

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2016

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Ana Pancine, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:05AM. Introductions were made by all.

The minutes of the May 4, 2016 minutes were reviewed. Two typographical errors were noted as well as the date of the previous minutes review. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Barbara Alves and seconded by Mike Afelberg. The motion passed with one abstention.

Ana reviewed the meeting format and said that today would be a presentation meeting.

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.

Presentations:

Circles:

Laurie Skibba and June St. Lawrence started their presentation with a 4-minute video of testimonials and a basic concept of the Circles program. Laurie then explained the mission which involves a group effort to resolve poverty and reviewed the handouts she had distributed. She talked about the Circle Leader, the client, who is at the center of the program. They go through a 12-week training course to become a leader and then they are paired up with allies/volunteers from different socio-economic states, to help with educational and employment goals.

Circles is an economic development program. Success is defined by the client achieving 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). Laurie said that if any existing agency is interested in including them under their umbrella, to let her know. They are currently under the umbrella of the Nashua Area Interfaith Council.

June shared that Circles USA has been operating for 15 years and they are looking to open their first New England chapter here in Nashua. Circles is intentionally a 2-generation program with a curriculum for children. They learn along with their parents and can participate for up to two years.

Laurie went over the goal of moving Circle Leaders from low-skill to middle-skill jobs so that families don't need any other government assistance or subsidies. She reviewed eligibility requirements, which include being below 185% of the FPG.

Questions and Answers:

Mike from United Way commented that there are a lot of pathways out of poverty, and he is excited about Circles coming to Nashua. United Ways around the country have worked with Circles.

Q: When will you be ready to open?

A: As soon as we raise \$90,000 to start.

Q: Have you thought about self-start-ups?

A: yes

Q: What is the \$90,000 going to pay for?

A: Total start-up; Salary, technology, food costs, curriculum materials

Q; Will clients have to pay a fee?

A: No

Families In Transition (FIT):

Cathy Kuhn and Katelyn Gagnon came to give us an overview of FIT and more specifically, their Family Resource Center.

Cathy shared a slide presentation overview. FIT has been operating for 25 years. They have 66 Transitional Housing units primarily for single moms, 130 Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless or families with children with one family member with a disability, Permanent Affordable Housing (no services) available for anyone but often goes to graduates of other FIT programs, and Emergency and Interim Housing as a safe and stable place to stay until families are ready to move forward. She went on to talk briefly about the Resource Center, their Intensive outpatient Programs for women with co-occurring disorders as well as trauma. She also told us about the two thrift stores offering social enterprise ventures for their clients.

Katelyn gave a great overview of the Family Place Resource Center and Shelter. They target the most vulnerable families and do much of their work with community partners. She went over slides regarding these partners; Southern NH Services provides head start programs and FIT provides a therapist for 3-5 year olds, mostly homeless or sheltered at FIT. Manchester City Welfare manages some of the units in the same building and FIT provides all the services. Catholic Medical Center's Healthcare for the Homeless program provides healthcare to FIT's clients. Goodwill provides employment services for those ready for employment. New Horizon's shelter provides 3 meals a day and families can help with meal prep. They use LOTS of volunteers to make the programs all run smoothly. They also partner with Manchester School District, Child and family Services and NH Legal Assistance.

Katelyn went on to describe more about the support services provided at the Resource Center, including Coordinated Entry and intake services. They also offer case management, housing supports, homework and library programs and transportation. The shelter component has 11 bedrooms (ranging from 2-6 beds per room) each with a bathroom and safe. They have two living rooms, free laundry facilities, play spaces and a kitchen, all under video surveillance for safety.

Questions and Answers:

Q: How does the City manage some of the units?

A: The City manages 5 of the 11 units, meaning they refer folks to the program and make the decisions about length of stay. FIT runs everything.

Q: What is the average stay?

A: 90-120 days

Mike from the United Way also mentioned that FIT runs the VISTA program so any agencies interested in VISTA volunteers can contact them.

Q: Regarding the CMC services, are they volunteers?

A: No, they are grant-funded

Q: Is there a follow-up for the children after leaving the shelter for programs such as head start?

A: if needed, they can stay in FIT's program, but most are transitioned to community programs or school.

Announcements:

Cary Gladstone from Granite United Way asked all to check the 211 website to verify correct information and he also distributed the 211 informational cards.

Beth Todgham from SNHS reminded folks about the email that went out about the Salmon Brook apartments, as they still have openings. Priorities are for those with special needs but anyone can get in to this senior housing program.

Tom Lopez shared the draft of a flyer for Employment Connect- he will be sending the final version by email. Tom also said that on June 14th, the Board of Alderman will have the final vote on legislation regarding substandard living conditions and the ability to ticket landlords for not taking care of necessary issues. He also said that the Human Affairs committee will be having a presentation from community peer programs on June 13th.

Mike Afelberg from United Way shared that there will be a breakfast meeting on June 24, 2016 for any agencies interested in applying for United Way grants. He also shared that there is an event on September 23, 2016, "United We Sleep", a fundraising experiential event that will raise money for the United Way's community impact fund. He passed around information.

Ana reminded us that there is no meeting in July.

Aristotle Mannan from BosWell wanted to let folks know about his product, an electronic intake form that agencies can use instead of hand-documenting all client info. The software is available at no cost. He also provided a flyer with more details.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00AM.

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