

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes of February 3, 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 January 6, 2016 minutes were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Sylvia Gale and seconded by Andrew Smith. The motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Board:

Ana reported that we are working on finalizing who the presenter will be for March but does not yet have info to share.

The last Board meeting was primarily dedicated to discussing the need to change our Governance Charter to include a quorum for votes as well as Board composition. The group decided not to change the charter at this time. Pam Small from Ann-Marie House has been invited to sit in at Board meetings but since the slate of officers and Board members was voted on in October, she will not be a voting member until the next election.

The Board also discussed working on the website, deleting outdated materials and of course, trying to find a free web designer.

Ending Homelessness Committee:

Bob first reported on the December meeting which was spent discussing the upcoming Point In Time (PIT) count and the Project Homeless Connect event both scheduled for 1/27/16. Some discussion took place regarding winter overflow at the shelters. Ann announcement was made about the Harbor Homes' Mainstream Housing program opening its waitlist for the first time since 2008. Bob also mentioned efforts being made statewide to advocate for housing authorities to add chronically homeless (CH) persons to their list of priorities.

Bob then updated the group on last month's Coordinated Entry (CE) workshop that took place in lieu of the Ending Homelessness committee meeting. Kevin Irwin and Melissa Hatfield from NH BHHS (Bureau Homeless and Housing Services) attended to help us hone in on the CE process. Bob outlined some of the notes such as needing a more transparent process for referrals, refining a triage tool to identify vulnerability, measuring goals, having a vision, and using data to track and evaluate success. Anecdotal information points to success but there is more work to do.

Bob Keating asked a question regarding which housing authorities currently prioritize CH persons for their programs, led to a vigorous discussion. The group indicated that there are none at this time. Andi Reed-Lenane from Nashua Housing Authority (NHA) gave some examples of priority populations for

public housing, but CH is not one of them. Candace Gebhart from NH Legal Assistance noted that it would require a change in their administrative plan to add a priority population. Sylvia Gale suggested that we have NHA come to the GNCOC to do an updated presentation of their programs, waitlists and priorities. Andi then gave an overview of the differences between Section 8 and public housing.

Community Relations:

No report- no new activity. Tom Lopez asked if the GNCOC website should fall under this committee and it was shared that this committee had taken that on some time ago, but the same challenge of no funding always comes up so they eventually gave it back to the Board.

Data Gathering:

Abigail Alicea reported that the PIT took place on 1/27/16 and surveys are due by noon on 2/5/16. She then told the group that the committee would like folks to also send their raw data to Jessica Karwatske as it can take months for the Manchester and Balance of State COCs to get the GNCOC data back to us. Jessica will be following up with folks to get their info.

Employment Connect:

Tom reported that although this is not an advocacy group there has been some discussion regarding the minimum wage and lack of work force housing. More housing capacity is coming to Nashua but we don't know if it will be affordable.

They have a tentative date for this year's Project Employment Connect event of 9/21/16. They are working with supportive employment programs to achieve better outcomes. They are also working with the Chamber to enhance employment opportunities. They are looking to expand the prior "dress for success" event and rename it "Suit Yourself". Great American Downtown may be helping to enhance the quality and variety of donations.

Tom also noted the change in date and time for this month's meeting due to the regular meeting time conflicting with Election Day.

Sylvia asked if there had been any discussion about the practice of pay cards instead of pay checks, which allows employees to withdraw their pay from an ATM but incurs a fee with each use. Eileen Brady indicated that Granite State Organizing Project is working on this issue and that it is illegal for employers to force employees to accept this. Further discussion took place about the challenges for employees to be assertive with a new employer.

Other Groups:

Ana reported for Olga Cruz that there was no shelter director's meeting since our last report out meeting.

Eileen Brady referenced the Medicaid expansion bill HB1696 and indicated that the Chamber is supporting ongoing Medicaid expansion. Sylvia talked about some of the provisions in the bill such as a work requirement, which may not be legal by Federal standards.

Eileen also talked about HB1370 which would change the current laws for landlords that allows them to hold eviction proceedings in jurisdictions other than where the tenant lives, making it very difficult for low-income individuals to attend their own eviction hearings.

Announcements:

Bob Mack thanked everyone for their participation in last week's Project Homeless Connect. It was our 10th year! He said there was positive feedback from both agencies and clients. He thanks Enterprise Bank and United Way for providing the lunch for participants. It was exciting to have so many hair stylists too! All data has not yet been finalized but at first count, 89 individuals came through the event.

Sylvia Gale reminded folks that the substandard housing committee of the Board of Alderman will be meeting on 2/11/16 at 7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall.

Tara Collins from St Joseph's Hospital let everyone know she has 150 pairs of orthopedic diabetic shoes available to donate. Someone would have to pick them up at St Joe's and should call her in advance with a size and she will leave them at reception. Her number is 603-598-3306. She also reminded the group that Joseph's closet has durable medical equipment to loan.

Andi Reed-Lenane from NHA said there is also a program in Derry for durable medical equipment loan called Community Caregivers. She also shared that Park view has one 2-bedroom apartment available and applications can be obtained at NHA's E. Pearl St office. She also said she has a friend willing to donate up to 4 hours of free haircutting and will come to an agency in Nashua to do this with 4-6 weeks' notice. You can let her know of your interest at nhandi@yahoo.com

Laurie Goodman, on behalf of Bob Keating who had to leave the meeting before announcements, asked everyone to make note of the postcards he left regarding the Ending Homelessness community discussion on 3/16/16 at 45 High Street from 5:30-7:00PM. Laurie also reminded everyone that although open enrollment on the Marketplace is over, enrollment for NH Health Protection Program (NHHPP) is ongoing and anyone needing help to enroll can get assistance at Harborcare or through any other navigator program.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:09 AM.

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