

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2011
www.nashua-coc.org

Wendy LeBlanc, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00AM. Introductions were made by all, and the attendance sheet passed for signatures and updated contact information. Presentations were the order of business for the November meeting.

Minutes of the October 5, 2012 were reviewed. B. Mack noted several typographical or corrections to the minutes which were noted and made. L. Wilshire motioned to approve the minutes, with the corrections and clarifications. The motion was seconded by B. Alves, and the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation #1: Norm Bouthilette, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Nashua.

N. Bouthilette gave a detailed presentation of the Boys and Girls Club, its history, the programs offered, he spoke of their mission and values, demographics, core program areas, successes, civic involvement, and healthy lifestyle programs. He also spoke specifically about meeting the community needs and this aspect tied in well with the GNCOC's 10 year ending homelessness plan. He indicated that over 14.2% of club members report living with relatives or acquaintances rather than a permanent single-household situation, and indicated that percentage reported does not include those members currently living in shelters or alternative housing, such as a hotel, emergency housing, etc. He spoke about how they assist families facing a housing crisis. In closing he spoke about the future of the club and how others can help to build a stronger community together by becoming involved in the club. He provided a handout as well going into much detail on the topics presented.

Presentation #2: Miles Pendry from the Partnership for Successful Living presented 'How to Love HMIS and ART (without really trying)'.

Prior to his presentation, W. LeBlanc indicated the reason that he is addressing the GNCOC is that HMIS is the database required by HUD, under the McKinney-Vento Act. HUD is now requiring changes under the HMIS for the HEARTH Act which is in the process of being implemented. Although only agencies that to date have received a portion of the approximate \$1.6 Million that comes into the community annually through the SuperNOFA application process has been required to report to HMIS; in the future all clients served in the community relative to homelessness and affordable housing, including non-HUD agencies are going to need to consider using HMIS. At some point the GNCOC may be penalized through the scoring process, if all agencies are not reporting, and it could jeopardize funding.

M. Pendry reported that HMIS was mandated by HUD to track housing data. If you receive McKinney-Vento funding, or State funds you must report. He explained that behind the scenes; HMIS is used to produce the AHAR (Annual Homeless Assessment Report) and it helps shape the funding such as CDGB, McKinney-Vento flow of money back to the City from Congress. The GNCOC get points for AHAR data. The HIC (homeless inventory count) is tied closely to the SuperNOFA. They produce the APRs (Annual Progress Report). HMIS can pull data in various ways to then report to HUD.

The challenge with HMIS has been that it is not currently mandated for everyone. This is becoming more of a challenge because the State and HUD are asking about the number of beds not being reported and this is penalizing the balance of agencies that are required to report.

M. Pendry then spoke about the ART Gallery. He explained why non-reporters to HMIS can benefit from reporting, even though they aren't receiving any funds from HUD. There are many reports that would benefit agencies not getting funds. Most, if not all agencies, must collect and report data, including outcomes to others such as to Boards of Directors, grantors, other funders, etc. By reporting the data through the HMIS system it will allow any agency to produce a multitude of different reports, based on the criteria they needed for various sources very quickly. At the same time it would be providing the necessary data that the GNCOC must gather for the annual HUD SuperNOFA process.

HMIS is an on-line program; and Harbor Homes, Inc., the administrator has 100 licenses. There is a cost of \$350 per year for the license to report into HMIS. He indicated that agencies should feel free to call either him or Donna Curley to answer any questions and/or discuss alternative price options if that is a particular challenge for an agency.

M. Pendry also provided a detailed handout that explained various reports that were available through the HMIS reporting.

B. Mack indicated that he is on the GNCOC's data committee, and he wanted to reinforce how critical it is for all agencies to understand the value and cost benefit of HMIS, that it is a great tool for your organization. He also indicated that the HIC needed being cleaned up and Miles and Donna have been able to do so through using HMIS data that was reported. He also explained that the housing inventory chart is going to be put up on the GNCOC webpage and it must be completed on the same day as the 2012 PIT (point in time) count.

Other Business:

Letter of Support request:

C. Furlong from The Partnership for Successful Living requested a letter of support for a large capital improvement grant they are submitting to include dental care, and optical care through the Harbor Care Clinic. HRSA is the funding mechanism. Lori W. motioned approval for this letter of support from the GNCOC, C. Gebhart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

It was reported that Sen. Shaheen is advocating for the GNCOC with a letter of support from her Senate Office for the SuperNOFA into HUD.

L. Wilshire reported that the unusual fall snow and wind storm that has taken place that there is an emergency shelter currently set up at Nashua High School North. She provided the 1-800#, and indicated there remain two Nashua schools that are still without power; and reminded all that Tuesday, November 8th is voting day.

S. Mead asked if there is a committee working on the overflow for the shelters for this upcoming winter season. B. Mack recommended bringing that discussion to Ending Homelessness Committee, which was to meet immediately following the GNCOC meeting.

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

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