

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2012

Wendy LeBlanc, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30AM.

Present at the meeting were: Wendy LeBlanc, Bob Mack, Lisa Christie, Beth Todgham, Barbara Alves, Mariellen Durso, Peter Kelleher, and Lori Piper.

Minutes of the December 14, 2011 meeting were reviewed. There being no discussion, L. Christie motioned to accept the minutes and B. Alves seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Topics of Discussion:

Executive Committee Makeup:

A discussion ensued about trying to get more stakeholders to the executive committee with consistent attendance. B. Mack suggested, and the attending committee members all agreed, that the Greater Nashua Mental Health Center should be invited to be at the table, regardless of status of the SuperNOFA bonus project. W. LeBlanc is to call the executive director and extend that invitation. M. Durso asked the status of representation by the two Nashua hospitals. P. Kelleher indicated that this would be a good time to re-engage the hospitals, particularly given the changes forthcoming for Medicaid recipients, and the number of emergency room visits that will be allowed going forward. M. Durso will contact Patty Green at SNHMC, Director of Patient and Family Services, and extend an invitation to her. M. Durso indicated that Ms. Green is involved with the issues of homelessness and would be a good addition to the table. It has been suggested that under the new rules for the uninsured and Medicaid recipients that emergency room visits will be capped, and this will cause additional strain on the nonprofits serving this population. W. LeBlanc to contact Kathie Rice-Orshak at St. Joseph Hospital to determine if there is someone from St. Joe's that could also become involved on the executive committee level. L. Piper to contact Robert Tourigny, Executive Director of Manchester NeighborWorks to extend invitation to his organization to become involved in this committee as well, given that they are now extending their services into Nashua, given that NHSGN is no longer operating.

B. Todgham asked about the Workforce Housing Coalition, whether that may be a fit for the EC. A discussion was held and it appears more information would be needed to assess whether this would be an appropriate addition to the committee.

HUD/Hearth Updates:

L. Christie communicated with Greg Carson, the NH HUD Director. He indicated that transitional housing cannot be counted in the homeless numbers, under the new HEARTH Act definition of homelessness, however shelter numbers may be counted. The group discussed that more clarification is needed on this issue. P. Kelleher, during the meeting sent an email to our local representative, Michelle Cushion asking if the individuals currently being served, or in the future would be served by Employment Services Program at NSKS, whether or not these individuals living in transitional housing could continue to receive this help under the new definition. He will let the committee know of her response, and then if it is felt that further clarification is still needed, either she or Greg Carson may be invited to attend an

executive COC session. L. Christie and others are looking for more clarification on the employment/educational programs that are serving homeless people that are in transitional housing.

CoC Checkup:

W. LeBlanc indicated that all COCs in the USA have been asked to complete the 'COC Checkup Survey', which includes questions about formation, process and 10 year plans, etc. HUD will then summarize the survey results and provide a self assessment to each COC. If a COC wants to ask for any technical assistance dollars in the future, the survey must have been completed in order to be considered. W. LeBlanc thanked those that have completed the survey to date, and asked everyone to get their survey done by Friday, 1/13 – the deadline. M. Durso will contact M. Wirbal , and B. Alves will contact L. Skibba to remind each of them of the 1/13/12 deadline, and to encourage their participation.

PIT/HIC:

W. LeBlanc emailed the link to the recorded version of the webinar on the upcoming PIT/HIC to the COC. Forms are updated, excel spreadsheet must be used. Paper surveys are no longer an option. P. Kelleher questioned as to whether there is more that we can do proactively on the day of the count. He relayed to the group that Boston for example, has 200 – 300 volunteers on the day of the PIT working to locate the homeless to ensure that they are counted. He asked if the EC felt it would be helpful if the Harbor Homes Healthcare Clinic were to remain open for that 24 hour period. This idea was discussed, and it was agreed that it was a good one. B. Todgham is going to contact the nursing outreach program at Rivier College, and others to contact church organizations, police, hospitals to get the word out. P. Kelleher indicated that Carol Furlong will be the point of contact at HHI for this endeavor. W. LeBlanc will send a notice to the COC. This will be an effort to try and find the 'unsheltered' homeless individuals and/or families. The clinic will be open as a drop in/walk in with some limited medical services available from 5PM, Tuesday, 1/24/12 through 7AM, Wednesday, 1/25/12. He will contact the Telegraph to see if they can get a story in the paper about this. L. Christie offered to provide some cookies and drinks from the NSKS.

B. Todgham suggested that, in the future, it may make sense to have the Homeless Connect Event scheduled around the PIT count date. They typically have been held within 4 – 6 weeks of each other. It is a good idea and will be discussed at a future meeting.

B. Mack indicated that he is meeting with M. Pendry following this meeting to clarify the housing program information which must be included on the Housing Inventory Chart.

Political climate/Other discussion:

M. Durso is still coordinating the March presentations.

L. Christie provided the EC with a NH HMIS Emergency Shelter Open System Questions for Discussion flyer, and indicated that these questions would be discussed at the upcoming shelter directors meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40AM.

Minutes prepared by Lori Piper of Merrimack County Savings Bank.