

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care  
Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2012  
[www.nashua-coc.org](http://www.nashua-coc.org)

Wendy LeBlanc, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. Introductions were made by all and the attendance sheet passed for signatures and updated contact information. Committee reports were the order of business for the February meeting.

The minutes of the January 4, 2012 meeting were reviewed. There being no changes or discussion, a motion to accept the minutes was made by B. Alves , seconded by M. Wirbal, and the minutes passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive Committee (EC):**

W. LeBlanc reported that the membership of the EC was reviewed, and it was discussed and agreed that the EC wanted to extend invitations to others in the community to expand the leadership team. Therefore Greater Nashua Mental Health Center and Southern NH Medical Center have both agreed to attend starting in February, Robert Tourigny, CEO of Manchester NeighborWorks will be attending the February meeting to determine if he believes it would be beneficial for his group and the GNCOC for them to have a seat at the table, and the EC is also looking to contact St. Joseph Hospital to also join the EC.

W. LeBlanc indicated that there was a good deal of discussion about the new HEARTH ACT. This is Congress' way of structuring HUD and new definitions have been introduced. One of the major concerns centers around the new definition for transitional housing services. The EC has questions out to the local HUD office and more will follow on this issue.

W. LeBlanc also explained that HUD sent out nationwide surveys to all CoCs. The survey required that certain key stakeholders complete the survey, along with other CoC members. The survey was completed by the necessary parties in January. The intent of the survey is to gage CoCs nationwide their effectiveness and learn best practices. It also may provide the GNCOC with the ability to solicit technical assistance dollars in the future from HUD. If the survey was not completed, it left the option off the table for the potential to access technical assistance funds. The results of the survey will be shared at a future meeting.

P. Kelleher offered to keep the Harbor Clinic open for the night of the annual PIT count as another mechanism to count homeless persons.

L. Christie shared that she attended a recent shelter directors meeting at which the potential opening of the HMIS system within the shelter network was discussed. There was a lot of debate, pros and cons discussed and there will be more to follow on this issue.

**Ending Homelessness Committee (EHC):**

W. LeBlanc indicated that they are updating the Toolkit. They will also be revisiting the ending homelessness plan.

**Wrap Around Services Committee (WASC):**

W. LeBlanc reminded the GNCOC that this committee provides agencies with the opportunity to troubleshoot specific client issues. This committee is struggling, as there has been limited participation and/or utilization of these services. B. Mack has indicated he is stepping down as Chair, and if someone else is not able to step in and take on the Chair position and lead the group, the committee may be eliminated. S. Mead indicated that the members of the GNCOC all know each other well, and likely people are immediately reaching out to their agency colleagues for help with specific situations rather than waiting for either a monthly or quarterly meeting. This may be the cause of the limited participation as the troubleshooting is taking place on an as needed basis anyway.

**Community Relations Committee (CRC):**

P. Murphy reported that the group met on 1/25/12. They did launch a Facebook page for GNCOC and reminded the group to check it out and 'like' it. There have only been 31 hits to date. They are looking for new opportunities to provide presentations about the GNCOC. The next meeting is 4/18/12 at Merrimack Town Hall.

**Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC):**

E. Brady reported the meeting was rescheduled for 2/23/12. Upcoming votes in the House – the legislature is working to eliminate the Workforce Housing bill that was passed into law a couple of years ago. Also, there is a bill up for discussion relative to landlord responsibilities to tenants for property problems. The legislature would like to eliminate the requirement for a local contact for tenants. She also mentioned that the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter has a legislative page on its Facebook page that keeps track of various bills of interest to the constituency served by the members of the GNCOC. The NH Housing Action group is also working on the Workforce Housing bill.

E. Brady informed the group that Senator Lambert of Nashua is not running for re-election. She also indicated that there is a bill in the House to restrict TANF benefits from families for women who have children while on TANF.

The payday loan bill is also up for review.

