

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2015

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Ana Pancine, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:05 A.M. Ana reviewed the meeting structure and then introduction were made by all.

The minutes of the November 4, 2015 were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Magaly Rios and seconded by Andi Reed-Lenane. The motion passed.

Committee Updates:

Board: Ana indicated that the last Board meeting was spent reviewing the COC application to HUD. The application was submitted to HUD two days before the deadline and is available for review on the GNCOG website. Ana will let us know as soon as HUD announces funding awards.

Ending Homelessness: Bob Mack mentioned that the “Save the Date” for Project Homeless Connect went out. The event is scheduled for 1/27/16 at 45 High Street. The Point in Time (PIT) count is expected to take place the same day. Additional discussion took place regarding outreach to those not connected to programs. Bob shared that at the last meeting, we agreed to change the name of Coordinated Access to Coordinated Entry to be more consistent with the rest of the state. Bob reported that discussion took place regarding winter overflow at shelters as they are already above capacity. The group has also discussed the Board of Alderman meeting to take place regarding sub-standard housing facilities.

Ana let folks know that even if committees aren't meeting regularly and have no updates, they will still appear on the agenda as they are standing committees as identified in our Governance Charter.

Community Relations: No updates

Data Gathering: Miles Pendry reported that the AHAR (Annual Homelessness Assessment Report) was submitted with all “shells” reported for all three NH COCs. He explained more about the importance of the AHAR and how we score points on our COC application if data is provided accurately. Miles also discussed the upcoming PIT count and reviewed why it is important. There will a webinar training announced shortly. A question was asked about the need for volunteers on the night of the PIT. Scott Slattery at Harbor Homes will be coordinating this aspect and his contact info was given for anyone interested in participating. Additional discussion took place regarding the need for training for these volunteers, as well as what type of information is collected. Miles also spoke about the HIC (Housing Inventory Chart) and how that is updated annually at the same time as the PIT and is extremely important to have accurate information.

Employment: Magaly Rios shared that the committee will not be meeting in December.

Other Groups: Olga Cruz reported from the October Shelter Director's meeting. They got updates on ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) funding. They learned that technical assistance is going to be provided

for assistance in ending veteran homelessness, and they discussed “functional zero” for homeless veterans. State Grant and Aid contracts have passed Governor and Council. They reviewed what is going on statewide regarding Coordinated Entry.

Laurel Redding let the group know that funds have been received for a “Medicaid Institute” and Housing Action will be in touch soon to set up an initial meeting for those who are interested.

Eileen Brady shared that the Chamber of Commerce is holding a meeting today on “Housing” and several GNCOC members are at that meeting today. She also talked about the Homeless Memorial that takes place every December to remember those who have died. She will be emailing information about time and place. Results from the drug court in Nashua are hopeful and reminded us that expanded Medicaid would be important to continue as it does offer benefits that affect homelessness such as substance abuse treatment. Eileen also reported on the Aldermanic hearing that took place on the substandard housing issue. There was a good turnout, lots of differing opinions, but overall, a good start to addressing this issue.

Presentation: Ending Homelessness Fund

Bob Keating began this presentation by reminding everyone how critical the PIT is and that is really our only measure of how we are doing at ending homelessness. He talked about COCs in general, the history of their implementation, and the 10-year Plan to End Homelessness adopted by the GNCOC in June 2004. He shared that during the 2004 PIT count, 886 homeless persons were identified, over 300 being chronically homeless, and in 2015 we counted 380 homeless, with 42 being chronically homeless. He mentioned the success in ending homelessness among the HIV/AIDS population and the success towards ending veteran homelessness.

Bob talked about the creation of the Ending Homelessness Fund, which originated with the Nashua Unitarian Universalist Church and then connected with Harbor Homes to carry out the work. He shared that it is required that we match HUD funding with flexible local dollars and this fund has been very successful in working to place the 42 chronically homeless identified in last year’s PIT.

Scott Slattery shared a PowerPoint presentation with statistics of the 42 persons and how many have received permanent housing (19) and what categories the others fall into. He stressed the importance of folks getting contact information for all those they are reporting on the PIT so that an offer of housing can be made to them. If we don’t know who they are or how to find them, we can’t provide housing.

Peter Kelleher reviewed several accomplishments that took place within the GNOCC during 2015 and highlighted the fact that many agencies are working more collaboratively than ever before. He thanked the members of the Ending Homelessness Fund for their hard work.

Announcements:

Pam Brown encouraged members to reach out to State legislators by telephone to express support of continuation of expanded Medicaid. She also thanked the group for welcoming her participation and let us know that Tom Lopez will be the new Aldermanic liaison to the GNCOC.

Olga Cruz shared that Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter will be handing out food baskets for Christmas, although folks are encouraged to bring their own bags. The distribution hours will be December 17, 18, 21, 22 and 23 from 11:00-2:45.

Andrea Linares Castro from Healthy Communities reminded the group that open enrollment for the marketplace insurance ends 1/31/16. She passed out flyers about the program.

Laurie Goodman from Harbor Homes also brought flyers and suggested that staff hand flyers directly to clients to engage them, as opposed to just leaving them out on an information table.

ANDI Reed-Lenane from Nashua Housing Authority shared that her program has two 2-bedroom apartments, reviewed eligibility criteria and gave her phone number for interested parties: 883-5661 x 363.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:05AM.

Minutes taken by Wendy LeBlanc, Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force