

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Executive Committee Meeting
October 12, 2011

Chair, Wendy LeBlanc called the meeting to order at 8:00AM.

Introductions were made. In attendance were:

Wendy LeBlanc, Scott Costa, Mariellen Durso, Lea Reilly, Lori Wilshire, Lisa Christie, Jerry LeClerc, Annette Escalante, Barbara Alves, Beverly Doolan, Beth Todgham, Lori Piper, Vanessa Sarlo, Carol Furlong, Michael Flaherty, Jean Bradnick, Susan Stearns, Bob Mack, and Gina Schaak.

W. LeBlanc explained that the primary purpose of today's meeting was to hear the presentations and review the applications for the two agencies that have put forth a bonus project for the SuperNOFA application to HUD. G. Schaak spoke about the national competition, what makes a strong application, and several other facets of the process. Gina answered many questions about the rules, process, etc.

Carol Furlong and Vanessa Sarlo presented for Harbor Homes, Inc. Susan Stearns presented for Greater Nashua Mental Health Center at Community Council, which is a collaboration with Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter. Everyone was also provided with a concept paper with the various details of each project.

Many people were required to recuse themselves from the vote due to association with the agencies, board involvement, bank involvement, etc. Scott Costa also was called away from the meeting prior to the vote. The only parties eligible to vote were: M. Durso, L. Wilshire, J. LeClerc, B. Alves, B. Todgham, B. Doolan, and B. Mack.

The project receiving the most votes was Greater Nashua Mental Health Center at Community Council and will be included in the HUD application as the bonus project. B. Mack thanked both groups for their presentations.

Other topics:

The September 14, 2011 minutes were tabled until the November 2011 meeting.

J. LeClerc was welcomed as the newest member to the executive committee.

A discussion took place as to how to get the GNCOC's message out more effectively; discussed whether the COC should join Facebook. It was discussed as to who should be the administrator of the webpage. It was suggested we reached out to Nashua Access. Maryellen Durso already met with them; and they are coming out to meet with Wendy LeBlanc regarding the possible taping of Continuum of Care regular meetings.

It was announced that Project Homeless Connect is on December 6th.

W. LeBlanc indicated she wanted the group to reach out to the rotaries and chamber to see if there is anyone who could help improve the webpage for the COC. It needs a facelift; Beth Todgham is going to reach out to Matti Laci at Rivier College to see if their communications division may be able to help recreate the website. Lori Piper, will ask Karen Cooper at Rivier College. Matti will be the back up.

Presenters:

November is Boys and Girls Club presentation as well as M. Pendry from HHI who will speak about HMIS and how it can be beneficial to those who do not participate. L. Christie indicated that the Shelters Director Meeting at the State level may discuss whether the HMIS should be a closed or open system. This will be placed on an agenda for the next EC meeting. L. Christie believes this is a Continuum discussion not a State decision. She will try and attend the next Shelter Meeting to keep abreast of this situation, and C. Furlong indicated she will talk to D. Curley as well.

In January there will be a presentation regarding Homeless Veterans and the Chief of Community Based military programs will conduct this presentation.

L. Christie will contact Verizon to see if someone can present to the COC about the free internet for homeless or low income families with children.

M. Durso suggested that in March that a collaborative effort with Greater Nashua Mental Health Center, Bridges, Cynthia Day and HHI Healthcare for the Homeless present to demonstrate how they all work together. L. Wilshire suggested that Nashua Access come to the presentation meetings. B. Todgham, as an advisory member will also speak with them about this idea.

M. Durso shared that they will be moving into their new building on 10/17/11.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35AM.

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