

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2014
Nashua City Hall – Room 208

Anna Pancine, Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 8:33am.

Present at the meeting were:

Bob Mack, City Welfare

Wendy LeBlanc, HIV Taskforce

Abigail Alicea, Greater Nashua Mental Health Center

Beth Todgham, Southern New Hampshire Services

Barbara Alves, Marguerite's Place

Ana Pancine, Harbor Homes

Minutes of the June 11, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Change noted was to add Barbara Alves to those attending the meeting. Wendy made a motion to accept the minutes; Bob seconded. Minutes were approved...

SUPERNOFA UPDATE

Ana announced that she has submitted the preliminary application for the Super NOFA for next year. The GIW has been submitted; one change was needed. She is currently waiting for the next step; Wendy indicated that would be the release of the NOFA.

HEARTH IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

There are still several items that need to be addressed with regard to our compliance to the changes in the HEARTH Act. Goal is to get more people involved – with those items identified as needing work assigned to smaller groups who would then develop a plan for the changes that need to be made and then report back to the larger group. Wendy has agreed to review the sub-groups recommendations to make sure they are compliant. Volunteers would be recruited by giving everyone a chance to select which item they would like to work on; those who don't respond will be assigned to a subgroup. Ana, Abigail and Cate will meet as early as next week to review the items and begin to do outreach for volunteers.

COORDINATED ASSESSMENT

Progress being made on developing a Coordinated Assessment process for the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care was discussed. Bob continues to shepherd this process through the Ending Homelessness Committee. Group has reviewed/discussed process currently being used in the Seacoast (single person is point of contact) and in the Southwest section of the state (local CAP agency coordinates efforts). Local discussions continue on what our intake model will look like and if we can/will continue with the "no wrong door" approach where there are multiple points of entry.

Bob indicated that HMIS will most likely serve as the common intake/assessment tool. This is already a part of the system and can be "turned on" whenever we are ready to start using it. Those involved in the process would need to be trained.

Any process we develop will need to coordinate with efforts being made at the state level. State preference is to use an "open system."

A point of discussion was if we will streamline the points of contact in the community for those seeking help/resources and, if we do, who would those resources be? Board discussed cons of having a single entry point (i.e., cases where the individual seeking help has had a bad experience with the single/designated agency

and potential for single agency to self-refer clients into their programs and not utilize other available resources). Offering individuals seeking services a choice (even if limited) is an idea that will be pursued.

Harbor Homes was discussed as one of the agencies that can/should play a role in this process. The expansion of the Harbor Care Clinic may offer additional opportunities to connect the chronically homeless to available resources.

Any change made would be to increase the efficiency of moving people through the process and placing them in housing appropriate to their situation.

It is critical that the key players in this process are active in the discussions and decision-making process. Bob will reach out to those most directly involved prior to our next meeting and ask that they be active participants in the conversation.

Other related topics discussed:

- It was noted that Greater Nashua will soon be without a homeless outreach worker; who would be available to pick up the slack continues to be a topic of discussion.
- Where the wraparound could/should fit in the process was also mentioned.
- The lack of knowledge on how the “system” works was noted. It’s not unusual for those seeking services to have high expectations on what they can/will receive with little or no understanding of what is expected from them.
- GNCOA needs to continue to use whatever means possible to educate clients and the community about the issue of homelessness and how both HUD and HEARTH guidelines affect the types of services we are able to provide through their funding

UPCOMING MEETING INFORMATION

- Presentation by the Nashua School District has been rescheduled for the October 1, 2014 meeting.
- The next GNCOC meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at 8:00am at Nashua City Hall (3rd floor auditorium).
- The next Ending Homelessness meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3 – immediately following the GNCOC meeting.
- The next GNCOC Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2014.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:35am.

Minutes prepared by Beth Todgham of Southern New Hampshire Services.