

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Nashua City Hall, October 5, 2016

Chair Ana Pancine called the meeting to order at 8:08AM. Introductions were made by all.

The minutes of the September 7, 2016 minutes were reviewed. Corrections for typographical errors were noted. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Bob Mack and Mike Apfelberg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Board: Ana reported that there were two meetings in August to cover necessary issues related to the HUD COC application. The Board reviewed all the new requirements on the application and updated policies and procedures as necessary. They did not meet in September.

Ana reviewed the process for the application, discussed the re-allocation project made up of funds currently allocated to Keystone Hall's Rapid Re-Housing program and Harbor Homes' PH7 program. Harbor Homes was the only agency to apply for the reallocation project and the Front Door agency was the only agency that applied for the bonus project.

Ana presented the slate of officers for the GNCOC to adopt as required every October. It was explained that HUD has now asked us to have staggered terms for our Board. A motion was made by Mike Apfelberg and seconded by Eileen Brady and the slate was approved by all members.

Ending Homelessness- Bob Mack briefly highlighted some data points regarding Coordinated Entry (CE) that had been provided at last month's meeting. Capacity in housing program was discussed and folks were reminded of the wrap-around meeting opportunity. The group discussed gaps in resources for youth experiencing homelessness and agreed that we need to spend more time on this issue. Q: Can we tell what towns people are calling from on the CE line? A: Most calls are from greater Nashua although a small number are calling from other parts of the state or other areas in New England. Q: Do you have actual data on the decrease in calls from homeless veterans? A: Samantha Cassista can likely provide that information.

Community Relations- No report- the committee has not met recently. Tom Lopez mentioned that the website subcommittee is meeting and working on making changes. They are waiting for full editing privileges on the current page.

Data Gathering- Abigail Alicea stated that this committee is looking for volunteers from agencies not funded through the COC as HUD requires more data collection than ever before and the only current committee members are from funded agencies.

Employment Committee- Tom Lopez reported that Employment Connect was held on September 21st at St. Patrick's Gym and went very well. This year they had 15 employers and 60 participants, five of whom have already found employment. The Knights of Columbus, Great American Downtown and Excel Mobile Distributors did a great job of coordinating clothing and

food donations. They got lots of downtown businesses involved which is great publicity for the GNCOC. The Chamber of Commerce helped with recruiting employers. The committee will be talking about thank you letters and awards at their next meeting.

Other Groups:

Laurel Redden from Housing Action NH let us know that summer is over so they are looking at upcoming legislation. The emergency shelter money, State grant-in-aid process is starting. So far the request is for level funding so they are pleased with that and will continue working to support this. The Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness is recommending an increase in the state budget of \$200,000 for the housing revolving loan fund. Lauren also said that they are trying to establish supportive housing in Medicaid and asked which GNCOC members are involved with the Integrated Delivery Network (Medicaid 1115 waiver) and Mike Apfelberg discussed where things are in the process and mentioned that many GNCOC agencies are involved. He also mentioned the community surveys that had been sent out and asked everyone to please help getting those completed.

Ana stated that Olga Cruz said there was no update from the Shelter directors.

Tom Lopez indicated that the Board of Alderman passed the Welcoming Community resolution and thanked agencies for helping out.

Announcements:

Sue Mead from GNMHC announced that it is Mental Health Awareness Week and on October 13th they will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of "Community Connections" which has diverted hundreds of people with mental illness from jail. A celebration of this anniversary will be held at 1:00 PM in the jury room at 30 Spring Street.

Mike Apfelberg gave a recap of the United Way's Sleep-Out event held on 9/23/16 and announced next year's event will be on 9/22/17.

Laurie Goodman let everyone know that open enrollment for the Marketplace insurance will be from 11/1/16 through 1/31/17, with 12/15/16 as the deadline to have insurance beginning January 1st. She reminded us that a person does not have to be a client of Harbor Homes or the Partnership, anyone can be assisted. Since the ACA began in October 2013, patients of the Harbor Care Health and Wellness Center have gone from 25% insured to 75% insured.

Bob Mack mentioned that Project Homeless Connect planning will be beginning soon so keep an eye out for email updates.

Tom Lopez shared that Positive Street Art is working on a mural on the wall of Wine Not, which will be a depiction of the theater that used to be in that space.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59AM.

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