

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes
Nashua City Hall Auditorium
November 7, 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 sign-in sheet if they would like to be added to the GNCOC mailing list. Ms. LeBlanc explained the meeting format for newcomers. The minutes of the October 3, 2012 were reviewed, a correction to the spelling of a person's name was noted, and J. LeClerc made a motion to accept the minutes, as corrected, which was seconded by S. Mead and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee:

W. LeBlanc reported that the NOFA from HUD should be released soon. She reported that it has been a very busy time for the Executive Committee. She explained the process for submitting a new project to be considered under the NOFA process. There have been many changes to the HEARTH Act, including structural changes that are required of CoCs, and the EC is intending to have a presentation of the HEARTH Act at December meeting. She explained that there is about a year to put changes into place. W. LeBlanc also reported that J. LeClerc has issued his resignation and that election for a new Vice-Chair will take place at the December meeting. HUD recently held an all-grantee meeting and a few folks went to the Boston and Manchester meetings. B. Todgham did a nice job with filling in on the Asset Coalition Process for last month's presenter who was held up in traffic and it was determined that there was not a need at this time for a new presentation.

Ending Homelessness Committee:

Bob Mack shared that Project Homeless Connect is coming up on 12/4/12 at Harbor Homes. He provided a briefing of what will be available for services, and indicated there is still time for other agencies to sign up to participate. The committee discussed the HUD requirement of a universal intake, and the possibility of utilizing 211. They talked about the increase in demand for security deposits, particularly through the Front Door Agency. There was also a discussion about trying to keep track of people accessing services from multiple agency resources so that the resources are being used as efficiently as possible and a centralized database may assist with this. The committee reviewed winter overflow concerns. Shelter managers have been discussing how to handle winter as they indicate they are already operating in winter overflow mode. E. Brady indicated that someone from the Nashua Area Interfaith Council met with some folks from Concord that had been offering shelter in the winter at a church, to see if a similar program could be replicated in Nashua.

Community Relations:

Pat Murphy indicated the the last meeting took place on 9/19/12 and the discussion centered on getting the CoC message out to the communities in the GNCOC catchment. They discussed the idea of creating a logo and brand of the CoC. Nashua North High School has been approached for this help with this branding idea. B. Mack indicated they met with students and marketing teacher and have some draft ideas which will go to the committee for review. They will also be looking at the webpage to reorganize it into a better format, and they are also working on how to reach out through social media. The next meeting is on 11/13/12 at the Merrimack town hall. The committee will be making a presentation to Greater Milford Outreach in January 2013.

Legislative Affairs Committee:

E. Brady indicated there is no report this month. However she indicated that now the elections are over, the committee is hoping to have discussions on community issues/bills be as bi-partisan as possible with the new legislature, as well as looking for more community involvement.

Data Gathering:

B. Mack indicated they are preparing for the PIT count. There is a meeting 11/7/12 in Manchester that W. LeBlanc will be attending to learn about 2013 PIT requirements. For newcomers, he explained that each January there is a HUD requirement to take a 24 hour count of homeless persons, including those in shelters and transitional housing programs. The committee is looking for a level of community participation. MCoC and BOSCOG will help in this process. Harbor Homes health care center is planning to be open again for that one night for the homeless so that people can come in out of the cold, get some services and be counted. The count will be on January 23, 2013.

Employment Committee:

Tom Lopez reported that they are trying to engage more companies in the discussion and a new location for meeting will be announced soon.

Housing Action NH:

L. Redden indicated that the comment period for the HEARTH Act has been extended to 11/16/12 and they are still open to others signing on to their letter. The committee has been very focused on multiple comments with the same content, and indicated that the more of the same comments will get more recognition by HUD. They are tracking activities at the federal and state levels.

Shelters Directors Meeting: No report

Update to accomplishments section of GNCOC Ten Year Plan:

- 1) C. Sementa shared information on the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) – She indicated that funds are allocated 65% to homeless veterans and 35% to prevention of homelessness for veterans (i.e. within 14 days of becoming homeless). There is great flexibility in the program; essentially it is a short term financial aid program. Then families/individuals are hooked up for longer term services. When there is an urgent need, they work the folks at the V.A. They integrate with the statewide/Easter Seals program. 211 should be added in the loop. Funding for this Federal Grant is on a one year funding cycle that is renewable.
- 2) E. Brady indicated that the soup kitchen and shelter new facility should be up and operating and with the new building it will provide better accessibility to the other services; better direct contact. They are planning to purchase the VFW building. A recent Telegraph article explained the status of the project.
- 3) P. Kelleher shared that HHI was able to help 21 veterans find employment in the past month.
- 4) T. Lopez also indicated additional newly employed through support of the employment committee. He didn't have the specific count.
- 5) B. Mack indicated that they had a successful wrap around meeting with shelter providers with a couple of clients, issues were discussed, and one individual who was chronically homeless was able to find employment. The committee helped provide some encouragement, support and point people in other directions for additional support.

Announcements:

- 1) W. LeBlanc shared that 11/29/12 they will be holding world AIDS day at 12 Amherst St 4-6PM.
- 2) Front Door Agency had 14 participants and 11 graduates of its financial literacy program.
- 3) P. Kelleher indicated that the partnership for Successful Living will hold its annual Thanksgiving dinner for those in need on 11/20/12 from 11AM – 2PM and all are welcome.
- 4) Adult Learning Center event to be held on 11/13/12 and 11/14/12.
- 5) B. Todgham indicated that Southern NH Services are taking fuel assistant applications.
- 6) P.Kelleher reported that the Healthcare for the Homeless Clinic has hired about 5 new health care providers and they have ability to take on new patients that need primary care. Anyone that meets the HRSA definition of homelessness or is at risk of homelessness is welcome. It allows for a wider definition than the HUD definition on homelessness.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:50AM. Minutes taken by Lori M. Piper, Merrimack County Savings Bank.