

Greater Nashua Continuum Of Care Meeting minutes  
April 6, 2011

8:05am - Meeting called to order by Wendy L., Chair. Introduction by all.

Meeting format explained for new attendees.

Minutes for March meeting reviewed. Motion to approve by Bob M., seconded by Lisa C. Minutes voted approved.

**Executive Committee** report by Wendy L. –

Chamber of Commerce meeting set up by Lori P. (Merrimack County Savings bank). Community Relations Committee will be presenting; Bob M. working on updating power point presentation.

Discussed award presentation that was given for Bridget Belton-Jette.

Executive Committee has some tasks for updating web site.

John Gilbert of the Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services joined the committee via conference call. Discussed changes with NHSGN and transition to Manchester office overseeing properties and programs.

Discussion on DHHS budget cuts.

**Ending Homelessness Committee** report by Eileen B. –

No Feb meeting was held.

March meeting primarily dealt with discussion re; DHHS budget cuts and local impacts.

Tasks to end homelessness need to be identified; challenge with implementing strategies when just trying to sustain programs.

**Community Relations Committee** report by Pat M. –

Outreach to NH Legislature – drafting letter to send out.

Presentation to Chamber of Commerce in May.

Working on web site updates.

**Legislative Affairs Committee** report by Rep. Cindy Rosenwald –

Update on budget cut and activities at NH Statehouse. There is a difference of perspectives around revenues and tax cuts. Disproportionate cuts to programs for the sick and disabled. Proposals include mental health funding cuts, public health and maternal health funding cuts, NHLA cuts, and some funds to homeless prevention being restored. Discussed need for individuals and agencies to communicate with their Senators. Discussed the local welfare safety net. Rep. Kurk amendment could impact municipal general assistance. This is being followed by the NH Local Welfare Administrator's Association.

Regional local welfare providers met to discuss the issue. Ald. Lori Wilshire asked about local welfare budget. Bob M. indicated at present there did not appear to be any plan to make significant cuts to general assistance, however, the City is currently in the budget process and changes could be made. The City of Nashua has a Welfare Trust to address possible over-expenditures if necessary. Other municipal welfare departments in the area have indicated no plans to reduce general assistance funding in their communities at present.

Comment was made that the local faith-based and non-profit organizations cannot be expected to pick up the slack. Different groups such as the elderly were concerned over the proposed cuts.

**Data Gathering Committee/HMIS** report by Donna C. –

Majority of data input in Nashua is good data.

HMIS looking at the last AHAR [Annual Homeless Assessment Report].

Re-writing policies and procedures for HMIS. State to provide 20 hours of TA.

HMIS web site: [nh-hmis.org](http://nh-hmis.org)

Advisory Committee members and State meeting with owner of the HMIS data base to iron out some issues with technical support and change to technology.

HMIS has approval for VISTA worker, which should not be impacted by any Federal funding cuts.

Reviewed HMIS outcome report handout.

**Statewide committees –**

**MCOC - (Kyle)**

No significant changes. Discussed budget cuts at State & Federal level, indirect relations affect the whole system, and Housing Action NH activities.

**BOSCOC – no report.**

**ICH – Meeting scheduled for Monday, 4/11.**

**Coalition to End Homelessness – have not met recently; restructuring.**

**Housing Action NH – coming to next GNCOC meeting in May. NH Cares facilitated Concord rally re: budget. Continue communicating with State Senators and Governor's Office.**

**Shelter Director's Meeting – no report.**

No new accomplishments to add to the 10 Year Plan document.

**Announcements -**

NH Food Bank – food stamp outreach. There is low enrollment in NH, can impact Federal funding.

Representative can come to agencies and assist with food stamp application process for clients.

Representatives are dealing with many low literacy and disabled clients. Outreach posters and brochures can be obtained through NH Food Bank or via USDA web site.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Mack

City of Nashua Welfare Department