

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the August 1, 2007 meeting
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Wendy Furnari, Lori Wilshire, Jerry Leclerc, Laura Nault, Linda Jeynes, Eileen Brady, Mary Andosca, Sharon Daley, Jessica Karwatske, Anne Quinn, Kathryn Paquette, Tony Epaphras and Germano Martins

The meeting began at 9:15 with a few business items taking place before introductions. Bob discussed Gene Murray's departure from So. NH Services and welcomed Kathy Paquette who is his replacement as Homeless Outreach Worker for SNHS. Jerry asked about the beeper number on the homeless outreach cards and Kathy assured him that the numbers are all the same.

Introductions were made and minutes from the June 6, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Linda moved to accept the minutes, Jerry seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Germano spoke about the rapid re-housing committee that he is working on getting back on track. Martha Reed, Lori Wilshire and Lea Reilly all expressed interest in the committee to Germano following the GNCOC meeting this morning. Kathy said she would also be interested in this committee. Landlords should also be recruited to join this committee. Lori will invite Fran Ryan and Kathy will invite Paul LaFlamme.

Germano went on to discuss the need for better resources regarding vacancies. He told of a co-worker that had a comprehensive listing of vacancies at her fingertips. He also said that 211 is replacing the Helpline but suggested we need a system that landlords can call in to and place their listings or remove them once filled. Eileen said that many landlords don't want "everyone" to know of their vacancies. Germano remarked that he believes that the GNCOC and this committee do more with landlords than any other committee in the state.

Kathy talked about the need for monthly check-ins for clients who are newly housed, particularly formerly homeless persons that may need some assistance or coaching on maintaining their housing. Bob said that this is what case managers are supposed to do and also this is the goal of the Wrap Around Services committee, to troubleshoot and offer assistance with budgeting and behavioral issues via referrals to appropriate resources. Laura wondered if there could be a training for staff or volunteers about how to do this type of outreach to individuals in their homes. Wendy also offered that even if someone has a case manager, the client might not be as compliant or accessible as we might like. Bob and others shared concerns about liability for volunteers and how all that would play out. Lori talked about the risks involved for staff doing home visits, and cited an example from a few years ago when a social worker from the Nashua Children's Home who was killed while trying to do a home visit.

Bob talked a bit more about the Wrap Around Services committee and the challenges presented there. This committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 1:00pm – 3:00 pm at 18 Mulberry Street in the 2nd floor conference room.

Mary brought up Project Homeless Connect and suggested a tenant workshop might be a good addition to that event. Jerry suggested that perhaps there could even be someone aware of vacant apartments that could take clients in need of housing to look at an apartment that day. Bob suggested that these ideas be saved for the PHC planning committee that will be forming soon.

Anne talked about the possibility of another type of revolving loan funds where people could donate money when they have it, and then anyone in need of a prescription or other emergency could access it.

Jerry talked about the annual fundraising event put on by St. Joseph's Hospital and he was wondering if he could somehow suggest the GNCOC or homelessness as the "cause" for this year's event. He said there are other causes being suggested but if anyone has any specific ideas about what he could offer as an idea for the GNCOC or the clients we serve, to let him know. Eileen said that money for rent is always the most needed item, goods can be donated.

Bob spoke about the NH Charitable Foundation grant that the GNCOC will be applying for and mentioned that Wendy will be working on putting that together.

Germano discussed a NH faith based initiatives meeting tomorrow at YDC in Manchester at 9AM.

Bob showed us the updates that have been made to the Plan to End Homelessness. Lori reminded us that we want to be able to demonstrate what we set out to do, what we have done, and what else needs to be accomplished. Bob said he wants to get this revised plan on our website. Germano made a motion to put the revised Plan on the website and Lori seconded. Motion carried.

When highlighting the landlord association information, Jessica asked about meeting with the landlords to get more connections. More discussion took place about the Landlord Association.

Eileen asked if there was anything to address the cost of parking in the Plan. Lori discussed why it is not feasible in Nashua to park overnight on the street.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25AM

The next meeting will take place on September 5, 2007 in Room 208 of City Hall