

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2010
www.nashua-coc.org

Call to order: Chair Wendy Leblanc called the meeting to order at 8:05am. All present introduced themselves.

Meeting participants observed a moment of silence in memory of World AIDS Day.

Minutes from the meeting of November 3, 2010 were reviewed and accepted with the following correction:

The first sentence under Executive Committee report should read: The Nashua Public Library has asked for a member from COC to serve on their strategic planning committee.

City of Nashua DPHCS Mediation Program—presentation by Sandy Mulcahy

This program provides conflict resolution services for the Greater Nashua Area. It began in 1984 in response to the court's goal of keeping youth and families together. The program receives funding from the City of Nashua and other nearby towns. Anyone is free to call for advice regarding any kind of conflict. Mediators will provide training for individuals, as well as organizations.

Principle types of mediation include:

- Parent/Child
- Parent/Parent
- Family
- Victim/Offender (in partnership with the Department of Corrections)
- Marital mediation (for a fee)

Staff includes one full-time coordinator and 60 volunteers, including 4 certified marital mediators.

Connections Clubhouse at Harbor Homes—presentation by Nathan Goodwin, et al.

The Clubhouse model was established in 1948. There are now over 400 Clubhouses sharing information and ideas. Membership is open to anyone who's life has been drastically disrupted by mental illness, homelessness, and/or addictions. Members take responsibility for many of the daily tasks, including meal preparation, policy making, general maintenance, and reception work.

Bob Reed, Clubhouse member and first transitional employee, shared his personal story.

No referral is necessary. Anyone who might benefit from the program is welcome to sit for the orientation session and make their own decision as to whether or not they wish to join the program.

Announcements:

- Thanks to everyone who participated in the Project Homeless Connect event yesterday. Over 90 people came through. The number of participants in screenings was considerably decreased, largely due to the fact that many homeless individuals are now getting the primary care they need at the Harbor Homes clinic. Feedback from participating agencies has been very positive.

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- The Department of Health and Human Services will be announcing a grant opportunity in the near future for \$12,000,000 over a five year period with the goal of training TANF recipients 18 or older for work in the medical field. CoC is the group working with clients who would be appropriate for this project; Bobby Bagley would like to see this group develop a partnership to work on an application for the grant.
- Congressman Hodes has officially closed his office. CoC thanks him for his support of this group.
- Fuel assistance—applicants need a phoned-in referral.
- At 5:30 today, at 12 Amherst Street, there will be a candle light vigil in memory of Aids Day.
- HMIS homeless assessment report was reviewed. The numbers are looking very good; much of the data has been cleaned up. Agencies need to make every attempt to provide accurate data, keeping in mind that this is how we receive HUD funding. Final deadline for data is 1/14/2011.

Adjournment – 9:05am