

GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE MEETING MINUTES

Nashua City Hall Auditorium

August 6, 2014

www.nashua-coc.org

Ana Pancine, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 8:06am. 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.

The minutes were reviewed; Ana noted that her last name needed another "n". Motion was made by Wendy to accept the minutes; motion was seconded by Candace. Motion passed.

Presentation: H.E.A.R.T.S. Peer Support Center

Tom Doucette, the assistant executive director of H.E.A.R.T.S., presented information about the local agency. The agency provides peer support to those challenged by the daily effects of living with, coping with, and recovering from mental issues. The peer-based model is designed to listen; there are no clinical aspects to the support provided and no advice is given.

H.E.A.R.T.S. is the peer support center for Region IV and includes Nashua, Hudson, Merrimack, Milford, Amherst, Litchfield, Brookline, Mason, Hollis and Mont Vernon in its catchment area. The model for the agency was developed in Claremont and has been adopted statewide.

All programs are offered at no cost to the client. H.E.A.R.T.S provides transportations to those clients who live in outlying towns.

The agency has experienced its third move in four years. The most recent move was to provide space to open a Crisis Respite Center that consists of two separate bedrooms and shared living space. The Center is available to pre-screened clients for up to seven days in a six month period. Clients must be 18+. Those in the respite program receive one-on-one peer support during their stay and are encouraged to participate in other programs offered through H.E.A.R.T.S.

Those accepted into the program must be able to take their own medication, cook and do housekeeping. Care is offered 24/7.

H.E.A.R.T.S. will provide a copy of their intake form so members of the GNCOC to provide additional information on the intake criteria.

Tom indicated that those accepted into the program cannot be homeless; they can however, reside in either transitional or permanent housing.

H.E.A.R.T.S. works in collaboration with Greater Nashua Mental Health in those instances when the needs of the client are greater than the programs/services they are able to provide.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **SYLVIA GALE:** Announced that Bridges is involved in Macy's Shop for A Cause program. She has tickets available for \$5 each that will benefit the agency and give purchasers special discounts at the store on August 23.
- **KATHY PACQUETTE:** Announced that her last day with SNHS as the Homeless Outreach Worker will be September 30; she is in the process of interviewing for another job, so the last day might come sooner.

Kathy indicated that she has some funds that have been donated to the program that need to be spent down. If someone has a client who needs money for a security deposit or car repair, they should get in touch with her.

- **PAM BROWN:** Pam reminded the group that this is the time in the legislative calendar when state reps are drafting bills for the upcoming session. Bills can begin to be filed on September 15. If anyone has any ideas/legislation they would want to have considered, they should contact Pam or Sylvia.
- **EILEEN BRADY:** Eileen announced that the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter will be distributing back packs to Nashua students on August 19 at Ledge Street School. There are eligibility requirements that are posted on the NSKS website. Those agencies with clients who would qualify are encouraged to pick up a flyer in advance.

Eileen also announced that the NSKS is on schedule to move into their new location in September

- **NASHUA GOES BACK TO SCHOOL:** This event is scheduled for Thursday, August 21 and offers the opportunity for families to get additional school supplies as well as find out about family-related resources in the community. The Public Health Department will also be at the event. It is held at Nashua Public Library.
- **EMPLOYMENT CONNECT:** The next Employment Connect will be held on Tuesday, September 16 at St. Patrick's Hall from 10am-2pm. Information about the event has been/is being shared with potential employers. Information for others will be distributed shortly.
- **DRESS FOR SUCCESS:** Tara will provide information about this program shortly. It will be held prior to Employment Connect. The program provides work-appropriate clothing for job-seekers.
- **STAND DOWN FOR VETS:** Cate announced that this special resource event for Vets is scheduled for October 9. More details to follow.
- **WORK READY NH:** Donna announced that the next session of the Work Ready program starts on September 4. Pre-registration is required. Contact Donna for more information.
- **FRONT DOOR AGENCY:** Maryse announced that they have a 2-bedroom apartment on Shattuck Street available for rent. Rent is \$750-\$850 a month. Preference is for single moms, but all applicants are welcome.
- **NASHUA SOUP KITCHEN & SHELTER:** The NSKS has two empty apartments available for rent. Contact Eileen for information.
- **MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE/COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN:** The group is planning a Suicide Prevention Workshop on October 23. More details will follow.
- **SUPER NOFA:** Ana announced that work has already begun in preparation for the next SuperNOVA funding cycle.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02am.

Meeting minutes taken by Beth Todgham, Southern New Hampshire Services