

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care  
Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2012  
[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 of business for the January meeting.

The minutes of December 7, 2011 were reviewed. There being no changes or discussion, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Lori Wilshire, seconded by Jerry LeClerc, and the minutes passed unanimously.

**Executive Committee (EC) Announcement/policy update:**

W. LeBlanc reported that the EC at its December meeting discussed some of the announcements that took place at the December GNCOC meeting. On behalf of the EC, W. LeBlanc reminded the attendees that the GNCOC is a non-partisan body, and that while advocacy is an important component of the GNCOC body of work, asked that members refrain from making any announcements relative to specific candidates or political parties.

She also indicated that numerous email requests are being sent to her requesting that she forward to the entire GNCOC body. The EC is concerned that given the high number of requests, that potentially key policy or time-sensitive messages being sent out by either W. LeBlanc or the EC regarding the GNCOC, are being diluted by the number of emails, and potentially overlooked. Going forward members are asked to send emails directly to the GNCOC group rather than directing them to either W. LeBlanc or M. Pendry. Anyone who is on the GNCOC mailing list has the ability to send an email to the entire group. W. LeBlanc will continue to send emails to the GNCOC members that are specific to the overall work of the GNCOC.

The EC at its January meeting intends to work on a policy update to both announcements and email distribution which shall be presented to the GNCOC at the February meeting to provide further clarification to the members.

**Presentations:**

**1) Jo Moncher, Bureau Chief of Community Based Military Programs for NH DHHS:**

Jo Moncher presented a power point presentation on the efforts of the community based military programs. She has held this new post for three years. It is their mission to collaborate, coordinate and communicate with military and civilian provider groups in the delivery of services to New Hampshire veterans, service members and their families. She shared that there are approximately 135,000 veterans in NH, and 3000 National Guard members. That in 2011 over 700 National Guard were deployed, the largest deployment in the state's history since World War II. They continue to search for more effective ways to reach the veteran population. They have developed many key military and civilian partnerships including, but not limited to, a state suicide prevention council, commissions on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and a Deployment Cycle Support Program. J. Moncher indicated that they have a solid military leadership team, and the most important element of this team is that it has brought together the National Guard and the Veterans Administration. Typically this has not happened nationwide, and NH's model is to be commended as it helps the VA to more fully understand the community needs. One of the most successful committees under this program is the Military & Civilian Homeless Committee, and DHHS is a big part of this discussion, with Co-Chairs, Maureen Ryan from DHHS/Homeless and Housing, and Lisa Jacobus from the Manchester VA Medical Center. The military and civilian homeless committee's work has confirmed that there are currently 450 – 650 homeless vets in NH. The committee has also developed the first military – civilian homeless plan. J. Moncher also applauded the efforts of Harbor Homes and Peter Kelleher on a number of occasions throughout her presentation on the leadership role they have taken in addressing homelessness and other issues for NH vets.

There is a legislatively mandated suicide prevention council in plan, which has a sub-committee for military and veterans. J. Moncher also indicated that one of the most important conferences that took place this year, and

brought together over 100 attendees, of which 80% were from the mental health centers across NH, was a PTSD and TBI Conference, whose leadership and funding was provided by the Greater Nashua Mental Health Center, and she thanked them for their strong support as well. She spoke of the deployment cycle support program and the care coordination services available. The challenges and goals for 2012 are many, include securing funding for deployment cycle support program continuation, provide support not just for today's military, but also yesterday's (particularly vets who served during Vietnam), and strength military – civilian partnerships between VA, National Guard, DHHS and Community Stakeholders.

The presentation was very informative and applicable to the GNCOC members as many of the clients served by many agencies are veterans and their families suffering with a myriad of issues ranging from homelessness to mental illness to substance abuse to career challenges.

She provided her contact information which is [Jamoncher@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:Jamoncher@dhhs.state.nh.us) and her phone number at 603-271-9394, and she encouraged the members at the meeting to feel free to contact her and welcomed participation in any of the many committees and forums that are ongoing.

## **2) Miles Pendry - Data Committee, Point in Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) Presentation:**

M. Pendry reminded everyone that the annual point in time count is taking place on Wednesday, January 25, 2012. It is a HUD mandated count that is done throughout the country on that day. There is a webinar today at 2PM on the procedures and importance of participation by all community players. The forms are to be filled out on the excel spreadsheet and returned to him for input into the HMIS system. He also indicated that it is important to complete the HIC as well by anyone serving families and/or individuals. Both he and W. LeBlanc emphasized the importance and accuracy needed of these two data collection items. In fact, non-housing organizations are critically important to this task and really need to participate to ensure that their clients are counted. M. Pendry has the ability to de-duplicate the data, so he encouraged that all complete the information, and not be concerned if you think your agency may be duplicating the efforts of another agency.

Historically this COC has struggled with the collection and the tallying of the data properly, and he asked that everyone work together to improve upon past collection efforts. Even if an agency is not receiving HUD mandated funds, almost every agency is writing grants and will be able to benefit from the data collected to use in their grant writing process. The results may also impact State funding, not just the Federal funding from the annual SuperNOFA. This data is used repeatedly for a variety of purposes.

W. LeBlanc echoed M. Pendry's message by indicating if there is one thing that an agency participates in throughout the year as a member of the GNCOC, that this PIT and HIC should be at the top of that list.

### **Announcements:**

- Andrew Zuba announced that long time GNCOC participant, Laura Nault, is getting rehabilitative care at Greenbriar Nursing Home
- L. Wilshire, recently re-elected to the Nashua Board of Alderman let the group know that she has asked to be the liaison from the aldermanic body to this committee.
- T. Lopez indicated that the employment subcommittee is meeting today at 2:30PM at the HIV Task Force at 12 Amherst Street.
- E. Brady indicated that the Legislative Affairs committee will next meet on 1/12/12 at 3PM at High Street.
- W. LeBlanc corrected the upcoming meeting of the Wrap Around Services which is slated for 1/24/2012.

All other upcoming meetings, dates, times and locations were listed on today's agenda. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:50AM.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori M. Piper, Merrimack County Savings Bank