

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes
Harbor Homes/Training Institute
45 High Street
January 2, 2013 @ 8:00AM
www.nashua-coc.org

Wendy LeBlanc, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:06AM. 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 newcomers. January is a report out month by the various CoC committees.

The minutes of the December 5, 2012 meeting were reviewed following. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Maryse Wirbal, which was seconded by Candace Gebhart and the minutes were unanimously approved, with no changes or discussion.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: W. LeBlanc indicated that the focus of the executive committee for the past several weeks has been the NOFA application. The committee has met several times to work on the application. It has been a time consuming endeavor this year with the numerous changes and added complexities. Gina Schaak and David Raymond (via phone) from TAC met with the executive committee to provide in depth review of the NOFA requirement changes. W. LeBlanc also reported that the executive committee postponed a vote for vice-chair of the GNCOC, as there were multiple interested parties, and these individuals were asked to fully participate in the NOFA process and determine how that process goes for all, and then revisit the vice-chair vacated position, most likely at the March 2013 meeting.

NOFA Ranking Vote: W. LeBlanc explained the executive committee process that took place regarding the recommended ranking for today's meeting, which is needed in order to complete the NOFA application. She explained that HUD does not have enough money this application process to meet all renewal projects. An extensive process took place, including a review of several criteria, under recommendation from TAC as well as ranking in the order that is recommended by HUD of Permanent Housing first, Transitional Housing second, and Supportive Services third. Also, because there would be insufficient monies to cover all renewal projects in Tier One of the ranking process, Harbor Homes, Inc. stepped up and offered to take the cut in their PH # 9 and PH #10 programs, thereby eliminating the need for any of the other agencies to take a cut in Tier One ranking. Those two housing projects were placed into the Tier Two ranking. The executive committee voted on the ranking which is being presented at today's meeting for a vote of the full continuum and was unanimously approved with the exception of one abstention from P. Kelleher of the Partnership for Successful Living/Harbor Homes, Inc.

The ranking recommended by the executive committee was provided as a handout at the committee meeting at the start of today's meeting. L. Christie motioned to approve the ranking as presented in today's meeting, the motion was seconded by P. Murphy and was approved by unanimous vote, with the exception of one abstention from P. Kelleher.

Ending Homelessness Committee: B. Mack indicated that the ad-hoc wrap up component of the Ending Homelessness Committee met a few times to help some clients with needed direction. He also indicated that the committee has had further discussion about the winter months, overflow issues and the lack of warming centers in Nashua. He did indicate that hospital emergency rooms are not available as a warming center, although if the hospital cafeterias are open, individuals can take respite during regular hours, if they are able to make a purchase.

Community Relations Committee: P. Murphy reported that they will soon be presenting to the executive committee recommendation for a new CoC tagline and logo that has been worked on in conjunction with the

Marketing students at Nashua High School North. They are also planning to make a presentation to the Milford Outreach group. W. LeBlanc, as the committee's Facebook coordinator let the group know that she can post items on the CoC Facebook page, just to please send exactly what should be posted, as she will not be editing any items sent to her, and to please keep in mind to keep the posting requests brief. The next meeting will be 1/23/13 at the Merrimack Town Hall.

Legislative Affairs Committee: No report this month

Local Legislative Affairs: No report this month

Data Gathering Committee: M. Pendry indicated that the committee has been very busy with the NOFA process. The PIT count is to be held on 1/23/13. He indicated that the HIC needs to be updated, however any agencies that are reporting HIC through HMIS will be pulled directly from HMIS. However, any agencies that work with homeless persons but are not reporting through HMIS must complete the survey for the HIC. He also indicated that the night of the PIT that the Harbor Clinic will remain open all night so that homeless persons can be counted as well and get out of the cold and receive basic medical services if needed. He spoke about the importance of correct reporting of the HIC data for the process.

Employment Committee: T. Lopez indicated that the committee is working on a form that highlights an individual's strengths and capabilities as opposed to what they can not do. They are also working on the idea of creating an award for a person(s) that have shown leadership in the community in helping homeless persons obtain jobs. The intent is to bring more attention to this issue and hopefully by recognizing someone, or a company of demonstrating leadership that it will encourage more individuals/companies in the company to do so as well. Next meeting is 1/5/13.

Other Groups:

Housing Action Committee NH: L. Redden updated the group on activities at the state level in terms of their advocacy that may impact the CoC clients. She indicated that the incoming legislature is anticipated to be more friendly/receptive, however there are still the revenue constraints to contend with. They will be working with Senator Bob Odell on an affordable housing development and preservation bill. They are also looking into bills to preserve more funding for homelessness, and they are also working with the behavioral health department commissioner as well on this issue. And finally they are reviewing bedbug mitigation and rooming/boarding house bills that are anticipated to be budget neutral. L. Christie also commented that the rooming housings don't have the same tenancy rights as renters and they are working to change this, as well as have the state recognize the bedbugs as a public health issue. There are volunteer sign up sheets for anyone interested in the HAC endeavors.

Shelter Directors Meeting: K. Merrill was not at this meeting. L. Christie indicated that she had attended and the bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the state's proposal for shelter funding.

Updates to accomplishments section of 10 year Plan: M. Wirbal shared that, in partnership with Bridges, the Front Door Agency has provided three families with transitional housing to date based on the joint grant award they received.

Announcements/Discussion:

Pam Brown (pambrown@gmail.com) is looking for non-profit agency projects needing volunteers for the January 19, 2013 Presidential Inauguration Event.

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

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