

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2016

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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 December 2, 2015 were reviewed. It was noted that Pam Brown sent in a correction to the minutes via email. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Barbara Alves and seconded by Beth Todgham. The motion passed.

Presentation:

Cassie Gudek, Business and Community Liaison Director from NH Job Corps gave us an in-depth presentation of the program which opened in Manchester last fall. NH was the last state to implement a Job Corps program, which is funded by the US Department of Labor.

They have the capacity for 300 students, ages 16-24. Right now they are at about 130 students enrolled. While this is a residential career technical training center, there do allow for a small number of commuters, if circumstances are appropriate. It is a military style structure with lots of rules and expectations.

Cassie reviewed the eligibility criteria which includes receiving any cash assistance from a government program such as food stamps or fuel assistance, or under the poverty level. There are some other possibilities for eligibility but no one can have current criminal/legal issues.

They have 9 different trades that are offered as career choices, ranging from facilities management to culinary. The programs are customized to meet the students' pace, with a 2 year maximum to complete the program, although short extensions are possible if circumstances dictate the need. 90% of students go on to either a job, military or higher education.

Cassie talked about the community service component of the program and indicated that she is always looking for opportunities within non-profits for volunteer opportunities for the students. She distributed her contact info and Ana offered to forward an email to the full group with more materials if Cassie wants to send them.

She also talked about the holistic approach they offer regarding life skills and housing, to be sure the students truly can be successful and self-sufficient upon program completion. They also provide 21 months of follow up after graduation from the program.

Some questions and answers were addressed and summarized here. There is no cost to the student, the average cost per client to the program is approximately \$38,000. Application counselors are available to help with the application as it can be cumbersome. The program could be a next step for Clearway or other alternative high school program. The age restriction may not apply to veterans, even if they are

not honorably discharged. As long as the student starts the program before their 25th birthday, they can stay 2 years. They offer tours of the program (info on brochures that were distributed) and while not required, they appreciate an RSVP. They are in the process of getting everything set up to be listed with 211. Their address is 943 Dunbarton Road in Manchester, off Exit 6 from 293. Transportation should not be a barrier for students, program staff will work something out as needed. They do offer life skills training such as budgeting and other financial literacy and are always looking for more presenters for these types of trainings. They are currently looking for a LADC to offer substance abuse counseling services as well.

Announcements:

Ana announced that the Coordinated Entry workshop listed on the agenda for 9:00 today actually starts at 9:30.

Tom Lopez shared that there will be a community safety meeting on Thursday, January 7th in the 3rd floor auditorium of City hall to educate the public on what to do if there is a fire in your neighborhood. All are welcome.

Beth Todgham said that she will be emailing information to the group about the upcoming free tax preparation services coordinate through AARP.

Beth also talked about the Greater Nashua Healthy Community Collaborative meeting scheduled for 1/25/16 from 9-11 at DHMC. They meet 3 times per year to bring the non-profit and medical communities together. The January meeting is an opportunity to update everyone on new or disbanded programs. Anyone interested can contact Beth.

Laurie Goodman provided flyers for the Harborcare dental clinic. She also reminded us that open enrollment for the ACA Marketplace ends 1/31/16.

Peter Kelleher expressed his appreciation for NH Job Corps finally being available in NH. He indicated that this should make an impact on our homeless population.

Peter also reminded us that this is the last GNCOC meeting before the annual Point in Time count. Please do all you can to identify homeless veterans and chronically homeless individuals prior to the PIT count. Harbor Homes is doing anything and everything to get these folks housed prior to the PIT. He also explained that HUD has modified the definition for chronically homeless. In addition to the criteria of being continuously homeless for over a year, if a person has been homeless 4 or more times in 3 years, ***the entire period of these episodes must total at least one year.*** The concern regarding the PIT is that providers may assume someone can be categorized as chronically homeless even if there is no documentation of a disability (also a requirement for CH designation) or documentation of the total length of time one has been homeless. HMIS can help with this confirmation if the client is in an HMIS-reported program. According to HMIS, there were 120 chronically homeless persons in shelters last night, 21 were in Nashua. Scott Slattery is the point person for any chronically homeless persons needing housing and Kathryn Byrne is the point person for veterans. Peter indicated that they were

unsuccessful in obtaining “functional zero’ for homeless veterans because not enough progress was made in last year’s PIT.

Peter also reminded everyone of the Harbor Homes Mainstream Housing program waitlist opening on January 13th and 14th at 45 High St. This is the first time the list has been opened since 2008. There will be up to 5 immediate placements. This is a Section 8 voucher program for those with a disability. Preference will be given to homeless veterans in the GNCOC area and homeless families with children.

Lauren Redding discussed the upcoming NHHPP reauthorization and Housing Action is assisting in advocacy for this. There will be a community meeting to discuss how this has made an impact on NH residents. The date of the meeting is still being worked out and it is planned to be at 45 High Street so Peter will let everyone know when the date has been finalized.

Bob Mack reminded everyone that Project Homeless Connect will be taking place on 1/27/16 and he will be sending the registration forms out again for agencies to sign up. He will try to let folks know who has already registered as well.

Bob also reiterated that there will be a Coordinated Entry workshop today at 9:30 instead of the standard Ending Homelessness committee meeting. He reminded the group that any homeless persons should be directed to contact the Coordinated Entry hotline instead of just sending them to welfare or the shelter, as it is important to track what is happening.

Candace Gebhart from NH Legal Assistance said that she is now available on the 4th Thursday of the month from 11-1 at Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter to meet with clients with legal issues related to housing. She is also willing to make appointments for other afternoons if contacted in advance by an agency representative. She does not wish to receive calls from clients but is willing to schedule with agency staff on behalf of those clients.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:01AM.

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