

GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE MEETING MINUTES

Nashua City Hall Auditorium

January 7, 2015

www.nashua-coc.org

Ana Pancine, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 8:05am. 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 continues to work 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.

The December 2014 minutes were reviewed. Motion was made by Candace to accept the minutes; motion was seconded by Eileen. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD: Ana reported that they continue to work on implementing the Hearth Act guidelines. She and Abigail will be meeting to review the list of new policies and develop a list of when/how they will be implemented. The Coordinated Assessment was also discussed at the board meeting. Bob Mack will provide details during his report for the Ending Homeless Committee. The board also discussed the upcoming Point in Time Count scheduled for Wednesday, January 28. A webinar has been scheduled for Thursday, January 8 and all organizations involved in the annual count are encouraged to sign up.

Angela Roberts has volunteered to serve as clerk of the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care. She will replace Beth who has been making minutes for the regular monthly meetings and Wendy who has taken minutes at the board meeting. Wendy nominated Angela to the position of clerk; Barbara seconded the motion. Motion passed. Angela will begin her duties at next week's board meeting. Beth was thanked for her service.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE: Developing the Coordinated Assessment continues to be the focus of discussions at the Ending Homelessness Committee meetings. The group is ready to launch it as a 60- day pilot program on January 28 at part of the Point in Time Count. Three agencies: Harbor Homes, Rescue Mission and Front Door Agency will coordinate all efforts. Work continues to involve other community organizations and resources in the effort, including 2-1-1 and the Nashua Housing Authority. Effort will result in a more efficient way for those who are homeless to be connected with needed services. The intake form is being developed. Bob stated that it is important that all the right people are at the table in order for the process to be successful in moving people through to the most appropriate program. Main focus will be on those who are chronically homeless. An electronic email loop has been established. A dedicated 800- number is also in the works.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: No report. (But Bob reminded everyone that Community Relations group is available to do presentations on request).

DATA GATHERING: Focus will be on compiling data from the Point in Time Count on January 28, 2015.

Note: Wendy asked that Abigail provide an overview of the PIT be given for those who are new to the group. The PIT is an annual count of the homeless population in the community. Count is down both of those in shelters and those on the street on the date specified. The data is tabulated by Miles and results are used in requests for funding during the upcoming year.

EMPLOYMENT: The Employment Committee will meet on January 13. Current focus of the group is to provide a forum for those organizations that have employment programs to share information. Tom also mentioned that planning is progressing for the next Homeless Connect event and sponsorships are being sought. If anyone has an idea for a potential sponsor, please contact him.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: Housing Action NH is working to support the Emergency Shelters and Homeless Housing & Access Revolving Loan Fund line items in the 2016-17 state budget at the level requested by DHHS. This level (shelters at \$4,260,405 in 2016 and \$4,347,214 in 2017) includes funding for expansion of Coordinated Access throughout the state. Requested funding for HHARLF is at maintenance levels of \$50,000 in each year). A letter in support of full funding was delivered to the Governor's office just prior to the holidays with 162 organizational and individual co-signers, including some of GNCOG members. There is a sense the Governor will be open to including full funding in her budget, due next month. From there, the budget goes to House and Senate for further work. Housing Action has convened a Task Force consisting of its member and allied organizations to coordinate advocacy on this item; anyone interested in participating in the Task Force is welcome. Next meeting will take place this Friday, Jan. 9 at 10 am in Concord as part of Housing Action's "Housing Matters Workgroup," a standing second-Tuesday monthly meeting to share information with and between Housing Action members re: state and federal public policy to create/preserve affordable housing and end homelessness. To get in an invite list for the standing meeting or the Emergency Shelters Task Force, email Laurel@housingactionnh.org.

SHELTER DIRECTORS: Group is scheduled to meet this Friday and will report again at the March 2015 meeting.

Ana indicated that in the future, reports from the Community Relations and Data Gathering Committee will be moved to the Other Groups portion of the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **FREE TAX PREP:** Beth distributed flyers to promote the free tax prep sites available in greater Nashua beginning in February. The Asset Building Coalition is working closely with AARP this year because there is no VITA site. She will email the masters of these forms to everyone along with the Spanish version when it is available. Ana volunteered to help with a Portuguese version of the flyers as well. Liz Fitzgerald at United Way also has a supply of the English flyers available for pick up; if interested, please call Liz.
- **WORK READY NH:** Donna announced that she is taking names for the Wait List for the program and also reminded the group that classes are available in Spanish at Nashua Community College.
- **PLANNED PARENTHOOD MARKETPLACE ASSISTERS:** Katie Mae Stewart, a certified navigator from Planned Parenthood updated the group on sign-ups for NH's Medicaid Expansion program. 50,000 residents qualify for the NH Health Protection Program; to date, over 25,000 have signed up. She and her co-worker Sarah attended the meeting to connect with Nashua-based organizations in an effort to work with them to sign up additional individuals to the plan. They have Navigators and Marketplace Assisters who work out of their health centers in Manchester, Derry and Exeter but are available to come to Nashua to provide assistance. They are available to attend the Homeless Connect event on January 28.
- **THANK YOU!:** Peter offered thanks to everyone who helped in their efforts to house the chronically homeless in 2014 through funds available through the Ending Homelessness Funds. He indicated that 100 individuals were helped through the program. He also thanked the group for their support of the Veterans Programs that Harbor Homes has in the community. An event

is scheduled for January 20 to celebrate these accomplishments; it is being hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

- **PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT:** Event will be held to coincide with the Point in Time Count this year. Location is Harbor Homes, 45 High Street. Organizations are invited to provide services/support as part of the event. Contact Bob for more details.
- **HOMELESS MEMORIAL:** Eileen thanked everyone for their support of the Homeless Memorial Service that was held in December. She indicated that many of the people recognized died because of health-related issues. She mentioned the coverage given the event by The Telegraph but noted that getting coverage for more positive stories (i.e., someone getting the keys to a new place to live) would be good.
- **HARBOR CARE CLINIC:** Peter announced that the clinic will begin to provide dental services in the very near future.
- **FEBRUARY MEETING PRESENTATION:** An update on the Coordinated Assessment pilot is the subject of the presentation at the February Greater Nashua Continuum of Care meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2015.

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

Meeting minutes taken by Beth Todgham, Southern New Hampshire Services