

## GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE MEETING MINUTES

Nashua City Hall Auditorium

September 2, 2014

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

Ana Pancine, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 8:08am. 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. Attendees were also asked to check listings for any names that should be removed.

The minutes were reviewed. Motion was made by Peter to accept the minutes; motion was seconded by Candace. Motion passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**EXECUTIVE:** Ana updated the group on progress being made with this year's application for COC funding. The GIW has been submitted to HUD. The due date of the actual submission is not known. Ana will continue to provide updates as information becomes available. Executive Committee continues to monitor progress being made on the Coordinated Intake & Assessment process as well as reviewing GNCOC policies for needed adjustments to meet HUD guidelines.

**ENDING HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE:** Committee is concentrating its efforts on developing the Coordinated Intake & Assessment process. Anything we do needs to be coordinated with the approach that the state will be taking. The process is a slow one. Group is using what is being done in Portsmouth and Keene as possible approaches. The goal is to develop a clear, direct point of entry for those seeking services; additional benefit will be a reduction in misinformation. Goal would be to have 2-3 agencies act as the point of entry. Currently working on getting people to the table to discuss the way it can/will work.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS:** Group has reviewed results from recent survey for updates that can be made to the GNCOC website. Funding and manpower are issues. Committee will bring suggestions to the Board for consideration. Info business cards developed for downtown merchants have been very successful and appreciated by the downtown merchants. Also on the agenda is an update of the Tool Kit. The committee is scheduled to meeting on October 22 at 1:00pm at Merrimack Town Hall.

**DATA GATHERING:** Group has not met recently. It is a small committee but anyone interested in being involved is invited to join the group. It will become more active as HUD funding is sought -- also for the Point in Time in January 2015.

**EMPLOYMENT:** This year's Employment Connect is scheduled for September 16 at St. Patrick's Church. Tom asked the group to post the flyer that he distributed at the meeting. He encouraged agencies representatives to bring their clients to the event. It will feature potential employers, plus job prep skill building, clothing and barber services. Holding it at the church makes the event more accessible. In other employment related updates, Eileen mentioned the success of the job fair coordinated by Annie Kuster's office and Peter announced that Goodwill will be creating 100+ jobs in Hudson in the near future.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:** Pam Brown noted that the issue of aggressive panhandling in the downtown has been addressed; she also mentioned the proposed move of the Public Health Department. Eileen reminded everyone that the primary is next Tuesday and everyone should get out and vote. Tom noted that a few voting locations

have changed and encouraged people to make sure they knew where to vote if they were in one of the wards that had been changed.

**HOUSING ACTION NH:** Laurel announced that Housing Action NH is watching the 2016-2017 state Bureau of Homeless & Housing Services budget that is under early development. They will activate a task force to help advocate for strong funding for the Emergency Shelter Budget, Housing Security Guarantee and the Homeless Housing and Access Revolving Loan Fund line items. The budget will be submitted to the Governor by October 1. She will keep the GNCOC apprised and will be asking for assistance as the process moves forward. Laurel also mentioned a public hearing being held on Monday on the draft 2015 Action Plan for the State 2011-2015 Consolidated Plan. The Action Plan is a HUD requirement to prioritize expenditures for ESG, CDBG and HOME block grants.

**SHELTER DIRECTORS:** Olga provided an update on the latest Shelter Directors meeting. Coordinated Intake & Assessment is a topic of discussion with that group as well. Concern is that the process will create new levels of bureaucracy. She announced that the NH Homelessness Conference is scheduled for October 20 in Concord. The group is staying up to date on changes in funding requirements and opportunities.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **CLAIRE HOUGHTON:** A member of the Nashua community, Claire shared the story of her frustrated attempts to provide help to two individuals who were threatened with homelessness. She was repeatedly referred to 211 for assistance but found that the information they provided was not always up-to-date and helpful. Her story prompted a discussion on the importance of agencies to keep their information on 211 updated and also an explanation of the various/different definitions of homelessness that make matching an individual in need of services with the right services difficult. The unique requirements for specific sources of funding were also brought into the discussion on the barriers that exist.
- **NASHUA SOUP KITCHEN:** The Soup Kitchen is moving to their new location on September 16. They hope to serve their first dinner on September 22. An Open House is planned for Thursday, September 18.
- **DRESS FOR SUCCESS:** Tara announced that the annual Dress for Success event will be held on September 15, just prior to the Employment Connection program at Milette Manor. Hours are 2-6pm. Donations are not be sought; please call her in advance if you have anything you want to donate. 598-3306.
- **HIV/AIDS TASKFORCE:** Wendy announced that the Thomas O. Cash HIV/AIDS Walk will be held on Saturday, September 20.
- **BRIDGES:** Sylvia announced that Bridges will be hold their Kelly Mann Walk & Run on Saturday, September 27.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58am.

Meeting minutes taken by Beth Todgham, Southern New Hampshire Services