

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2010
www.nashua-coc.org**

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

Present: Wendy LeBlanc, Bob Mack, Carol Furlong, Peter Kelleher, Meghan Bilz, Linda Newell, Barbara Alves, Lisa Christie, Lynn Censabella, Candace Gebhart, Maryse Wirbal, and Lori Piper.

Minutes of March 10, 2010 (handout):

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

Topics of Discussion:

Update on ConPlan

W. LeBlanc opened up a discussion regarding the ConPlan meetings and information that is being requested by the City. Carrie Schena with Urban Programs is asking for information relative to the Housing Inventory Chart. She also asked for the GNCOC's application but **W. LeBlanc** explained to her that there is not an application for the COC.

Housing Inventory Chart

The Housing Inventory Chart must be back to HUD by 4/30/2010. **L. Newell** however indicated that the electronic file won't be available until May 1st, so there is a disconnect on the dates. She was to follow up on that and report back to the group. It is also necessary to report on the HPRP beds that are solely in Nashua. The non-Nashua placements are reported through the State BOSCO. **L. Newell** is to connect with Gina Shaak from TAC about all this reporting.

The HIC was reviewed by the committee members present and the appropriate changes were made to the chart. **W. LeBlanc** is to check with Bridges, the Rescue Mission and the Nashua Children's Home. All others reported at the meeting. The point in time count took place on 1/27/2010. The homeless count was recorded at 334, down from 444 in 2009.

Political Climate updates/discussion

P. Kelleher spoke about the DHHS meeting that took place on 3/31/2010. It was relayed that the Governor indicates that HHS needs to re-do (re-think) its business model. Commissioner Toumpas wants the various groups affected by DHHS budget to start a dialogue with one another to determine best practices, etc.

P. Kelleher indicated that another \$175K has been cut from Harbor Homes and its affiliates by DHHS and the overall cuts are now up to \$800K. There was a discussion about whether the GNCOC should deal with this issue – many nonprofits have differing views from a 'business to business' level – what potential efficiencies can be accomplished together?

L. Christie suggested purchasing health insurance on a combined basis. **M. Wirbal** recommended that the GNCOC look at opportunities and present some options/solutions to HHS rather than being told what they are going to have to do.

L. Christie indicated that those providing the direct services should not be pushed to make further cuts.

P. Kelleher spoke about there being about 8000 nonprofits in NH and a couple of options, although they would not be popular ideas could include: (1) higher filing fees for nonprofits, which may eliminate new nonprofits from opening unless there is a clear need; and (2) tiered fees based on revenue levels and possibly a credit back from the State for charitable giving.

L. Newell suggested the creation of a chart that would demonstrate the overlap in services provided by the various nonprofits, which could then help agencies to see what other agencies they should possibly begin a dialogue with to help in creating more efficiencies. **B. Mack** followed up on that thought by speaking about the duplication of services that exist and a couple ideas would be to: (1) establish central intakes; and (2) joint transportation providers. Everyone agreed that much of what can or cannot be done is driven by HUD regulations.

L. Censabella indicated that the NHA was open to speaking with HHI regarding housing vouchers and how they might be of assistance.

It was determined overall by the committee that more discussions need to occur and continue with the various groups within the GNCOC.

L. Christie indicated that there are lots of people advocating for the cuts not to be made, and for this effort to continue.

Other Business:

It was suggested that Debra Miller, CEO of Bonnie CLAC be invited to speak at a future GNCOC meeting.

W. LeBlanc to follow up on this.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM.

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