S. Gale shared that the American Friends Service Committee is a statehouse watch group for issues surrounding homelessness, affordable housing and services, and they put out a monthly newsletter by email about these issues. Folks can contact her if they want to be added to the list.

**Data Gathering Committee (DGC):**

W. LeBlanc indicated that the PIT count from Nashua is due no later than 2/3/2012, and to date there have been only 18 responses. It is very important that the balance of the tally sheets are submitted as soon as possible. Please send your reports whether you had any homeless or not, so that the committee knows that they have received all the data back. If you have any questions feel free to contact Miles Pendry at Harbor Homes .

C. Furlong shared that Harbor Homes opened the Harbor Clinic throughout the night of the PIT count. Rivier College sent nursing students for the night. Although a lot of homeless persons did not come through, it was a mild night and they did provide services to nine people. It was a worthwhile effort and the college students had an excellent learning experience. E. Brady indicated that she talked to a couple of people that had stayed the night and they were very appreciative of the services they were provided.

**Employment Committee (EMPL):**

They are meeting on a regular basis at the Southern NH Aids Task Force.

**Statewide Committees:**

**Manchester Continuum of Care (MCOC):** No report.

**Balance of State Continuum of Care (BOSCO):** No report.

**Housing Action NH (HANH):**

E. Brady reported that HANH has been effect thus far working with the entire delegation of the congressional reps. They are trying to get more members to join HANH to help in their advocacy efforts.

**Shelter Directors Meeting (SDM):**

C. Furlong reported that K. Merrill had indicated to her that the majority of the meeting was about HMIS and the confidentiality issue surrounding the potential opening of the system. M. Wirbal also shared that there was discussion about whether agencies could benefit for training of crisis intervention, addiction, and other issues.

**Updates to accomplishments section of the 10 Year Plan:**

S. Mead indicated that Lamprey Health Care Center will have a satellite office at the Greater Nashua Mental Health Center .

Keystone Hall held its ribbon cutting on 1/26/2012 and once it opens it will serve 54 people, including the Cynthia Day Family Center. There will be a satellite office of Harbor Clinic at this site also.

**Announcements/Discussion:**

Harbor Homes has requested a letter of support from the GNCOC. W. LeBlanc indicated they are looking to continue to implement a veterans family supportive services grant provided through the Veterans Administration. R. Villeneuve made a statement that he stayed at Buckingham Place for 15 months and thanked Harbor Homes, and shared what a good program it is. He asked if there are other efforts going on to help more homeless veterans. C. Furlong indicated that Harbor Homes has another housing program in Claremont for veterans, has a housing project underway in Manchester on Somerville Street for homeless veterans and is exploring opportunities on the seacoast. L. Wilshire motioned that the GNCOC provide the letter of support. Her motion was seconded by J. LeClerc , and the vote passed unanimously.

Ray also shared a couple concerns. (1)Harbor Clinics had provided showers to those that were part of the PIT count at the clinic. Is there a way that the GNCOC can help homeless persons with showers on a regular basis. C. Furlong indicated that if a person is a member of the Harbor Clinic, they may shower there. He also asked about the lack of dessert being served at the soup kitchen and it was recommended that he take that question directly to the kitchen manager for clarification.

M. Wirbal shared that the Nashua Pastoral Care Center has changed their name to the Front Door Agency, Inc. in celebration of their 25 years. And, they now have a licensed mental health clinician on staff to work with women.

It was shared with the group, that member, L. Nault has been ill, however she is making good progress.

B. Alves congratulated The Front Door Agency on their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and how wonderful it was, and also expressed congratulations to Keystone Hall. She attended both of these events and felt they both were a testament to the community collaboration that goes on amongst the GNCOC member agencies.

K. Brady-Robinson from 211 NH indicated that they are available for free income tax preparation and submission. They are scheduling appointments, and it is statewide service. United Way is also providing the tax preparation and submission services.

Upcoming Meeting dates, times and locations are listed on the agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 AM.

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