

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2012

www.nashua-coc.org

Wendy LeBlanc, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:05AM. Introductions were made by all, and the attendance sheet was passed for signatures, offering newcomers to add their email to be added onto the GNCOC mailing list. Wendy also explained the meeting format for new attendees. The minutes of the March 7, 2012 meeting were reviewed. There being no changes, a motion to accept the minutes was made by L. Christie which was second by B. Alves. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee (EC):

W. LeBlanc reported that the Mayor came to their last meeting and spoke about the Bronstein Apartment Project. Also at their last meeting, representatives from the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness came to discuss the idea of aligning the many plans to end homelessness that exist around the State, with the idea that if all the plans have common goals and themes, there will be clearer messages to share for advocacy purposes and education around issues of homelessness. Wendy also spoke briefly about the many changes that HUD will be implementing through the HEARTH Act that will impact COCs.

Ending Homelessness (EHC):

B. Mack stated that there was discussion on our 10 year plan and also discussed that the Executive committee was meeting with folks from the Interagency Council. He also talked about HUD's goal to have people out of shelters and into permanent housing. The point in time showed that there have not been any increases in homeless people. Additional discussion regarding people that are getting SSI and TANF will have SSI benefits count against their TANF income. The Tool kit has been updated on COC web site. Explained to the new people what the tool kit is and how helpful it is to use.

Community Relations (CR):

B. Doolan reported that they are continuing to do presentations and are available to present on the COC to get people aware of it. On April 11th the community Relations will do a present to *The Front Door* agency. Next meeting will be held at the Merrimack town hall on April 18th at 9:00AM

Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC):

E. Brady reported that they met in February. Spoke about the proper way to approach the State Reps. A bill is now going to the senate that will allow Landlords to NOT to have local representation. If this bill passes that means if a tenant has an emergency there doesn't have to be anyone local to contact. Next meeting is schedule to be on April 19 at 3:30 but not everyone has RSVP'd so it may be rescheduled. On April 30th from 6-8:30 at Nashua City Hall there will be a Landlord/Tenant and fair housing law seminar this will be a very beneficial for both landlords and tenants. L. Wilshire added that the Nashua Police department POP unit has had to cut back officer's hours due to budget challenges. There may be a budget shift to the Police department for more gang monitoring.

Data Gathering Committee (DGC):

B. Mack stated that Miles from HHI is working on finalizing the housing inventory chart for submission to HUD. We will be looking at HMIS outcomes data closely as this will play a bigger role moving forward with the HEARTH Act implementation. Now Mary's House is doing HMIS. The more agencies use HIMS the better data that will be collected.

Employment Subcommittee (ESC):

T. Lopez reported that the committee met yesterday. We talked about SSI and TANF and the changes that occurred. E. Brady presented to the group on Legislative Affairs. We learned that the right to work bill is back. We started to talk about Project Employment Connect. We are finishing up the flyers and doing media to recruit employers. Asked the group if anyone has connections with employers please email Tom at tom@nksk.org with any leads. Next meeting will be held at 12 Amherst St May 2nd at 1:00PM.

Housing Action NH: E. Brady reposted that they have been doing many presentations.

Shelter Directors: Has not been meeting. In Portsmouth, Homeless Task Force will be opening a new Homeless shelter for youth ages 16/21.

HEARTH Implementation:

Several members of our Executive Committee attended a 1 ½ day forum called HEARTH Implementation Clinic where we discussed potential changes to the COC structure based on HUD's implementation of the HEARTH Act, even though HUD has not yet issued regulations. Rapid re-housing is going to be the focus, with no one staying in the shelters for more than 30 days. From the shelter people should go right to Permanent Housing. People need to start thinking about the changes that will be happening as they shared that current data shows that there is no difference with people getting 18-24 months of services (Transitional housing) vs people who received 3-6 months of rental assistance (rapid re-housing). There was a lot of

discussion about data collection and good outcomes, indicating that HUD will reward agencies that perform well, basically paying for good outcomes. There was also much discussion about using a universal intake form and that maybe we need to incorporate that for housing providers. There is a universal form currently being used between about 6 agencies right now for financial assistance, with basic client information.

Announcements/Discussion:

-The Greater Nashua Mental Health Center got approved for the bonus project through the SuperNOFA. This grant will allow them to have 4 apartments for people with a Mental Health disorder. The program will likely begin around August/September, after all HUD processes have been finalized.

-Harbor Care Health and Wellness Center is now serving 900 individuals, and received special notice for excellent care for those with diabetes and hypertension.

-Keystone Hall has now moved to their new location and is already at capacity.

-Regarding HHI's HPRP program, Of the 36 individuals in the program, 100% remain connected with mental health services. There has been an 82% reduction in NHH bed days for the program participants.

- The Healthy Connections program at GNMHC was recognized by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare as being a top performing model that promotes cost-effective, evidence-based care to the dual eligible populations and was the only one chosen for mental health services

- Marguerites Place is having its 2nd Annual Jazz & Juice Event on Friday April 13th at the Nashua Country Club from 6-9. Tickets in advance are \$40.00 each or \$50.00 at the door.

- Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter is having its annual Run for Food & Shelter on Sunday, April 8th at Rivier College. Please visit website for more information.

-DHHS, to apply for Healthy Kids is back in the local office. Starting July 1st it will no longer be "Healthy Kids Gold/Silver" it will simply be Medicaid for kids.

-April 28th is National prescription take back day. All local Police Stations will be doing this. It's the safest way to get rid of your medications. This may be the last one held.

- On April 17th at 5:00PM at Harbor Homes Inc. W. LeBlanc will be doing a presentation on the Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task force. She will be talking about HIV in our community and will share outcomes regarding the agency's services.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57AM.

Minutes taken by Magaly Rios, Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force