

GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE MEETING MINUTES

Nashua City Hall Auditorium

June 6, 2012 @ 8:00AM

www.nashua-coc.org

Wendy LeBlanc, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00AM. Introductions were made by all, and the attendance sheet passed for signatures. Newcomers were asked to add their email to the list if they would like to be added to the GNCOC mailing list. Wendy explained the meeting format for new attendees. The minutes of May 2, 2012 were reviewed. There being no changes, a motion to accept the minutes was made by B. Alves, which was seconded by S. Mead. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee (EC):

W. LeBlanc reported that ICH had created a 10 Year Plan and the state is looking to the various COCs for feedback and to provide continuity among the various plans currently in place. She also indicated that the EC briefly discussed the Bronstein Apartments situation and indicated that the Granite State Organizing Project would be updating this committee later in the meeting so deferred further comments. She reported that the CoC Checkup HUD related exercise is ongoing. Several executive committee members are working on the final phase of the action plan which must be submitted to HUD if the GNCOC ever wants to request technical assistance from HUD in the future. Wendy reported that the EC will be recommending to the GNCOC that the Ending Homelessness Committee, roll the former Wrap-Around Committee into its group.

Ending Homelessness Committee (EHC):

B. Mack reported that they have identified certain action steps and many of the positive aspects of transitional housing as well as the challenges, and the help that HMIS can provide in this process. He spoke about the permanent housing situation in the Greater Nashua area. The group discussed the impact of the new outlet mall in Merrimack that is scheduled to open soon. While it is providing some employment opportunities, it appears to be mostly minimum wage positions as opposed to management level positions that would then allow a person to have an income that could afford housing in the City. Clients have applied and are getting jobs but at about \$8/hour. Affordable housing continues to be challenging. He discussed the VisualizeNashua.org project which has to do with the possible revitalization of the Bridge Street area.

Community Relations Committee (CRC):

No report.

Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC):

E. Brady was not able to attend. The legislative session is ending soon for the summer months. Housing Appropriations are scheduled to be released 6/6/2012, recommended consumers contact their representatives, F. Guinta and C. Bass regarding the McKinney Vento Act and other homelessness issues that are of concern in their communities. At the NH House of Representatives level, H.B. 1263 was tabled. L. Wilshire indicated that filing dates for state and city offices was coming up shortly.

Data Gathering Committee (DGC):

B. Mack reported that they are going to refocus their efforts, which has been heavily concentrated on the PIT count. The committee is going to be taking a closer look at the direction of the committee and

the various reports. He indicated that D. Curley has said that the HMIS team is working on HMIS upgrade with 8/31/2012 as an end date and mandatory training will be taking place on 8/6/2012 at the HHI headquarters. There will be two sessions available. M. Pendry explained where to access the archives to locate reports on the CoC website and he provided additional details of the upcoming mandatory training. M. Wirbal asked about the data collection of security deposits, and M. Pendry responded that he believes this information will be absorbed into the new HEARTH Act.

Employment Committee (EMPL):

M. Rios reported on behalf of Tom Lopez that the committee is focused at this time on the 4th annual Employment Connect Project which will take place on 9/18/2012 at 45 High Street, Nashua.

Housing Action NH (HANH):

E. Brady indicated there are no major updates. She encouraged everyone to get on the CoC mailing list as she sends alerts to that list as needed.

Shelters Directors Meeting (SDM):

No report.

Updates to Accomplishments Section of the GNCOC 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness:

S. Mead reported on the pretrial with court supervision program which is working to help divert people out of the court system and into appropriate programs. M. Wirbal reported that the Front Door Agency was set to purchase a property on Shattuck Street today with six affordable housing units. The families are at or below 60% of AMI. G. Kundu for Harbor Care Clinic spoke about the myriad of services, both medical and mental health related, that are available at the clinic.

Announcements/Discussions:

- **Request for letter of support from Harbor Homes, Inc. (HHI) for Veterans Stand Down**

P. Kelleher requested a letter of support from the GNCOC for this one day event which helps to connect veterans with community resources. This event has been funded by the Federal Department of Labor since 2004. L. Wilshire motioned for approval for the GNCOC to provide a letter of support, J. LeClerc seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP)**

B. Keating of GSOP gave a brief background of the GSOP which has been operating since 2002 in Manchester, Nashua and Milford and consists of approximately 30 religious and civic organizations. He indicated that the GSOP had met with a group of residents from the Bronstein Apartments regarding the public debate over the potential demolition and replacement of individuals/families to other areas. By way of background there are 48 households and 160+ people living in the Bronstein units. He indicated that two primary concerns were raised. (1) Concerns over what this means to the families that live there, attachment/security to where they live. Correspondence has been sent by the GSOP to the NHA and Mayor's offices citing the concerns including children having to change schools, public transportation concerns, etc; and (2) The impact of 48 units being demolished. There is concern that a significant impact may be felt by eliminating these homes and the time involved and the funds needed to reallocate all these families. He indicated that there are 3500+/- names on the NHA waiting list at this time, and to eliminate 48 units will add challenges to what is already a limited housing stock for low income persons. Others indicated that the City has had several meetings to date with tenants, City and NHA. Mr. Keating indicated that tenants approached the GSOP, not vice-versa. Stacie Laughton indicated that she has attended the meetings and recommends others attend as well to advocate for

these families. S. Costa of NHA indicated the discussions regarding Bronstein Apartments are very preliminary and there have been no applications to HUD at this time. He also indicated that this discussion about possible demolition and movement of persons at Bronstein is not tied into the Broad Street Parkway project. Sara Brisk indicated that the NHA has met with all 48 families and many are enthusiastic to learn about other possible housing options. Further updates will be provided regarding this low income housing project as information becomes available.

Other Announcements:

- B. Faw of Vital Cycles introduced himself and indicated that the organization was available to help trauma survivors, provides a healing curriculum and works with many agencies the help trauma survivors turn vicious cycles into vital cycles.
- W. LeBlanc shared that he HIV/AIDS Walk is being held on 9/8/2012 this year.
- DHHS informational meeting on managing the Medicare program will be held on 6/28 at 5:30PM at the Nashua High School South.
- Nashua has an advisory committee meeting on 6/11/2012 at Lamprey Health Care regarding health programs.
- L. Wilshire asked about NH Healthy Kids, and it was indicated that this will be rolled into the new Medicaid program effective with the end date for NH Healthy Kids which is 7/1/2012.
- L. Wilshire provided a brochure on NH Education of Homeless Youths – education and opportunities for college financial aid.
- B. Todgham provided a brochure regarding the Workplace Success Service Bureau and volunteer opportunities.
- S. Mead recommends the GNCOC website for newcomers.

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

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