

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care Ending Homelessness Committee  
August 1, 2012

Present at the meeting were: Wendy LeBlanc, Kathy Paquette, Kimberly Johnson, Donald Pare, Lisa Milam, Miles Pendry, Raymond Villeneuve, Hilary Keating, Laurie Skibba, Pamela Deres, Sally Newhall Jen Hinderer, Eileen Brady, Peter Kelleher, Ed Bowman, Denise Green, Lianne Bower

Meeting call to order at 9:05 am by Wendy LeBlanc who was chairing for Bob Mack. Introductions were done and minutes of our June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Peter Kelleher motioned to accept minutes as reviewed which was seconded by Eileen Brady, motion passed.

Peter Kelleher and Miles Pendry were in attendance to discuss how to better use data that is collected. As the agenda indicated they were to present an overview of strategies for plan implementation, tracking data and ending homelessness. Peter spoke about when the COC was started in 1996 that a lot of efforts centered around planning-the 10 Year Plan of 1998 and stated that although this hasn't ended homelessness it has decreased the numbers of homeless. At that time PIT counts would show numbers in the 800's they have decreased to numbers in the 300's, with some sub-populations such as HIV/AIDS showing zero numbers. This number has been helped by the 30 units of HOPWA housing. The unsheltered veterans were down from 277 to 13/14; again there have been 60/70 units of veteran's housing created.

The largest reduction in chronic homelessness in New England, maybe in the US may be the result of new legislation introduced by HUD that makes COC's rethink their efforts. Peter has proposed to Bob Mack and the COC Executive Committee that the Ending Homelessness Committee be the committee to work part of the 10 year plan that focuses on finding housing. Peter stated that the 47 page HEARTH Act forces COC's to be more responsible. HUD will monitor and pick the 10 highest performing COC's in country, (approximately 430 nationwide) based on several criteria, such as:

20 days or fewer for homelessness to transitional/permanent housing. These cases would be tracked for two years with HUD looking for less than 5% return to homelessness. HUD shows 1.6 million individuals homeless with 800,000 being served by COC assisted programs. HUD would like to see coordinated services/collaborative referrals/intakes to help in this process. Peter feels that the EHC would be a good platform to begin.

Kathy Paquette advised that she has worked with 23 individuals, (some in families) over the past two days. She is having difficulty entering data into the HMIS system due to her work schedule and the amount of work. She said that there are terrifying-just awful situations out there.

Eileen Brady stated that HUD is not being realistic; the new federal policies are creating homelessness, while making COC's more accountable. Lisa Milam said that she feels that the greatest impact that agencies could impart was the 1:1 case management while in the shelters.

Wendy LeBlanc said that we all need to do our best; that a central intake/211 process could help. We need to figure out how to be better at coordinating resources. What can we do better and differently to share resources and use data collection that we already have? A universal application was discussed.

Peter touched upon government programs that created homelessness-VASH-HUD scores application/COC raising the bar higher and higher. Peter went on to say that he is sometimes scared to

go to work-that he might go in and not know all of the programs that Harbor Homes offered. He talked about the \$1 million grant to offer veteran's services, (SSVF). The State of NH has subdivided the VA Hospital; creating a complicated situation, not a one door situation.

Kim Robinson, 211 commented on some veteran's services. Kathy Paquette said that she speaks with the VA about many individuals. Kathy said she was going to contact the VA to advise that someone from the VA needs to be present at EHC meetings. The HEARTH Act requires that many agencies be present, i.e. hospitals, VA, social agency agencies.

Rev. Sally asked if meeting once per month would be enough to meet. Kathy Paquette agreed; especially if EHC would be assuming wrap-around meeting duties. She also asked about emergency wrap-around? Wendy and Peter talked about chronic, long term people who posed unique situations and challenges that would need a team approach. Miles Pendry said that he would be willing to assist with Skype and video conferencing-he would be willing to train to make meeting easier.

Lori Skibba suggested that we boil down the interim rule. Peter mentioned that HEATH is not just about chronic homelessness and how do we respond? Wendy advised that she would send an email regarding HUD HRE.

Kathy Paquette said that if a committee is formed should a conference be scheduled? Should Welfare Officers be attending? Wendy said that in during these meetings general circumstances be discussed, no names. Peter said that local Welfare is unique to NH. Wendy said that she would like to encourage agencies to bring resources to EHC and that we try to focus on opportunities to create solutions for homeless families. Kathy Paquette said that if a bed list were available that would save some time.

Kim Robinson from 211 said that they attempted to obtain a bed list daily but that shelters would say that the client would have to call. She also said that 211 would be willing to help with this.

Peter said that the Executive Committee/Larger COC would make a recommendation/motion as follows:

The EHC voted to ask the Executive Committee to change the structure/focus of the EHC to begin the process of focusing Ending Homelessness Committee activities in real time using available data and resources to bring about greater collaboration and effectiveness in order to meet the HEARTH Act requirements and end homelessness in our community.

Eileen suggested that we begin a process to be more involved and active with the issues of homelessness.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Minutes taken by Lianne Bower, Marguerite's Place