

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Nashua City Hall, September 7, 2016

Chair Ana Pancine called the meeting to order at 8:06AM. Introductions were made by all.

The minutes of the August 3, 2016 minutes were reviewed with a correction noted. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Bob Mack and seconded by Mike Apfelberg. The motion passed unanimously.

COC Application:

Ana gave an overview of the submission dates. The application will be posted on the COC website by the end of the week and she will also send it to GNCOC members by email. She then reviewed the ranking process and the ranking order of the renewal projects in Tier 1 and the one renewal, reallocation project and bonus project in Tier 2. Harbor Homes is applying for the reallocation project which is made up of funds from Keystone Hall's Rapid Re-Housing program and the small amount of money left in Harbor Homes' PH7 project that was cut last year. The Front Door Agency is applying for the bonus project. Ana explained the overall process for submitting Exhibits 1 and 2 which are all due on 9/14/16 although she plans to get it submitted a few days early.

Presentation:

Courtney Marrs, Health Promotion Specialist for the City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services presented on "My Health. My Care" a program to help folks in accessing health care services, focusing on areas such as communication with medical providers, how to prepare for medical appointments, etc.

This project came out of the community health improvement plan that identified the top three challenges as obesity prevention, access to health care, and mental health. In preparation for creating this program, several focus groups took place in 2013 to ask about problems in accessing healthcare and what can be done to fix them. Findings included lack of awareness of resources, communication, affordability, transportation, filling out forms, technology troubles, timely appointments, understanding insurance coverage and language barriers.

Courtney showed us the kit and materials that are given out to clients as part of the program after they have viewed the videos. She also showed the packets that were given to agencies to offer the program/materials to their clients. A kit was passed around for everyone to look at.

She reviewed the program topics: My Health, Learning the Basics, Communication with Healthcare Providers, Understanding Insurance, