

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2011

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Wendy LeBlanc, Chair called the meeting to order at 8AM. Introductions were made by all. W. LeBlanc explained the meeting format for new attendees, and also indicated that future "Presentation" meetings would be centered around the presenters tying their presentations to the GNCOC's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, by discussing the continuing challenges/obstacles and also the accomplishments.

The minutes of the May 4, 2011 meeting were reviewed. There being no changes, a motion to accept the minutes was made by B. Mack, which was seconded by L. Christie, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee (EC):

W. LeBlanc reported that the EC met two times since its last report to the full GNCOC. She indicated concern about the amount of participation of CoC members and there were suggested changes in committee assignments. Joan Schulz has resigned as the Legislative Committee chair, and E. Brady has offered to take over this position, and at the same time relinquish her position of chair for the Ending Homelessness Committee. B. Mack indicated his willingness to, on an **interim basis**, chair the Ending Homelessness Committee. The EC is looking for a GNCOC member to volunteer for the chair position. The Data Gathering Committee (DGC) has had some challenges as D. Curley can no longer chair that committee given her position as the HMIS administrator. A new chair is needed for this committee as well. The primary responsibility of the DGC is the annual point in time count.

The EC worked on the operational guidelines for the GNCOC and the suggested changes were submitted to the GNCOC at this, the June 1, 2011 meeting for review, comments and vote. C. Gebhart then took the GNCOC through the recommended changes which better reflect what is actually going in the GNCOC at this time. L. Wilshire motioned to accept the changes to the operational guidelines, and G. LeClerc seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the changes were accepted unanimously.

Ending Homelessness Committee (EHC):

E. Brady reported that the greatest concern for this committee is the continued planning to provide permanent affordable housing to clients, and she reiterated the importance of watching over these issues and many others at the legislative level. L. Skibba talked about Move the Mountain Program. G. Leclerc discussed the Project Employment Connect event.

Legislative Committee (LE):

E. Brady indicated the NH Senate is going over the budget this week and things are looking bleak for many of the clients served by GNCOC agencies. She recommended that agencies have ongoing discussions with each senator relative to each agencies specific issues. She indicated that the maintaining of a rainy day fund of \$30 million is meaningless if the State of NH doesn't have the ability to fund the basic needs of people in the state. E. Brady indicated that while every agency here at this meeting isn't necessarily affected in the same way as another agency, the people the GNCOC serve will be adversely affected. She has found that the people in Concord have not been that responsive to listening, not all, but some. She strongly urged that members continue to reach out to your representatives and senators on behalf of the vulnerable population we all serve.

E. Brady has asked for others to join the Legislative Committee. She is revamping the committee, but the plan is looking at the City, State and Federal legislation that affect homeless people and the things that contribute to homelessness. Also NH Can Do Better signs are available.

J. Schulz asked for any information regarding elderly people seeking help with housing, etc. to help prepare a paper for the Governor's State Committee on Aging. Several individuals of the group offered ideas to her.

P. Kelleher indicated that VASH vouchers administered for Veterans are critical to get housing and support. There have been 30,000 vouchers issued countrywide and NH has only 150 vouchers and that in the future NH is going to be getting -0-. He indicated that NH has the highest rate of success and is now slated to get none. He asked if the Continuum could put a letter together to advocate for NH getting these vouchers. It was also suggested that help be requested from Senator Shaheen's office, who did have a representative at this meeting. P. Kelleher was to follow up with her after the meeting.

Wrap Around Services:

B. Mack indicated that the turnout was light this past month, which gets back to the discussion that W. LeBlanc raised earlier in the meeting about the need for more participation by members of the GNCOC in committees. B. Mack reinforced that the purpose of that committee is to help agencies within the GNCOC with challenging individuals and specific situations, and encouraged that the agencies use this committee to help solve some of the issues that exist.

Community Relations:

P. Murphy indicated that the focus of the last meeting was the preparation of the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce presentation and the various aspects that they felt important to focus on for this business audience. C. Gebhart indicated that the meeting with the Chamber was a positive one, and they were very receptive of the general overview and a good dialogue with the Chamber Board of Directors took place. B. Mack and C. Gebhart did the presentation. The Chamber wanted to know about the Project Employment Connect Event. Next meeting of the committee is July 20th.

Data Gathering Committee:

D. Curley was not in attendance today. W. LeBlanc is looking for someone to chair this committee going forward. There was a report due to HUD on 5/31/11 regarding some housing data and HUD was asked for an extension so that we can clear up the discrepancies in the data and resubmit an accurate report. D. Curley is working on this.

HMIS:

T. Nappo reported on the stats for 9/1/2010 – 5/31/11 period. Goal 2.3 for HUD is 77%, GNCOC goal is 87% and the actual was 89.4%, exceeded both HUD and GNCOC stated goals. Goal 3.4 for HUD is 65%, GNCOC is 76% and actual performance was 61.6% which missed the GNCOC goal by 14.4%. There were 4 clients in 'Other' and 11 clients in 'unknown' categories which contributes to inaccurate data and negatively affects the scoring. Goal 4.3 for both HUD and the GNCOC is 20% and the actual performance was 21.6% thereby exceeding the goal by 1.6%.

Statewide Committees:

Manchester Continuum of Care (MCOC): K. Beaulieu reported that hopefully another VISTA representative will be coming to these meetings in the future. He reported that the MCOC will conduct a summer Point-in-Time Count (PIT) on 6/29/11 and they will share that information with GNCOC when it becomes available. He thanked everyone and indicated he has learned a lot from the GNCOC meetings he has attended this past year as a VISTA representative.

Balance of State Continuum of Care (BOSCOC): No report

Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH): P. Kelleher indicated they did not meet. However he did report that about 2 ½ weeks ago there was a Veterans Homeless Summit with over 100 veterans attending and it was very successful.

Housing Action NH (HANH): E. Brady indicated that she has heard that the staff person has been doing a good job keeping in touch with the legislators.

Shelter Directors Meeting (SDM): K. Merrill reported that the McKenney-Vento Act was discussed and how shelters may be impacted by the budget cuts. Concerns were also raised about how the shelters are able to best track homeless persons.

Updates to accomplishments section of 10 YR Plan:

It was suggested by the EC that it may be appropriate to update the 10 year plan as we are close to the 10 year mark, and it should continue to be a living document. W. LeBlanc indicated that Nashua Pastoral Care has recently opened two new units of housing. L. Christie asked for the GNCOC to look into what data may be available on the loss of low income and/or subsidized housing in the City in general.

L. Wilshire indicated that the City's assessing dept must keep track of housing units which have gone off line. B. Mack suggested that the Data Gathering Committee collects other data, other than the PIT and that the information is available. It is finding a way to centralize the information which may help the GNCOC in making strategic decisions. This is something that the Data Gathering Committee could possibly take up if they can find the people resources to do so.

Announcements/Discussion:

G. LeClerc indicated the Project Employment Connect is coming up on 8/30/11 at Welcoming Light at 45 High Street. They are encouraging the vendors to pay a little bit to make them more committed to coming. He indicated that clients that could benefit from attending the event may pick out clothes at the Grey Nuns Thrift Shop at no cost. St. Joseph Hospital will be holding sessions two nights at the Grey Nuns Thrift Shop for this purpose. L. Wilshire mentioned that Men's Warehouse donated some clothing last year.

SNHAIDS Task Force is on September 10th at Greeley Park.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:50AM.

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