

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2008
Nashua City Hall Auditorium
www.nashua-coc.org**

Call to order: 8:03 a.m. by Chair Wendy Furnari

All present introduced themselves and visitors welcomed.

Minutes of September 3, 2008 (handout): W. Furnari asked everyone to review the minutes. B. Mack noted a correction on page 1, paragraph 2 and page 3, paragraph 4. P. Kelleher motioned to accept the minutes as amended. J. Bresnahan seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Vote on change to GNCOC guidelines: L. Wilshire motioned to move the discussion back to the Executive Committee. B. Mack seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Vote on SuperNOFA ranking: W. Furnari explained the ranking process and explained that the ballots would be handed out to the agencies that had at least 50% attendance. L. Wilshire asked for clarification and W. Furnari indicated that only one person per agency would be able to vote. P. Kelleher announced that Harbor Homes, Inc. and its partners would be abstaining from voting. B. Mack collected the ballots and will tally the votes.

Vote on GNCOC Officers: W. Furnari mentioned that the Executive Committee had voted on re-electing the current officers for another term. She also asked the full board if there were other nominations. B. Mack motioned to re-elect the current officers for another term. P. Murphy seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Presentation-Mental Health Court: S. Mead mentioned Mental Health Awareness and the annual NAMI Walk. She also handed out tip cards that provided valuable information on mental illness. S. Mead began the presentation by explaining that the program is to provide a treatment alternative to jail. She explained that it is a collaborative effort and the program has seen good statistics. Individuals with mental illness sometimes get lost in the system and the program provides tracking.

J. Leary explained that the program is a community effort which includes a legal liaison team. He mentioned that Scott Brennan from Community Council is called and he provides a quick assessment and referrals may come from many different people including the Police Department, Bail Officers and Attorneys. J. Leary indicated that the program has two tracks. The first is a continuation for the case to be dismissed. The second may be a conviction plea and part of the sentence may be to have a liaison between the community supports and the courts. He also mentioned that studies of individuals in jail show 28% have been diagnosed with mental illness and have no medication and 80% have a substance abuse.

C. Peach from the Nashua Police Department explained the program is definitive and prior avenues have been limited. He mentioned that Scott Brennan notifies the police department of any treatment plan changes. B. Simon a NH Public Defender indicated that it is nice to hear individuals in the court system say that treatment and rehabilitation is important. S. Brennan mentioned that the program is not only people from Community Council but also from various communities.

K. Paquette asked what would happen if there was a medication issue. J. Leary explained that he weighs safety issues and treatment alternatives. B. Simon indicated that severe mental illness and issues of competency are evaluated by a doctor to make sure the individual is capable of engaging in the system.

Anne Quinn commended the Merrimack Police and expressed the need for communication. P. Kelleher praised Community Council and the courts for their steps in culture changes.

S. Mead indicated that trainings are being held within the Police Departments and Police Academy. She also mentioned the new opening of the office at 100 W. Pearl Street. W. Furnari asked S. Mead to send an e-mail with all of the information.

Vote on Final Ranking: B. Mack announced that there was a unanimous vote to accept the ranking.

Announcements:

L. Wilshire mentioned that this would be the last meeting the Chris Pitcher will be attending as he is leaving his position at Community Service Council. She thanked him and everyone applauded.

P. Kelleher welcomed the representatives from the VA Medical Center and thanked them for coming.

R. Gelinas announced the first annual Veterans Appreciation Day will be held on October 22, 2008 at Buckingham Place, 46 Spring Street.

B. Doolan mentioned that Marguerites Place is holding a Charity Gold Event on October 4, 2008.

C. Gebhart reminded everyone of an e-mail she previously sent regarding public telephones. She indicated that 6-7 phones will be installed in NH and NH Legal Assistance is preparing a petition on where there is a need for the phones.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Berube, Keystone Hall

