

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes

City Hall Auditorium

October 2, 2013

www.nashua-coc.org

Wendy LeBlanc, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:10AM. Introductions were made by all, and the attendance sheet passed for signatures. Newcomers were asked to add their email to the attendance sheet if they would like to be added to the GNCOC mailing list. Wendy explained the format of the meeting. October is a month with report outs from various committees.

The minutes of September 4, 2013 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by B. Alves to accept the minutes, seconded by C. Sementa and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: W. LeBlanc reported the following from the 9/11/13 meeting:

- The NOFA /COC application has not yet been released, however the registration to HUD required to submit an application has been completed. She anticipates release date of mid-October.
- Agencies being funded by the NOFA are actively involved, however she reiterated the importance of all agencies participating and are responsible for helping to ensure the best possible application to HUD as it affects the community at large.
- A VISTA worker has been hired, starting late November. She will be attending the various committee meetings and taking minutes, will be involved in the NOFA (based on timing of the application and the VISTA worker start date), and will primarily be helping us to comply with new HEARTH requirements. She is a UNH graduate who majored in psychology and justice, and she has been volunteering in Manchester area.

Election of Officers:

- The executive committee approved the following slate of officers to be recommended and voted on at the October GNCOC meeting: Ana Pancine and Cate Sementa as Co-Chairpersons, Abigail Alicia as Vice-Chairperson and Beth Todgham as Clerk.

W. Leblanc asked if there were any nominations for officers from the floor. None were provided, and therefore L. Wilshire motioned to approved the slate of officers that have been approved for recommendation to the full GNCOC, this motioned was seconded by J. LeClerc and the motion carried. There was no one opposed and no abstentions. The new slate shall begin their term starting with the executive meeting on October 9, 2013 and the full GNCOC meeting on November 6, 2013.

Update on Medicaid Managed Care and ACA:

- M. Durso, a member of the executive committee provided a brief update to the GNCOC attendees. She indicated that the Affordable Care Act went into effect on 10/1/13. She provided a summary. She indicated that she and others are available to help all involved. She recommended the website: www.healthcare.gov. Lamprey Health Care, Manchester Mental Health Center and Harbor Care clinic have certified application counselors (CACs) on hand to help with the process. There were several questions from the floor that could not be answered. M. Durso and others will provide a more in-depth

presentation at the November GNCOC meeting. It will also include information on the NH Medicaid Managed Care situation. A brochure was provided regarding the health insurance marketplace.

Ending Homelessness Committee:

B. Mack indicated that the committee met in September and there was a discussion centered on the improved awareness of the wrap around services and the benefits available. They are also working on the Project Homeless Connect Event which will be held 12/4 at St. Patrick's Community Center. Next planning meeting is 10/11 @ 10AM.

Community Relations Committee: P. Murphy indicated last meeting was in June. No update. Next meeting 10/16/13.

Legislative Affairs Committee:

E. Brady has been attending the House of Representatives oversight committee meetings. She commented on the presentation recently made by the director of the Keene Housing Authority and recommended attendees take the time to read it. It was provided via email to the GNCOC email list. She discussed how the government shutdown affects constituents, particularly their stress levels and WIC. She recommended attendees contact their state representatives and senators to weigh in with their opinions on the NH Medicaid expansion issue. She indicated that the overnight parking for Nashua residents comes up for a vote of the aldermen the week of 10/7/13; please express your concerns to your aldermen. She indicated that some individuals at the NSKS have already signed up for healthcare under the new ACA; others are just beginning to learn of it. On behalf of L. Redden of Housing Action NH she indicated that there is a NH Conference on Homelessness; a public policy training seminar that will take place at the Grappone Center in Concord on 10/21, starting at 8AM.

L. Wilshire, Alderman-at-Large for Local Legislative Affairs indicated that the overnight parking vote on 10/7/13 is for a pilot program.

Data Gathering Committee:

W. Leblanc indicated that the point-in-time count will be coming up in January and more information will be provided as they work with Manchester COC and the Balance of State COC for the upcoming count.

Employment Committee:

T. Lopez indicated that the Employment Connect Event held at the City auditorium last week went very well, good turnout and received feedback that it was less intimidating environment as the room was smaller. He thanked several people for their hard work on this project. Also, Dress for Success had 40 people (50/50 men/women split) come through the day before the event and they helped with appropriate outfits. Much greater turnout than last year's event.

Shelter Directors Meeting: W. LeBlanc reported that O. Cruz indicated there was not a meeting since the last GNCOC meeting.

Updates to accomplishments section of the 10 year plan: None noted at this meeting.

Announcements:

- Marguerites Place 19th anniversary fundraiser – Fire & Ice – being held on 10/18/13 at Crowne Plaza.

- Ann Marie House guests are still being served, per J. LeClerc and the board is working on a job description in order to fill the vacant executive director position, but they do have an interim director in place. They have a fundraising event on 12/5/13.
- B. Todgham of SNHS handed out information on the fuel and energy assistance program and a flyer on the upcoming Community Resource Expo to be held at the Adult Learning Center on Nov. 7th and 8th.
- A flyer was handed out from Families in Transition (FIT) in Manchester regarding an intensive outreach program under Family Willows, for women struggling with substance abuse in NH.
- Flyer handed out by Front Door Agency regarding the 2013 Holiday Registration Information. Sign up times are 10/25; 10/29; 11/1; and 11/6.
- Family Resource Center of Greater Nashua Fall 2013 Program Guide handed out.
- P. McLaughlin of NWSNH shared that they will be having their opening celebration of 28 units of affordable housing known as Hidden Pond in Amherst, NH on 10/11.
- There will be an “Embracing Integration” symposium held at Rivier University on 11/1/13 from 8:30 – 3PM.
- There will be a workshop held at Crowne Plaza, sponsored by St. Joseph Hospital on 10/16/13 regarding human trafficking.

P. Kelleher read a letter sent by Senator Jeanne Shaheen (her representative could not attend due to the government shutdown) thanking Wendy Leblanc for her 5 and ½ years of service as GNCOC chairperson and vice-chairperson prior to that; and thanked her for her exemplary service. This sentiment was acknowledged by all in attendance. Thank you Wendy.

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

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