

GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE MEETING MINUTES

Nashua City Hall Auditorium

November 5, 2014

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. Ana has been working on updating the mailing list. Attendees were asked to check their information and note any changes/deletions that need to be made.

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.

Ana thanked Wendy LeBlanc for chairing the October meeting in her absence.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE: Ana provided the group with a detailed update on the success submission of this year's funding request to HUD. The application was due October 30; the GNCOC paperwork was submitted on October 29. The Ranking Committee, with Bob Mack as chair, led the process that determined the priority by funding would be requested for programs. The group met on October 17. A general meeting to approve the Ranking Committee's work was held that same afternoon. A motion was made and passed to approve the rankings as presented with representatives from those agencies requesting funding abstaining from the vote. There was an extremely short turnaround time between when the NOFA was issued and when the application was due. Two agencies (Marguerite's Place and the Nashua Housing Authority) did not submit requests this year; the money from those programs was channeled into requests for funding for new projects. The process invited COC's to apply for funding for a bonus project; Harbor Homes submitted a proposal for a bonus project that would provide 14 one-bedroom units and six two-bedroom units. The total funding request for projects in both Tier I and Tier II was \$1,847,267; this figure reflects a required 2% cut that was required by HUD. Peter also extended his thanks to the group responsible for putting the funding request together. He asked for, and Ana will provide, what the total number of units the requests will provide in the community. A spreadsheet that detailed the programs and funding requests was attached to the meeting agenda.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS FUND: Work continues on housing those identified in the 2014 PIT Count as being chronically homeless. Funds to support these efforts are coming from the Ending Homelessness Fund established last year. Of the 81 identified in the PIT, 40 people have been housed. A total of 25 remain that need to be tracked down and assisted with being housed. Peter will send identifying

information to members of the GNCOC so they can assist in locating those individuals. The 2015 PIT, scheduled for next January will be the basis for next year's efforts.

Further discussion included an explanation of the difference between leasing and rental (leasing involves the unit being held in the agency's name; rental, the lease is held in the client's name) and whether there are any performance measures attached to which option (rent or lease) has the best long-term success rate (Tom indicated he was not aware of any). It was also announced that new housing units would be available towards the end of the year, once the necessary contracts are signed.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE: Bob reported that the group discussed information learned from the presentation by the Nashua School District at their October meeting. Discussion included ways the committee could work with the school department in identifying resources for the school to use in working with homeless students and families. The Coordinated Assessment continues as a topic of discussion with possible lead agencies being identified and specific processes being worked out. Final details should be available within two months, pending details on how the state will be addressing the issue and how the GNCOC plan will coordinate with the state of NH. The Homeless Connect event will be held on the same date as the Point in Time Count. Hope is that date change will increase the number of people who participate. Group also discussed the how the lack of a dedicated homeless outreach worker is affecting work done in the community and ways that this gap will need to be filled.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Group met October 30. They continue to work on improvements to the website in coordination with the GNCOC board. There is no money to fund the project. Work is also in process to update the toolkit. Bob has contacted agencies involved and collating responses. There was some discussion on making changes to the content; that is being discussed with the Board of Directors. No future Community Relations committee meetings have been scheduled at this time.

DATA GATHERING: Group is gearing up for the January 28, 2015 Point in Time Count. Miles has been attending meetings in Manchester; further information will be forwarded as it becomes available.

EMPLOYMENT: The September Employment Connect event was a success. 11 people left the event with jobs; several others became employed shortly after the event. The format of the event (clothing selection/skill building before meeting potential employers) was well received. Goal is to set the date earlier next year so more advance planning and promotion of the event can be done. Tom indicated that it is important to scale the event to the needs of those being served. Plans also call for coordination between the Employment Connect event and the employment events held at the Adult Learning Center. Future meeting format will include presentations by appropriate agencies so that all involved have an idea of the resources available in the community.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: Laurel indicated that it might take a month to determine the impact the results of the previous day's election will have on the way the legislature is approached in the coming session. She anticipates that further funding cuts are a reality and that they will be looking to GNCOC members to lend their support to legislative efforts. Nationally, she anticipates an active lame duck session between now and the end of the year.

