

GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE MEETING MINUTES

Nashua City Hall Auditorium

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

www.nashua-coc.org

The meeting was called to order at 8:05am by chair, Ana Pancine.

Ana explained the rotating format of the monthly meetings (one meeting committee reports; next meeting presentations). She invited anyone who was new to add their name to the sign-in sheet.

Introductions were made around the table.

The minutes of the 5/6/15 meeting were reviewed and corrections were noted by Ana Pancine, who will make the updates. Peter Kelleher motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Candace C. Gebhart seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ana noted that Maureen Ryan was scheduled for a presentation, but was not be able to attend the meeting.

Presentation:

Coordinated Access Overview

Bob Mack prepared a PowerPoint about CA. The hotline has been running for about 120 days now. CA is a HUD mandated initiative, and its goal is to create a transparent pipeline for connecting homeless clients to homeless service providers through one access point, in order to simplify the process for both client and provider. The number to call Coordinated Access is 1-844-800-9911. Agencies can also use the EH_Action email to connect with other area service providers regarding clients or client issues.

Harbor Homes, the Front Door Agency, and the Southern NH Rescue Mission are currently staffing the phone line. Marguerite's Place is joining the initiative, and others are welcome to join. Bob shared a slide of the current CA Intake form and discussed the ease of filling out the form.

Coordinated Access? Coordinated Entry? Coordinated Intake?

These names are all interchangeable, and mean the same thing. Currently, HUD is referring to it as "Coordinated Entry". The term we use for the initiative is not important-what is important is that we are all working together to make this project a success!

Coordinated Access Data

Peter Kelleher and Samantha Cassista from Harbor Homes reviewed some data that has been collected from calls coming into CA. The data allows us to see the bigger picture of what is happening with homelessness in Nashua. Volume of calls has tapered off since March. Lots of difficult cases. From 1/29/15-5/29/15 there were 160 calls from 144 unduplicated individuals. Of note are the high number of callers who have been involved with correctional facilities, those who are already connected to case management services, and number of female vs. male callers. So far, it seems to show a need for more housing opportunities for women, and more services for those involved with the Department of Corrections.

Discussion ensued regarding capturing outcomes and more solid data. Wendy Leblanc offered a reminder that just because CA is mandated by HUD, that does not mean there are more shelters/resources available. Peter took a moment to thank Sandra DeLosa and the Front Door Agency for assisting in preventing many CA callers from being homeless, by providing security deposits and other assistance. Ana noted that we will need to take data collection and outcomes into consideration next year when it comes time for the GNCOC to reapply for funding.

Coordinated Access Wrap-Up

Bob relayed some information he gathered at the statewide Coordinated Entry meeting. BHHS expects each region of the state to create its own CA system and have a uniform intake, preferably one that incorporates HMIS. All homeless provider agencies that receive state funding are expected to participate in CA in one way or another, and there is no significant funding expected. BHHS is planning a Coordinated Entry training session, but no dates have been offered yet. They are also planning to officially “launch” Coordinated Entry on July 1, 2015. If your agency would like to join the initiative or get on the EH_Action email list, contact Bob Mack at 589-4555.

Veteran Homelessness

Peter explained that the CA initiative is helping us uncover homeless veterans. He passed around a handout from the Interagency Council on Homelessness that lays out the 5 criteria for ending veteran homelessness, and explains the concept of “Functional Zero”. Peter noted that five years ago, there were 125 unsheltered homeless veterans on the PIT. On the 2015 PIT, there were 3. Of those 3, 2 were permanently housed and 1 left the state. At this time, it appears that there are no unsheltered homeless veterans in Nashua, which shows a significant success for the city. Peter is confident that within the next 90 days, it is possible for Nashua to achieve “functional zero”. This is truly something to celebrate!

Harbor Homes has reorganized all of its veteran programs to be housed in the same place at 45 High St. and will be known as a Veterans Easy Access Point. Kathryn Byrne, of Harbor Homes’ SSVF program, is the point of contact for agencies or clients needing veteran services. Kathryn can be reached at 882-3616 ext. 1256. The veterans Easy Access Point can be located by entering through the front door of Harbor Homes.

Announcements

Rick Rutter: mentioned that this Saturday at Sub Zero Ice Cream in Nashua, a portion of their sales will be donated to the Rescue Mission.

Bethany: Christian Church is launching a “Safe Families” initiative, a program where a host family will offer their home temporarily to children and pregnant women in crisis. Recruitment for this program is being done with CrossWay Church of Nashua.

Reminder: There is NO GNCOC meeting in July. The next meeting is August 5, 2015 at 8am.

Bob Mack made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Peter Kelleher. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:14am.