

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2016

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Ana Pancine, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:04 A.M. Introductions were made by all.

The minutes of the February 3, 2016 minutes were reviewed. Two typographical errors were noted. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Bob Mack and seconded by Candace Gebhart. The motion passed.

Ana reviewed the meeting format and said that today would be committee reports.

Ana passed around the sign-in sheet and asked people to add their name if not already on the list, if they want to be on the email distribution list.

Committee Reports:

Board:

Ana stated that the entire last meeting was dedicated to talking about youth homelessness and the fact that we currently have no formal committee or work group addressing this population. HUD seems to be focusing on this population as it is increasing and the Board is trying to come up with a plan to address this. Bob Mack is going to be working on bringing a group together to work on this. A question was asked about data, which was answered that we currently don't have any hard numbers as the Point-In-Time count doesn't do a great job of capturing this, although the last PIT count had two unaccompanied youth (18-24 years old). Ana stated that last year's COC application to HUD asked for the first time about how we are addressing youth homelessness. Folks at the state level are also talking about how to address this population's needs. Additional discussion took place regarding corrections, diversion programs, etc. and how to refine how we refer to youth programs. Discussion regarding data and statistics and how accurate and helpful they are/are not.

Although not a subject from the last Board meeting, Ana also let us know that the COC application is open for registration and must be done by May 11, 2016. She was notified yesterday of Tier 2 awards from last year's application and PH15 and PH 16 were cut. This totals about \$100,000 and represents 8 housing units. These are the newest programs that started last year and will end in September. Ana is questioning HUD for an explanation of why we would be cut. Folks suggested reaching out to Federal delegates for support. Tom Lopez and Ana are going to work on this together. Dan Weeks offered to help get messages to our delegates if help is needed. Eileen Brady also mentioned that the Balance of State COC got \$428,000 for Coordinated Entry planning, which is a lot of money that could maybe be better used housing families.

Ending Homelessness Committee:

Bob Mack reported that the last meeting focused on Coordinated Entry and share that they have made some updates to intake forms to broaden the info gathered. They are still struggling to get this into HMIS. Samantha at Harbor Homes is working at compiling data and the group reviewed this data at the last meeting. We are waiting for the State to decide if HMIS will become an open system to be sued for CE. The email distribution loop was discussed and seems to be working well.

The group also had discussed length of stay in shelters and people who get “stuck” waiting for a disability determination, or housing subsidy. Bob reminded us that those who are victims of a fire should contact Nashua Housing Authority as they have a priority.

This led to a discussion that was not part of the Ending Homelessness committee’s report, regarding people displaced by Domestic Violence, and that they also have a priority with the Housing Authority.

Community Relations:

Pat Murphy said that there is no report- no new activity.

Data Gathering:

Abigail Alicea reported that the PIT info is on the COC website and that the Housing Inventory Chart has also been submitted to HUD as required.

Employment Connect:

Tom Lopez shared that they are re-working the employment connect event to bring in stakeholders to set up various parts of the program. The Chamber of Commerce is taking on the recruitment of employers. The Great American Downtown is going to work on getting clothes for the “Suit Yourself” (formerly Dress for Success) component. St Patrick’s will offer some storage as things are gathered. The event is coming together well.

Other Groups:

Tom Lopez apologized for forgetting to bring the report he received from Olga Cruz on the Shelter Director’s meeting. He will email it to the group.

Eileen Brady stated that she had forwarded the Housing Action email to everyone and reviewed some of those highlights. The accessory dwelling bill passed and Medicaid for supportive services in housing is moving through.

Tom Lopez said that he heard that the bill requiring landlords to file eviction paperwork where the tenant lives didn’t pass. Sylvia Gale indicated that the Senate vote should be today and that it was probably the recommendation from the Senate judiciary committee that they vote against it. Eileen reminded us to help educate clients that they can request a change of venue if they can’t get to the court where the eviction was served.

Announcements:

Tom Doucette shared that H.E.A.R.T.S. peer support program is looking to fulfill a grant requirement by offering education about employment to their clients. If anyone is interested in leading a class, to please let him know.

Kim Adie from the YMCA of Greater Nashua told us about a "Healthy Family Fun Fare" on May 21, 2016 from 10-1 at Bishop Guertin High School. The event is to promote health and nutrition to kids and their families.

Sylvia Gale let us know that the League of Women Voters is sponsoring a showing of "Selma" at the Nashua Public Library on 5/15 at 2:00PM. She also talked about the "My Brother's Keeper" challenge that Nashua' Mayor just signed on to.

Ana pointed out that the info for the opening of NHA's Affordable Housing waitlist for the Salmon Brook Senior Housing is attached to our agenda.

Barbara Alves shared that Marguerite's Place and Bridges are holding a collaborative event, "In Her Shoes" on May 6, 2016 from 11-1. Call Marguerite's Place if interested.

Tom Lopez told us that tomorrow's meeting of the Nashua Board of Alderman would include the Nashua delegation to our state legislature. The meeting is open to the public.

Dan Weeks reiterated that he is interested in learning more about the non-profit agencies in Nashua and would love to tour anyplace that was willing to have him visit.

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

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