

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2011
www.nashua-coc.org**

Call to order: 8:30a.m. by Chair, Wendy LeBlanc

Present: Barbara Alves, Bob Mack, Beth Todgham, Lisa Christie, Carol Furlong, Janice Watson, Candace Gebhart, and Lori Piper.

Minutes of March 9, 2011 (handout):

C. Gebhart motioned that edits relative to the comments made by J. Gilbert be made and revised minutes be provided to the executive committee for further review and acceptance, prior to the March minutes being posted on the GNCOC website. This motion was seconded by B. Todgham and it was agreed that the Chair would send the revised minutes to the group via email and then following approval send for posting on the website.

Topics of Discussion:

Concerns of the Chair:

W. LeBlanc expressed her concerns about the lack of support that she is getting from both the Executive Committee and the full Continuum of Care as it pertains to tasks or action steps which need to be accomplished. This was discussed at some length among the members in attendance and discussed that it is not the responsibility of the Chair to take all the action steps for certain tasks to be completed, but rather others in the group and in the Continuum of Care need to step up and offer their assistance. W. LeBlanc thanked both B. Mack and C. Gebhart for much of their 'behind the scenes' help. L. Christie thanked W. Leblanc for her role as Chair, and we all recognize that it is a difficult position to be in, as there is not a staff behind this position helping out. Discussion also ensued regarding October elections for new leadership of the GNCOC.

As a follow up, the group will review the COC guidelines for membership and committee assignments at the May meeting and strive to refocus on the work at hand and review the necessity for each committee, as well as Chair assignments, and to engage more and/or new members in the process.

Ideas from Subcommittees:

W. LeBlanc indicated that the Ending Homelessness Committee has suggested that a 'Speakers Bureau' be considered. The Ex. Committee discussed that this is supported through the Community Relations Committee and rather than creating another group, reach out to agencies and encourage that as they are discussing their specific agency in the community at large, that they also take that opportunity to explain the COC's role and its good work. Also, discussed possibility of extending the COC education through the local radio shows, and reaching out to the Telegraph via the Spotlight section. It was recommended that non-profit agency members of the Nashua Chamber of Commerce reach out to Terry Williams, the Nashua Telegraph Publisher for his input on the best approach through the newspaper. Terry Williams is the Chamber's BOD Chairman for FY that started April 2011.

Discussions about whether the GNCOC should be on Facebook, who is the audience, what would the benefits of being on this social networking site do for the GNCOC, who would be responsible for its monitoring and updates? This will be discussed in more depth at a future meeting.

Website:

W. LeBlanc indicated that the revisions have been made and are ready to be made to the site.

Conference: Tabled for a discussion to a future meeting.

Political Climate/Discussion:

L. Christie indicated that the NH Legal Assistance Office in Nashua is being impacted by the budget cuts, and they need our support to keep this important service in Nashua.

L. Christie suggested that a training for 'Easy Advocacy' be considered to help members of the COC on how they can actively and effectively engage with their representatives on the issues that are of concern to a specific agency or the GNCOC as a whole in a timely manner. E. Brady has done a great job of keeping people informed, but given the current budget crisis, this may be an appropriate time to try and engage more members in the process.

Other Issues:

B. Mack continues to work on the presentation to the Nashua Chamber of Commerce and has received a fair amount of feedback from his survey that was sent out. He continues to seek input from members as the presentation work is ongoing. B. Mack and C. Gebhart will present to the Chamber at the board meeting on May 26, 2011 at 4PM.

W. LeBlanc would like more input from this group about how to coordinate presenters for future meetings (beginning in August) as the Executive Committee decided to try to focus on presenters that actually do work that impacts our plan to end homelessness, as opposed to just any/all service providers. The Committee agreed to think about this and we will discuss it further at our May meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40AM.

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