

## GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE MEETING MINUTES

Nashua City Hall Auditorium

June 4, 2014

[www.nashua-coc.org](http://www.nashua-coc.org)

Ana Pacine, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 8:05am. Introductions were made by all, and the attendance sheet was 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. The meeting format that alternates monthly between presentations and committee reports was explained to the group. This month is a committee reporting month.

**MAY MEETING MINUTES:** Changes noted to be made to the minutes were:

- **Hearth Act Update:** (second to the last full paragraph) word "they" towards end of line was removed. Sentence to read: It was pointed out that when a system is developed that works for everyone, everyone's work will be easier.
- **Housing Action Update:** (second line) copy changed to (sent to a study [not student])

Motion to accept the minutes as amended made by Bob Mack; seconded by Pat Murphy. Minutes approved.

**GOVERNANCE CHARTER:** Ana updated the group on work being done to bring the Governance Charter into compliance with the new Hearth guidelines. Ana thanked Wendy and Candace for the efforts they made to the updated charter. Motion to accept the Governance Charter as updated was made by Barbara Alves; second by Bob Mack. Motion passed. Updated charter will be posted to the GNCOC website.

## Committee Updates

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Changes/updates to the charter were the topics of discussion at the May Executive Committee meeting. From this point forward, the group will be called the Board of Directors. The group also welcomed Kevin O'Meara as a member.

**ENDING HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE:** Bob Mack reported that the focus of the group is on the development of a coordinated assessment process. The group is committed to playing an active role in this process. There is no specific deadline for making this happen, but group is eager to get moving. The group has been encouraged to keep special populations (like those with mobility issues) in mind as the plan is developed. As a group, we need to decide what form we want to have and then fill in the details. Favored is one that offers a "no wrong door" approach. Group will continue to review the various assessment tools available. They are also waiting for the state to move forward on their plan so things can be coordinated. Other part of the process will be an inventory of the services available in the community-- what we have/what we need. The discussion will continue at future meetings.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS:** Pat reported that they conducted a review of the current website and thanked those members from the GNCOC who responded to the survey. The website is being used but could have a more professional look. Group will continue to work on ways to make the site easier to update and make it more beneficial for customers and clients.

**DATA GATHERING:** Abigail announced that the group has not met recently. Additional volunteers are welcome. Anyone interested should contact Abigail.

**EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE:** The Employment Committee has begun work on the next Employment Connect event. According to Tom Lopez, they are working on confirming a location and date. They are working to include related services in the event, such as haircuts, etc. and grow the involvement from the private sector. They will benefit from the help of event organizers and increased participation by the Chamber of Commerce. It had been recommended to partner the event with the employment event put on by the Adult Learning Center. The group will meet Tuesday, June 10 at 2:00pm at the Adult Learning Center. Please let Tom know if you're interested in being involved. When asked about his position at the Soup Kitchen, Tom indicated that the program continues to evolve. He also mentioned that any car donation program they offer only exists when they physically have a car to offer.

## **OTHER GROUPS**

**SHELTER DIRECTORS:** There was no formal report from the Shelter Directors group. Olga mentioned that they recently had a presentation on emergency planning by the DHHS. A template of creating a plan was provided. Shelters were encouraged to get the entire community involved in helping should/when an emergency occurred. Olga indicated that most programs don't have emergency plans.

Bob noted that the city has resources to help organizations develop a continuity of operations plan. Patty Crooker is the contact. Justin Kates, Emergency Management Director for the city is an additional resource.

There was discussion on policies regarding those individuals asked to leave a shelter. Much depends on why they were asked to leave, i.e. if they present a danger to others to remain. Cases need to be dealt with on a case-to-case basis. Bob indicated that this is where the Wrap Around group can be a valuable resource. Additional discussions are planned. Olga will keep the group up-to-date.

**NH HOUSING ACTION:** The housing bill relating to domestic violence is gone, according to Laurel. The bill did/has opened discussions with the Small Landlords Association which may open the possibility that the conversation will continue. Laurel also indicated that the Housing Matters workgroup will be meeting in Concord soon.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **NH LISTENS:** Eileen attended a recent NH Listens on government efficiency. One topic of discussion was the Department of Corrections / mental health facilities and the need for offenders with mental health issues to receive the required services.
- **VETERANS COURT:** A Veterans Court will open in Nashua on July 10. This is the first one in the state. There will be a special flag event from 1-3 that afternoon. A Drug Court is also being considered.
- **ETHNIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE:** The committee has moved their meetings to the evenings to build attendance. They are open to individuals who need services. The dance program promoted by Positive Street Art continues. They meet Tuesdays at 6:30pm.
- **UNIT AVAILABLE:** Olga announced that they have a 2-bedroom unit available. Individuals/family must be able to pay the rent and utilities and participate in their program.
- **HOUSING/HOMELESS CONFERENCE:** Scheduled for October 20, 2014. More details to follow.
- **NEW SOUP KITCHEN & SHELTER:** Groundbreaking was held recently. New facility is scheduled to open in September.
- **NO GNCOC MEETING IN JULY**
- **NO ENDING HOMELESSNESS MEETING HELD IN JULY**

Meeting adjourned at 9:02am.

Meeting minutes taken by Beth Todgham, Southern New Hampshire Services