SHELTER DIRECTORS: Tom gave the report for the Shelter Director's meeting that was held on October 10. Janine Lessser, a program specialist from the DHHS Division of Family Assistance presented a proposed TANF Cash Rule change at this meeting. If approved, adjustments will be made to the

emergency assistance program to provide support for TANF-eligible (severely low-income families). Residents of subsidized housing will be able to request rent arrearage payment to help avoid eviction. The rule change will raise the rent income threshold to 100% of the total family income. The adjustment will allow the money to be used for either a security deposit or the first month's rent (up to \$650). The other rule change will require verification to ensure emergency assistance payments relieve the identified emergencies. For a shared shelter living arrangement, emergency assistance will pay up to 50% of the total rent or mortgage arrearage. In addition, a delivery company must verify that an arrearage payment will secure a current delivery. In the past, fuel delivery companies applied the emergency assistance to pay due amounts, and the client was still without fuel. A utility company will now need to verify that payment of an arrearage in the past residence will guarantee service in a new or current residence. If approved, it is estimated that the changes outlined in this proposal will start sometime in February 2015.

The other rule change is an addition to He-W 601.04, 606.83 and 658.02 that will end the current practice of reducing the TANF benefit payments to the lowest level (\$307 for a family of three) when a client reports to the District Office that the family is homeless. The change would establish a definition for homelessness based on the Food Stamp definition, identify the appropriate verifications for the definition, and allow the subsidized shelter cost of \$293 as the standard shelter cost. This will provide a benefit level at the subsidized housing level. The change may be effective in November 2014.

As a BHHS update, Maureen Ryan indicated that a request has been made for prevention and rapid rehousing through the SuperNOVA. They are waiting for the response. If received, BHHS will distribute the money out through a few agencies. Shelter funding will come through the State Grant Aid in TFY '16 so all emergency shelters will receive payments through the State instead of ESG funds. This is the last fiscal year that funds will be distributed through ESG.

Julie Lane has been hired by the Bureau to provide assistance with visiting emergency shelters to provide guidance in making sure they are in compliance with the State's shelter policies and procedures. She is introducing herself to shelter directors and managers. She is also looking for suggestions for potential training topics that will help staff assist clients. Trainings still being offered include Crisis Prevention Intervention, Mental Health 101 and Substance Use.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **NASHUA SOUP KITCHEN:** Eileen announced that a memorial service for one of their clients was being held the afternoon of the GNCOC meeting.
- **NH AIDS TASKFORCE:** Wendy announced that their annual recognition of World Aids Day will be held on December 1, 2014. There will be an open house from 4:00-5:30pm at the Taskforce's office, followed by a Candlelight Vigil in Abbot Square (top of Library Hill) at 5:30.
- **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Bob indicated that there is plenty of flu vaccine available and encouraged GNCOC members to call 589-4500 to find out more about how to take advantage of this resource.

- **NH HEALTHY COMMUNITY:** Andrea Linares Castro introduced herself to the group. She has been hired as a Marketplace Assister for the Nashua area and is looking for opportunities to work with members of the GNCOC to connect individuals with the Health Care Marketplace. Her email is andrea@healthynh.com.
- **FRONT DOOR AGENCY:** Maryse announced that the last signups for holiday assistance were being held that afternoon and on Friday morning, November 7. Registrations are up this year and she asked any/all agencies providing holiday assistance to work together to avoid duplication and ensure that the greatest number of individuals and families receive help.
- **ASSET BUILDING COALITION:** Beth announced that the GNABC has scheduled a Stakeholders meeting for Tuesday, November 18 at St. Joseph Hospital. Goal is to start the conversation on what financial literacy resources are available in the Nashua area and what specific needs are there that need to be met. A cross section of agencies, organizations and businesses has been invited; anyone interested in learning more can contact Beth.
- **PARTNERSHIP FOR SUCCESSFUL LIVING:** The Partnership will hold its 14th annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Tuesday, November 25 from 11:30am-2:30pm at 45 High Street. The event provides a free, hot, nutritious holiday meal to individuals and families in need. Those interested in making a donation can contact Carolyn McLaughlin or Donna Collins at 883-3616.
- **UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS WOMEN:** Peter updated the group on a workshop he attended recently at Harvard on Unaccompanied Homeless Women. He indicated that this is a category that is increasing in numbers and could be an area of focus in the future.
- **BOARD CLERK:** Ana announced that the Board of Directors continues to look for a Clerk to take minutes at the monthly Board meetings. Beth continues to take minutes for the general meeting. Anyone interested should contact Ana.

Bob made a motion that the meeting be adjourned; Eileen seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:58am.

Meeting minutes taken by Beth Todgham, Southern New Hampshire Services