

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2013

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Wendy LeBlanc, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. Introduction were made by all.

The minutes of the February 6, 2013 were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by B. Mack and seconded by P. Murphy. The motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive Committee**

W. LeBlanc reported that the executive committee had been very busy for the past few months with the NOFA process and the related changes with the HEARTH Act regulations and new compliance rules. There are three main areas that the EC needs to be working on over the next several months. They are: (1) Coordinated assessment/intake process; (2) Formation of a Board of Directors that will include additional stakeholders beyond those currently on the executive committee; and (3) Establish by-laws/guidelines based on the new requirements. There will be ad-hoc committees formed and W. LeBlanc asked that any one interested in joining the ad-hoc committees and helping in this process to contact her.

The EC provided a recommendation to the GNCOC to fill the vacant vice chair position at this time. The EC recommended that Ana Pancine and Vanessa Talasazan become co-vice chairs at this time, with the intent that they move to a co-chairman position in October 2013, when W. LeBlanc's term of Chairperson will expire. It was also recommended that Abigail Alicea become the vice-chair of the GNCOC at that time. W. LeBlanc asked if there were any nominations from the floor – there were not. L. Wilshire then motioned to nominate Ana and Vanessa as co-vice chairs at this time. Beth Todgham seconded the motion, there were no absentions, and the vote passed unanimously. P. Kelleher thanked W. LeBlanc for her work as Chairperson of the GNCOC, which was echoed by all.

**Ending Homelessness Committee**

B. Mack indicated the committee was waiting for the final PIT counts. They discussed warming centers/emergency shelters and their complexities. They are looking for other opportunities to help the homeless. He discussed child safety with kids living in homeless centers and the services that are available. They discussed the Community Relations committee continues their relationship with the marketing project with the high school. The wrap around committee met with two clients that they were able to help. They discussed the emergency services grant and the Bridges/Front Door agency collaboration. L. Wilshire asked about the universal intake process, and B. Mack indicated there may be some planning dollars available through the NOFA. W. LeBlanc indicated that we applied through the NOFA application for dollars to help with the process. L. Christies sits on a statewide committee representing the GNCOC relative to this new process of intake that is in discussion.

### **Community Relations Committee**

P. Murphy discussed meeting with Greater Milford Outreach and the marketing plan with the high school. They are working on the logo and revamping the COC pamphlet. Next meeting date 4/17.

### **Legislative Affairs Committee**

E. Brady indicated they need more committee members as there are currently only two members. She indicated that there was to be a Medicaid hearing on March 7<sup>th</sup> and urged agencies to contact their state representatives. The state budget is to be discussed at a forum on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 8 pm at the Nashua Community College and encouraged locals to attend. L. Wilshire reported for local legislative affairs and indicated that a public meeting would take place regarding Review and Comment and CDBG fundings.

### **Data Gathering Committee**

M. Pendry handed out the Point In Time (PIT) counts and reported that two agencies that don't report to HMIS also provided counts. There were about 20 families in motels or doubled up and those numbers are not included in the count per HUD homeless definition. M. Pendry asked that agencies review the 2013 Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) and please respond to him with any changes. He will then report these findings into the HUD Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) database. There were questions regarding changes to the numbers overall for the past two years with the numbers down significantly. Anecdotally many attendees reported that there are many couch surfing, in motels through the welfare department they can't be counted. Also kids in school are also couch surfing and not being counted. P. Kelleher commented that the decline has been steady the past 10 years, with exception of one year, and that the GNCOC should continue to develop new strategies to reduce these counts. He challenged everyone to look more closely at this. Concern was raised about it being a one day point in time count and how can the GNCOC capture others that don't meet the HUD definition of homeless. M. Pendry indicated that he does have the numbers for those that show motel/incarceration/doubling up/ rehab, etc that are not part of the count. He will send out this information to GNCOC members.

### **Employment Committee**

T. Lopez discussed the upcoming Employment Connect Event. He reported on a work capacity form that they are developing in conjunction with the Adult Learning Center that will demonstrate what work skills potential employees have, rather than what they can't do. The committee is making good progress. Next meeting is March 12<sup>th</sup> for planning the Employment Connect. Dress for Success agency offered their services.

### **Housing Action NH**

L. Redden reported that the emergency shelters budget line item was maintained in the state budget presented. They will be watching this through the various budget meetings to ensure that the \$4 million line item remains. She explained a new homeless vehicle registration bill. A vote regarding beg bug legislation is on the docket for 3/6/13.

**Shelter Directors Meeting** – no report.

**Updates to accomplishments section of 10 Year Plan** – none this month.

**Announcements/Discussion**

E. Brady thanked everyone for their support of the new soup kitchen location at a recent planning board meeting.

B. Todgham provided a brief background on the regional planning commission and that they will be looking for an open dialogue at the April meeting when they present Granite State Future initiative. They are specifically looking for feedback from GNCOC participants on Transportation and Housing concerns.

Southern NH University spoke briefly about the schools programs available for community mental health and mental health counseling programs and handed out brochures. There was also to be an informational session at Harbor Homes today (3/6/13) at noon.

Southern NH Services is provided a brochure regarding a new lead grant program available for lead remediation through the City of Nashua.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:57AM.

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