

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care  
Meeting Minutes  
September 1, 2010  
[www.nashua-coc.org](http://www.nashua-coc.org)**

**Call to order:** Chair Wendy LeBlanc called the meeting to order at 8:05am. All present introduced themselves, and visitors were welcomed.

Minutes from the meeting of August 4, 2010 were reviewed. There were no changes made.

B. Doolan motioned to accept the minutes. B. Mack seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

W. LeBlanc explained to newcomers that the format for the meeting is committee reports one month, and the following month presentations. September 2010 was a month for committee reports.

**Committee Reports:**

**W. LeBlanc reported for the Executive Committee:**

- She reported on the HEARTH Act Conference that she attended, and primarily regarding the changes that will effect the SuperNOFA process. She indicated that the changes are being implemented so that the focus is on the outcomes of prevention, rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing. She indicated that most of the changes will be released in the Spring/Summer 2011, with some of the changes to be implemented over several years. There will be a need for a lead agency, or collaborative applicant (is the new term) chosen by the COC to submit the NOFA application and then appropriately disburse the funds to the various agencies that are awarded under the NOFA. This collaborative applicant will be eligible for 3% for administrative expenses. The collaborative applicant could apply to become a United Funding Agency (UFA) or HUD could designate a collaborative applicant as the UFA. UFA will be responsible for audits and fiscal controls. More to follow through the public comment period, which is unknown at this time.
- W. LeBlanc indicated that there is no news yet as to when the NOFA will be released. However some of the work, such as the Housing Inventory Chart, PIT count and NOFA registration have all been completed. Gina Schaak from TAC is on board with helping the GNCOC complete its SuperNOFA application.

**E. Brady reported for the Ending Homelessness Committee -**

- She indicated that the action steps on the 10-year Plan to End Homelessness are being updated. She also indicated that the St. Louis Church pastor wrote an article about the incidents of homelessness that he is seeing in the community.
- E. Brady discussed that the NH Citizens Alliance is a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan organization devoted to social, economic and political justice and that group and NH Cares.org through its meetings watches over the state budget and works with the legislature and DHHS to try and influence certain budget items to ensure a safety net for consumers. There has been a large increase in the requests for assistance.

**B. Mack reported for the Wrap around Services Committee:**

- The committee meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month to brainstorm specific client issues, but also meets on an as needed basis whenever issues come up that need immediate resolution. It is typically providers, mainly shelter providers that attend these meetings. The Executive Committee discussed that specific cases be brought to Wrap-around first, and then if an issue cannot be resolved to bring it back to the full COC for further discussion. The website for this reporting issues of homelessness is: [homeless@nashua-coc.org](mailto:homeless@nashua-coc.org).

**P. Murphy reported for the Community Relations Committee:**

- The primary goal is to increase participation by other communities. A letter, prepared by B. Doolan was sent by C. Gebhart to about 50 -75 individuals within the GNCOC catchment area, including town representatives, welfare officers, selectmen, other town officials inviting them to attend the October GNCOC where a power point presentation will be shown to better inform the group of what the COC does and how with their involvement it can better serve their communities.
- E. Brady suggested that possibly others in the GNCOC could bring information back to the towns they live in. B. Doolan suggested that at the October COC, for each individual to give a brief (1 or 2 lines) explanation of their agency, rather than just their name.

**J. Schulze and E. Brady reported for the Legislative Affairs Committee:**

- They were not aware of any particular bills at this time that the group should be concerned with. The community hearing on Fair Housing took place on 8/31/10. HUD wants these meetings to occur so that reporting can be done to HUD every five years. Nashua has never held these meetings before so they are trying to catch up with the rest of the State of NH in its reporting to HUD.
- C. Schena was not able to attend the Fair Housing meeting due to a family emergency. However, Dan Cahill the consultant hired by the city did attend and listened to the discussion.
- C. Lavallee reported on cases in legal assistance, mostly with people where English is not their first language.
- B. Mack indicated that D. Cahill was impressed by the COC and the number of social service agencies in attendance, that this was unusual.

**Dan Cahill** attended the September GNCOC meeting and reported that ¼ of the population in Nashua and at the State level have some form of disability. He plans to hold some focus groups. He also spoke about the handout he provided, which discussed the analysis of impediments of fair housing, a public hearing to be held to determine the impediments, focus groups are to be held, and he will be looking at any complaints that have been filed regarding fair housing and its practices.

**W. LeBlanc reported for the Data Gathering Committee:**

- Wendy publicly thanked Donna Curley for her work on this and HMIS. D. Curley recommended that all COC's work together to improve these systems. And they will be rolling out a ticketing system for issues to be addressed.

**D. Curley reported for HMIS:**

- She reported that there are challenges switching over from Community Services Council to Harbor Homes with the HMIS data gathering and reporting. She passed out the regular HUD Outcome Measurements report and has asked people to provide her with feedback as to best practices for this report, and/or changes people would like to see.

**Statewide Committee Reporting:**

- D. Curley attended the MCOC. She would like to see all the minutes from the various COC's onto the HMIS system. She also attended BOSCO, however nothing to report.
- ICH – no report.
- NH Coalition to End Homelessness – they have moved to quarterly meetings, last one was in June and a transgender seminar was held. Next meeting in September.
- NH Housing Coalition – no report.
- Shelter Directors: Last meeting in April, next in September.

**J. LeClerc reported on Project Employment Connect:**

- He reported that they are very short on employers setting up booths for the event.

**W. LeBlanc** asked if there were any additions that anyone had as far as accomplishments for the 10 Year Plan on ending homelessness. No additions were provided.

**Announcements:**

Several announcements were made about upcoming events taking place in September.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:55AM.

Minutes prepared by Lori M. Piper, Merrimack County Savings Bank