

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care Meeting
Nashua City Hall Auditorium
Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2012**

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 address to be added to the GNCOC mailing list. W. LeBlanc also explained the meeting format for new attendees.

The meeting minutes of April 4, 2012 were reviewed. There being no changes, a motion was made by S. Brisk which was seconded by J. LeClerc. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentations were the order of business at the May meeting.

Workforce Investment Act Program:

Carol Johnson presented the parameters and benefits of the Workforce Investment Act Program as well as provided a detailed handout to the attendees. Southern NH Services was awarded the contract by the state of NH, via the NHWorks.org and C. Johnson working for SNHS manages this program. It is a statewide CAP based NH works partnership program. There are representatives in all NH Works offices in the state. They are providing employment and training support, wrap around services, initial assessments, resume and job search support, and working to break down certain barriers or hindrances to employment opportunities. She presented the unemployment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the various unemployment statistics overlaid with level of education. She also discussed various training opportunities as well as the supportive services which are available. They are currently running at about 80% job placement and average age for placement is 44.

NH Department of Health & Human Services Bureau of Homeless & Housing Services (NH BHHS):

Bernie Bluhm (bbluhm@dhhs.state.nh.us and contact number 271-8388) provided a detailed presentation of the NH BHHS 2011 Access Survey. This was a collaborative effort by many partners. The survey was based on the Manchester Homeless Needs Assessment that came out of the MCOC and the Homeless Liaison Committee. There were 10 colleges and universities that participated in this endeavor and provided 94 graduate students to help in this extensive project. The purpose of the survey was to obtain insight from homeless persons and initiate feedback from 374 homeless persons in terms of what they need for services and how they can best access these services. Most of the respondents were in the 18 – 25 age category. There were 73 respondents from the Greater Nashua COC catchment area, and a higher female population in Nashua as compared to the remainder of the state, which was more closely matched from a gender perspective. The survey combined both quantitative and qualitative information. It was a private and confidential survey with the homeless and their responses were recorded verbatim. This was a great opportunity for the state to learn how the system could work better and work to improve it for the benefit of the people who are in need of this support. This survey will be sent out via email to the GNCOC members.

Announcements:

- August 6, 2012 there will be an HMIS training for those needing an update and/or refresher.
- A SuperNOFA debriefing occurred last week. W. LeBlanc congratulated the GNCOC for receiving 77.75 points in the last round, as compared to a national median score of 74 points.
- NH Workers – Greater Nashua Labor Coalition will host a May 5, 2012 Cinco de Mayo at Greeley Park from 1PM on; many statewide speakers will be there.
- Bridges is hosting a free event on Tuesday, May 16th at the Crowne Plaza. While it is free it is a one hour information fundraiser.
- A new clinician for the Harbor Care Clinic spoke on behalf of the clinic, indicating that they are providing an extensive array of medical care and services.
- The HIV/AIDS Task Force is hosting an information session at 45 High Street on Thursday, May 3rd from 5:00 – 6:00PM.
- Employment Connect will be occurring in September and they are looking for corporate vendor participations.
- The Nashua Police Department has agreed to be part of a pilot project initiated by GNMHC whereby they will be handing out bookmarks to those who are arrested for DWI's or appear to need mental health services. The bookmark offers a message of hope, recognizing suicidal symptoms, and resource help line.
- It was announced that there are two PCP offices through a Greater Nashua Mental Health Center partnership with Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center to provide mental health services.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00AM.

Minutes taken by Lori M. Piper, Merrimack County Savings Bank