

## Ending Homelessness Committee

March 14, 2014

Nashua City Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Auditorium

Present at the meeting were: Abigail Alicea, Eileen Brady, Pamela Deres, Hilary Keating, Peter Kelleher, Glenn Liranzo, Bob Mack, Kathy Paquette, Magaly Rios, Rick Rutter, Cheryl Thompson, Miles Pendry, Tony Paradiso, Cate Sementa

Minutes from our February's meeting were reviewed. C. Sementa made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by K. Paquette. All voted in favor.

Discussion about people panhandling in different locations in the city. The majority of these people are not homeless and some are coming from out of state. The local businesses are very cooperative with these individuals and we have provided them with Resources Cards they can give out to folks so those that are homeless or need services can get connected to resources.

Ending Homeless Fund- P. Kelleher reported that the Ending Homeless Fund is moving in the right direction. Many people attended the kick-off event. We are very grateful for the individuals that put this event together especially Hilary and Bob Keating. This committee has been meeting every two weeks which really shows their dedication. Currently the fund has \$60,000; our goal is to get \$100,000-\$200,000, which is the required HUD match for the permanent housing programs that house chronically homeless individuals. This committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee about having a half-day meeting to work on data.

Point in Time Count - We are currently looking at the numbers from our PIT count. We may have 9-16 unsheltered individuals but this number may change. Last year we had around 25 chronically homeless and it looks like this year we have 81. Zero reported to have HIV in 2013 but this year there have been many, yet no one has been referred to the HIV/AIDS Task Force. We will be looking at all the data to see what is going on. E. Brady stated that an increase can be seen due to the increases of drug use. Developing a Centralized Intake process may help with these types of referrals as well.

K. Paquette states many people are resistant to go to the homeless shelters due to a lack of understanding of what the program has to offer. The central intake can be very helpful and is due on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2014. The centralized intake may be similar to the new aspect of the HMIS software that collect's personal information so we can identify these individuals and follow up with them. The Front Door Agency had a call from the Southern NH Medical Center regarding a client that just has had surgery and had no one were to go. The Harbor Care clinic will be able to help individuals like this; when they have the clinic done as it will have 11 respite beds for people to go to after a medical procedure instead of going to a shelter. Southern NH Medical center will not discharge a client unless they have a place to go to. This will be the only Medical respite facility in the city.

Conversation regarding R.S.O (Register Sex Offenders) and how hard it is for them to get out of homelessness due to not being able to get employed or into certain shelter programs. R.S.O are welcome at the Rescue Mission and the S.S.V.F program if they are veterans. Many people seem to be coming from out of state to get

services here in Nashua: people will not close their case down at D.H.H.S in a different city until they know they will be getting help from here. A big concern is what will happen to homeless people come September as their may no longer be a homeless outreach worker here in Nashua. Additional permanent housing funds will hopefully be happening with the Bridge program. It will be housing the mentally ill, the homeless and the chronically homeless. There will be 40 new units and another 100 more until state wide.

The Rescue Mission has more than usual staying at their facility, housing approximately 35 men each night: 30 is their most comfortable maximum compactly.

Minutes taken by Magaly Rios, Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force