hearing will be held based on what comes out of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

L. Wilshire shared that she and Bob Mack met with Sue Butler from the Great American Downtown. There was a perception the business' are closing due to the homeless. Sue mentioned that she had not seen any homeless. P. Kelleher indicated that the real argument would be the economic calamity. L. Wilshire mentioned that this is what the Aldermen need to hear.

P. Kelleher asked if there was a way to collaborate data to illustrate the change over the last six months. W. Furnari wondered if HMIS would be able to help.

L. Christie mentioned an increase in food baskets and she sees a lot of individuals coming back for help.

**Point in Time Survey/HMIS:**

B. Mack mentioned that the homeless numbers look lower. There is a need to compare the data from the Survey Monkey and HMIS.

B. Mack indicated that there is a significant decrease and he is not sure that the housing wait lists should be included.

M. Bilz suggested doing a count during the summer months to get an idea of any differences in the counts.

P. Kelleher suggested sharing data openly and maximize the extent to minimize duplication.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Berube, Keystone Hall