

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Executive Committee Meeting
November 8, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 8:35am by Chair, Wendy LeBlanc.

Present at the meeting were Bob Mack, Wendy LeBlanc, Lisa Christie, Annette Escalante and Beth Todgham.

L. Christie motioned to accept the September minutes; seconded by B. Mack and the motion carried unanimously.

L. Christie motioned to accept the October minutes; seconded by B. Mack and the motion carried unanimously.

Topics of Discussion

HMIS Open/Closed System

Lisa Christie reported on the statewide meeting held recently where this subject was discussed. Issue in question is whether data entered into HMIS would be open and available to all organizations that are licensed to use the system. Feelings were mixed with some believing that having access to information would mean their organizations could better serve clients and others of the opinion that having this information available would make it possible for organizations to deny services if a client is shown to have had difficulty at another agency and that information is recorded in HMIS. Idea will not move forward until HMIS is upgraded to version 5.0. At that time, a possible pilot of an open system would be considered. Point was made that whether the system would be open or closed has been left to the local COC.

Website Intern Update

Wendy reported that Lori passed along that she has been in contact with Rivier College with regard to finding an intern to update the website. She is waiting to hear back.

St. Joe's Mission Request

Pam Deres from St. Joseph Hospital indicated that the hospital is actively seeking an outreach project that will serve the area's homeless population. They are looking for suggestions. This offer will be discussed at the next homeless outreach meeting.

Overflow/EHC

Ending Homelessness Committee had discussed the issue of where people go – primarily during the day - to get off the streets when the weather is bad. Traditional locations include the library, police department and hospitals. Addressing this issue could be an area where St. Joe's mission request might be considered. Those organizations most concerned with the issue will be invited to the next Ending Homeless Meeting on December 7 in hopes of coming up with a plan of action for this winter.

On a related note, Bob indicated that the Wrap Around Services Committee has not been as effective as hoped in addressing the issues of homeless individuals in the community. No strong reason was presented on why this is true; doing a better job of getting the word out about the wraparound was suggested. The Wraparound is scheduled to meet quarterly, but can meet more often if a case comes up. Bob does periodic outreach to remind people that this resource is available. Annette has a client who might benefit from the group; she will work with Bob directly to set something up. Wraparound needs to be there as part of the SuperNOFA process. Group also discussed idea that wraparound services could become a part of the Ending Homeless Committee's work.

Presenters (as they apply to 10-year plan)

1. **January.** Jo Moncher, Bureau Chief of Military Community Programs for the Department of Health and Human Services is scheduled to speak. It was suggested that Ray Peterson present information about VITA tax prep sites and times for the coming tax season. Wendy will get in touch with Ray to invite him to the meeting to distribute literature in January and then to present in March. We are still waiting for feedback from Comcast with regard to their presenting information about the discounted internet plans they have available to low-income families. Wendy thought that if Comcast does not commit to present, it would be appropriate to use the extra 20 minutes lot in March to discuss the PIT count.
2. **March.** As suggested by Mariellen Durso, there will be a presentation on the health network collaboration that Lamprey, Harbor Clinic and other in the community are involved in.

Other discussion points

1. Point in Time Count is scheduled for January 25, 2012. Wendy announced that there is an offer from Peter to keep the Harbor Clinic open 24 hours that day in order to capture more information. More information about the PIT will be presented the January meetings.
2. Wendy received information from HUD regarding the SNAPS (Special Needs Assistance Program) that has been put in place to judge the capacity of communities to implement the upcoming changes to the Hearth Act. A survey has been developed to gather this information; between 6-20 stakeholders from the community will be asked to participate. Those who do will receive technical assistance and we will get a report after the survey results have been compiled.
3. Lisa C. announced that there new stove has been installed and they are waiting for the gas company to come and make it official. That is scheduled for this afternoon.