

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2014
Nashua City Hall – Room 208

Cate Sementa, Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 8:33am.

Present at the meeting were:

Bob Mack, City Welfare
Marcy Doyle, Lamprey Health
Wendy LeBlanc, HIV Taskforce
Bob Cioppa, Nashua School District
Annette Escalante, Keystone Hall
Cate Sementa, Harbor Homes

Abigail Alicea, Greater Nashua Mental Health Center
Beth Todgham, Southern New Hampshire Services
Peter Kelleher, Partnership for Successful Living
Kevin O'Meara, Community Representative
Lori Piper, Merrimack County Savings Bank
Ana Pancine, Harbor Homes

Minutes of the May 14, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Wendy made a motion to accept the minutes; Peter seconded. Minutes were approved. Introductions were made around the table.

August Presentation Request

H.E.A.R.T.S. has asked to make a presentation at the August GNCOC meeting to provide information about their new respite care program. The Nashua School District has also requested time to update the group on the services available to homeless students through the district. Wendy reminded our group that it is not unusual to have two presentations in a single meeting; that each usually takes approximately 20 minutes. The Board reconfirmed through discussions that the topics of any presentation need to be a good fit with the work done by the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care.

Coordinated Assessment

The state group held a meeting on this topic. Bob, Lisa and Maryse attended. According to Bob, each group was asked for an update on what's happening within their areas. Emphasis was given to groups knowing what resources they have available in working with the homeless population – "who does what to whom". This needs to be more comprehensive than the information available on the HIC. It appears that a single individual handles assessments in the Seacoast; their process focuses on diversion from shelters by using other resources. It was questionable whether we have the resources in Nashua to fund a similar position here.

The need for a single assessment tool that everyone involved in the process could/would use was discussed. It would be ideal if this tool tied into HMIS.

The state group is scheduled to meet again in 1-2 months; focus will be on the assessment tool and how to develop an assessment process with the ability to coordinate activity throughout the state.

Locally, our focus can/will be on assessing the resources available and to identify points of contact. We need to assess how well we move people through our system.

The Ending Homelessness Committee has been charged with coming up with the plan for a Coordinated Assessment Process. The goal is to have something ready for Board review by the end of 2014.

- It was suggested that students and/or Harbor Homes VISTAs could be used to help with any data collection needed. Ending Homeless Committee was encouraged to ask for help from the Board, if needed.

- Peter emphasized the need to build partnerships with all the parties involved in order to be successful
- Kevin recommended finding ways to leverage the Internet and other electronic resources to build better connections between all interested parties.
- All agreed that data collection is the key.
- It was pointed out that the process is more an intake as opposed to an assessment; the actual assessment would be done by the agency/organization that provided the best “fit” for the homeless individual/family.
- It was suggested that members of our group take field trips to other areas of the state to see first-hand how the system works there.
- Another suggestion was that members of the GNCOC be polled to see how people come into their system (might be more work than necessary).
- The need for a screening tool that weeds out individuals looking for better housing was mentioned.

Ending Homelessness Fund

Peter announced that \$112K has been raised for the Ending Homelessness Fund. 22 individuals have been housed using this money. There are a total of 80 identified chronically homeless individuals who might/could benefit from the fund. Peter mentioned that we need to acknowledge that there are new people who are coming into the community because we have these resources.

Other Discussion Points:

- Opening of Cotton Mill has increased the number of Section 8 housing units in the community by 11; number is never enough to accommodate the demand.
- Funds are available for 50 units of housing for the mentally ill. The program will provide minor case management.
- ESG still has funds available. Use of funds is highly restricted. Money is available until August. Assistance provided is temporary. A Housing First model.
- Annette is meeting in August with representatives of “Rise Above” about their interest in establishing a sober house in the area. The facility will be for both men and women.
- At this point, HUD has not made the Tier II funding announcements.
- HEARTH update group will do a review of the requirements to make sure we are on task with what is expected. Cate and Anna will do this review and report back at the August meeting

There is no Board of Directors meeting in July.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 2014

Barbara made a motion to adjourn; Bob seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:35am.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

Minutes prepared by Beth Todgham of Southern New Hampshire Services.