

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
Harbor Homes, Inc.
45 High Street, Board Room
February 8, 2012
www.nashua-coc.org**

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

Present at the meeting were: Wendy LeBlanc, Bob Mack, Beth Todgham, Barbara Alves, Annette Escalante, Scott Costa, Jerry LeClerc, Mariellen Durso, Peter Kelleher, Patty Green, Michael Flaherty, Robert Tourigny and Lori Piper.

Minutes of the January 11, 2012 meeting were reviewed. There being no discussion, B. Mack motioned to accept the minutes, J. LeClerc seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Topics of Discussion:

Welcome to new Committee members:

W. LeBlanc introduced and welcomed the new members to the group. Patty Green, Director of Patient and Family Services at Southern NH Medical Center; Michael Flaherty, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Greater Nashua Mental Health Center at Community Council; and Robert Tourigny, Executive Director of NeighborWorks Greater Manchester. B. Mack also indicated that Paul Hebert, the new President at United Way of Greater Nashua would also like to attend the meetings in the future, and it was agreed that B. Mack would extend the invitation to Mr. Hebert. All of these individuals are a great addition to this leadership group. The committee has also extended an invitation to St. Joseph Hospital to join the executive committee.

ICH Task Force – 10 Year Plan:

W. LeBlanc provided the 2012 Alignment Plan by the NH Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness for committee review of the key goals of this plan and how it interfaces with the GNCOC plan and other ending homelessness plans statewide. The state representative scheduled to attend today's meeting to discuss this and talk about the potential of consolidating plans cancelled unexpectedly. It has been rescheduled for the March executive meeting.

Wrap Around Committee (WAC):

W. LeBlanc shared that the WAC, which was set up originally as one of the tools in the plan to end homelessness, was established to provide support for some of the more challenging situations that various agencies may encounter. Bob Mack has been serving as the Chair of the committee, and has indicated he can no longer continue in that role. The committee has been underutilized for some time now. B. Alves suggested that the agencies under the GNCOC umbrella are already working well together and therefore the need for this separate committee may not be as great, and recommended that an ad-hoc committee may be more realistic going forward. P. Green indicated that having a group to turn to, at least by email would be helpful. Going forward it was determined that the person/agency having a specific challenging circumstance could convene a meeting with their client and other agencies for input in finding a solution.

Presentation Suggestions:

L. Piper indicated that Bob Eldredge from the Better Building Program managed by the CDFA would like to make a presentation about energy efficiency funds that are available as grants and low interest loans for single family homes, multifamily properties, and commercial properties in Nashua. It was agreed to schedule him for 10 minutes at the March GNCOC meeting.

M. Durso confirmed that switching the presentation by Healthy Connections, Harbor Clinic, and Lamprey Healthcare to the August meeting was fine. This would allow Maureen Ryan from the NH Bureau of Housing and Homelessness to make a presentation at the general COC meeting in March regarding the Emergency Services Grant funds and the changes to this grant, its process, and the requirements from COCs going forward.

Political Climate/Other Discussions:

W. LeBlanc indicated that she, along with B. Mack, B. Todgham, C. Furlong, and L. Wilshire would convene on 2/21/12 at 2PM to analyze the COC readiness survey on behalf of the COC.

W. LeBlanc indicated that she is getting a lot of calls about homelessness/foreclosure concerns. R. Tourigny indicated to the group that concerns about foreclosures could be forwarded to NWGM. He explained that foreclosure classes are being held once a month in both Manchester and Nashua (at 45 High Street). He briefly explained the Emergency Homeowner Loan Program (EHLP) which relates to foreclosure help through HUD. While the program has been designed to work nationally, it has met with limited success in NH. W. LeBlanc indicated her agency has a little money to help with late payments, and the Front Door Agency had a revolving loan program for this purpose as well. L. Piper to inquire as to whether that is still active, and to make M. Wirbal aware that she could refer potential clients to NWGM also.

B. Alves brought to the committee's attention a recent NHPR article regarding an upcoming bill in the NH Senate - SB 177, which has to do with the need to send staff and board members to training regarding their fiduciary responsibilities if their nonprofit receives state/local/federal funding of more than \$200,000.

B. Mack indicated that the toolkit is updated and thanked all those who helped in that process.

B. Mack talked about the plan to end homelessness and that it may be an opportune time for the group to update and identify new goals, as many of the goals and action steps regarding rapid re-housing, NSP, etc have been met.

P. Kelleher talked about philanthropic efforts of the NH Charitable Foundation, specifically the Melville Trust (a NH family owners of the former Melville Shoe Company). The Melville Trust ended up in Connecticut and is focused on the elimination of homelessness. He suggested we reach out to the NH Charitable Foundation and ask them to come to a COC executive meeting to discuss other philanthropic opportunities they may be aware of that could have a positive impact on the GNCOCs mission to end homelessness.

R. Tourigny invited all to attend a Community Stakeholders Meeting that NWGM is hosting on 2/23/12 at 6PM at 45 High Street. It is a meeting to introduce themselves to the community, share what they have done in the Greater Manchester area, hear from Nashua what the needs are in the community, and look to establish a local advisory committee.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:30A.M.

Minutes prepared by: Lori M. Piper, SVP