

GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE MEETING MINUTES

Nashua City Hall Auditorium
September 5, 2012 @ 8:00AM
www.nashua-coc.org

Wendy LeBlanc, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:05AM. 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 August 1, 2012 were reviewed. The minutes will be changed to reflect that Sara Brisk from Nashua Housing Authority, not the Granite State Organizing Project, indicated they had met with Bronstein residents. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Lori Wilshire, which was seconded by Sara Brisk. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Wendy announced that presentations the Greater Nashua Asset Building Coalition and Hearts Peer Support Group will be giving presentations at the October GNCOC meeting.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee (EC): W. LeBlanc reported that the Executive Committee continues to discuss proposed COC and HEARTH Act requirement changes. Group is working to better understand the new HUD requirements and how these changes will affect funding in the coming year. One change that has been noted is the need to develop a coordinated intake process.

Expanding Executive Board membership to include stakeholders from additional groups has been identified as another change that needs to be made. The Executive Committee will continue to discuss these proposed changes and will likely share details at the November meeting.

The Executive Committee has been in discussions with United Way to have a representative from that organization on the EC. Committee has discussed the upcoming NOFA and the GIW (Grant Inventory Worksheet) that needs to be completed. Executive Committee has discussed and approved proposed changes to the Ending Homelessness Committee.

Ending Homeless Committee (EHC): Bob Mack reported on most recent EHC meeting. Committee will begin to assume an expanded role that includes Wrap Around Committee duties as the need arises. Restructuring will allow committee to have more accurate counts of resources available in the community. EHC has discussed the development of a formalized universal intake process and what role 211 can/will play in this area. Goal of the expansion of the committee's focus is to be better able to share resources and connect people up with those resources more efficiently.

Community Relations Committee (EHC): No formal report. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 19 at Merrimack Town Hall. Start time is 9:00am. Goal of the committee is to make sure the community knows what we do, bring people to the table and tout our successes.

Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC): Eileen Brady announced that their next meeting will be held after the election. At the local level, Lori announced that the Board of Aldermen is reviewing the Review and Comment Process.

Data Gathering Committee (DGC): Bob Mack reported that committee continues to discuss/institute ways that data can be collected more effectively. Committee is also looking into ways that the data gathered can be better utilized. COC data is archived on the GNCOC website if people are interested.

Employment Committee (EMPL): Tom Lopez announced that plans are being finalized for the Employment Connect event scheduled for September 18 at 45 High Street. The event will run from 9am-2pm and feature several different employers and career training programs. There is room for additional exhibitors, if anyone is interested.

Question was asked on how the Chamber could be involved/support these types of efforts.

Housing Action NH (HANH): It was reported that there is a housing conference scheduled for this fall. It is scheduled for Tuesday, October 30 from 8:00am to 4:30pm at the Courtyard by Marriott, Grappone Conference Center, 70 Constitution Ave. in Concord.

Shelter Directors Meeting (SDM): No report

Accomplishments (updates to 10 year plan): None noted

Presentation: *Comcast Internet Essentials*

Bryan Christiansen from Comcast provided the GNCOC with information about this low-cost Internet access program that is available to families with children who qualify for free or reduced cost lunch. The program is available for a \$9.95 per month flat fee. He asked the group to keep the program in mind as they work with families who may qualify. The program is being tested in New Hampshire and plans are to roll it out nationally at some point in the future. Future plans may also include expanding the program to include seniors. There is no cap on the number of families who can take advantage of the program; there are currently 500 New Hampshire families enrolled. 50 of those families are from Nashua.

Announcements

- Neighborworks is beginning to become active in the community. They are hosting a Tree Streets Block Party on Saturday from 12-4. They have opened an office on Burke Street.
- Marguerite's Place is having a fundraiser at Nashua Country Club on September 28. The event will offer dinner and a silent auction.
- The Parish Nurse Program will be having a "Dress for Success" program at Milette Manor on Thursday, September 13. Event will provide business-related clothing that individuals can wear on job interviews, etc.
- Harbor Homes is planning a Stand Down event for Veterans on September 27 from 10am-2pm at 45 High Street. The event will provide haircuts, clothing, employment counseling and legal advice.
- Homeless Connect has been scheduled for December 14 from 11:30am to 3:00pm. More details to come.
- Tuesday, September 11, 2012 is Primary Election Day. Everyone is encouraged to vote.

- Breathe NH is hosting a support program for those with pulmonary problems. The group meets in Manchester on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 1-3pm.
- The Front Door Agency is offering their Financial Literacy program beginning September 19. It will be held at the Family Resource Center (Greater Nashua Boys & Girls Club) from 6-7pm.
- Kathy Paquette from Southern New Hampshire Services announced that she will be on vacation until September 24. Those needing help can call 211.
- The Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force is holding their annual AIDS Walk on September 8. Registration begins at 10:00am.
- The Nashua Children's Home is having a fundraiser at Alpine Grove on September 14. Tickets are \$20 each and the event features dinner and music.
- Peter Clark introduced himself as the new liaison from Senator Shaheen's office and shared his contact information.
- Wendy reminded everyone that they can share additional details about their announcements with the entire group by doing a "reply all" to any email she has sent out to our group (minutes, etc.)

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

Minutes taken by Beth Todgham, Southern New Hampshire Services