

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes
Harbor Homes/Training Institute
45 High Street
February 6, 2013
www.nashua-coc.org

Wendy LeBlanc, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:03AM. Introductions were made by all, and the attendance sheet passed for signatures. Newcomers were asked to add their emails to the list if they would like to be added to the GNCOC mailing list. Wendy explained the meeting format for newcomers. February is a presentation month.

The minutes of the January 2, 2013 meeting were reviewed. B. Alves motioned that the minutes be approved; L. Christie seconded. Minutes were approved.

Refugee Resettlement - Lutheran Social Services

Augustin Ntabaganyimana, Program Manager for Refugee Services at Lutheran Social Services made a presentation on the refugee resettlement process. The agency is charged with the resettlement of refugees to Nashua and works with those who are newly arrived to get connected to the services they need. Augustin outlined what makes an individual a refugee and explained the process by which they come to the United States, including the background checks and medical exams that they receive. LSS often has less than 14 days notice that refugees will be arriving in the community. In that time, they work with their local resources to locate a home and furnishings for the new arrival. They then work with local providers to establish a medical home for the refugees and connect them to local services. Each new arrival receives an orientation that includes information on laws, parenting skills, healthcare and other topics. Each arriving refugee receives an allocation of up to \$1125 to cover initial expenses. LSS offers support services, including employment counseling, case management, access to ESOL classes for up to five years. The goal for each new arrival is to bring them to self-sufficiency.

Nashua can expect to receive between 70-100 refugees this year. Augustin indicated that he would attend GNCOC meetings on a regular basis. There is also a Refugee and Immigrant Integration group that meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 18 Franklin Street (conference room above Bonhoeffer's Cafe & Espresso). Anyone interested in learning more can contact Augustin at 224-8111 or by email at augustin@lssne.org.

Housing Inventory Chart - HMIS

Miles Pendry offered information on the importance of an accurate Housing Inventory Chart in terms of reporting information to HUD. Due to a better understanding of the requirements, the GNCOC is now reporting only those beds that are held exclusively to the homeless, as opposed to the previous reporting process that included all available shelter beds that *could* serve a homeless person. Miles is currently working on the latest HIC but is waiting for information from a few more agencies. Once this information is received, he will forward the chart to everyone so they can double check (carefully) their information for accuracy.

The GNCOC does a great job in submitting all information required for the AHAR. This is important because all the information has to be coordinated.

Anyone who has questions as they work on gathering this data is encouraged to talk to Miles directly.

Other Business

- A request was made by Lamprey Health Center for a letter in support of the funding request for a renewal of the family planning money they receive. Lamprey depends on these funds to provide a wide range of family planning services to clients in the community. A motion was made and seconded to submit the letter of support. Motion passed.
- Beth reminded the group that nutrition programs at Southern New Hampshire Services provides food to eligible individuals in the community. Anyone interested in more information can call the Allds Street Outreach office at 889-3440.
- Laurel Redden from New Hampshire Housing Action announced that a number of phone calls have been received by the Governor in support of retaining the line item for Emergency Shelters in the NH budget. She thanked everyone for the response that came from her request the previous week and encouraged folks to call the Governor's office today
- Lisa Christie reminded everyone about the Empty Bowls fundraiser to be held in support of the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter on February 20.
- The City of Nashua Planning Board is scheduled to discuss the proposed NSK&S move to the VFW location at its meeting on Thursday, February 21 at 7:00pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend in support of the move.
- Tom Lopez announced that the Employment Committee will meet on February 19 at the ALC.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06am.