

## Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

### Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2011

[www.nashua-coc.org](http://www.nashua-coc.org)

Wendy LeBlanc, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:05AM. Introductions were made by all, and the attendance sheet passed for signatures and updated contact information. Presentations were the order for business at the September meeting.

The minutes of the August 3, 2011 meeting were reviewed. There being no changes, a motion to accept the minutes was made by C. Rosenwald which was seconded by B. Mack, and the minutes were accepted with no discussion or changes.

#### **Presentations:**

Scott Costa of the Nashua Housing Authority discussed the public housing status in Nashua. Currently there are 662 units of public housing. There is a wait list for public housing of 2,925. Some of the statistics include: 896 families waiting for 2 bedroom unit; 361 – 3 bedroom unit; 495 for singles/couples for 1-bedroom units; and 170 elderly on the wait list. This number has dropped over the past few years. They have approximately 150 new applicants on a monthly basis, up from prior years due to the economic situation. Preferences for housing are as follows: 1) housing choice vouchers due to a federally declared disaster; 2) involuntarily displaced due to fire, disaster or HUD disposition of a family development; 3) standard applicants; 4) single applicants, elderly; and 5) residential preference for people working in Nashua.

S. Costa was questioned about the status and rumors about Bronstein Apts. He does not have anything to report at this time.

He also spoke about the Housing Choice Voucher Program ( a/k/a Section 8), the change in name gives people a choice. HUD changed the name. HUD contract is for 853 vouchers, which are tenant based, not project based. They do not have any project based vouchers. They have not been able to keep up with the housing needs given the state cuts to other agencies that have occurred. Currently leased are 832 of the 853 vouchers. The payments to landlords have escalated due to job losses and economic malaise. The wait list for housing choice vouchers is currently 3975 with an average of about 80 adds monthly, about a 4 year wait.

The Housing Assistance Payment Contract is engaged with landlords not with the tenants. They go after fraud very aggressively, and are proud of the monitoring that occurs.

They do not have priority for people with terminal illness. They have been discussing this, particularly as it may pertain to the veteran population.

S. Costa was asked if people should apply at both NHA and NHHFA. He indicated that they provide an area agency booklet which includes NHHFA, so people can be on several wait lists. The 3975 is the wait

list for the vouchers; the 2925 is the public housing wait list. For further clarification he can be reached at [nhascott@yahoo.com](mailto:nhascott@yahoo.com).

L. Piper indicated that Stewart Property Management manages several thousand units throughout the state for low to moderate income people and that may be another source for locating available housing units in greater Nashua area. They are located in Bedford.

M. Pendry and P. Kelleher of Harbor Homes, Inc. also made a presentation. They distributed a document that lists HHI properties and the subpopulations served. P. Kelleher spoke about what the next steps should be in the 10 Yr process for the GNCOC. Where should the GNCOC head in the 10 year planning process? He indicated that this group has been meeting since 1996 and across the country there are over 100 ending homelessness plans and in NH there are about 10 ending homelessness 10 year plans. He recommended that the GNCOC think about what is it we need to do to shift our emphasis and efforts to continue to meet the needs of the homeless. Most resources have been made into the 'chronically homeless' to get them into permanent, supportive housing. This has been a major national trend and we've made some good progress.

HHI has about 400 units altogether. [www.hudhdx.info](http://www.hudhdx.info) This website demonstrates who has housing in the GNCOC. You can access information on any HUD agency, by housing types, subpopulations, etc. from this site. Additional units not on the site are 21 VASH units for homeless veterans which are not on this list.

They also indicated that they are in process of moving the Safe Haven at 14 Amherst St to Maple St to make it financially viable.

Keystone Hall at 615 Amherst St is under construction, and they are going from 28 to 52 beds. Completion expected by end of year. There are 16 beds available for post-partum and pregnant women who are battling addiction. There are also beds for non-pregnant women. There are 14 beds available for them, of which 4 are in the long term program, up to one year.

M. Pendry explained the Point In Time subpopulations chart. This data basically gathered through the annual PIT process. Miles presented a chart that looks at a 10 year period of reporting to HUD. Each year the PIT has the GNCOC look at the subpopulations. It also reviews the housed versus the un-housed population. Yr 2003 is an anomaly – it wasn't separated that year per HUD instructions. The three bars were taken from the housing inventory charts and overlayed with the subpopulations. It demonstrates that subpopulations have declined over the 10 years, which means that the homeless people that members of the GNCOC are reporting don't necessarily fit into the specific subpopulations. The GNCOC is doing a consistent job of providing transitional housing units. Permanent supportive housing has done a great job, they have grown from 175 since 2002 to now 589 according to the presented charts.

They indicated that they expect January 2012 Point-In-Time count to be vastly different given the financial homelessness due to the economy changes. More economically caused homelessness than in the past.

The chart will be posted on the GNCOC website at some point in the future.

**Other Business:**

W. LeBlanc reminded all that the October meeting will be elections for officers. She also reported that the GNCOC has more than one person running for a seat. As a reminder the updated guidelines call for one vote per agency. The GNCOC is also looking for an Ending Homeless Chairperson; T. Lopez will be heading the Employment subcommittee, and the GNCOC is also in need of a chairperson for the Data Gathering Committee. Please let W. LeBlanc know of any interest in these open positions. She also indicated that the SuperNOFA meeting is Sept 21<sup>st</sup>. There is also a meeting for the transitional housing providers on 9/21/11 at 9am to try and determine the reporting issues associated with the movement of people from transitional to permanent housing, as reported to HMIS.

R. Villeneuve indicated that the Nashua Interfaith Council is sponsoring a 10 year anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy honoring the victims the 9/11. Event to be held at the new labyrinth in Nashua.

K. Paquette from SNHS shared that her son was recently awarded the bronze medal for his service to our country. L. Wilshire also shared her story of the good deeds of another veteran who is her roommate.

W. LeBlanc was thanked for all her hard work on behalf of the GNCOC.

J. Leclerc shared with the group the successes of the recent Project Employment Connect which had 23 males and 14 females between the ages of 18 – 60 in attendance.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00AM.

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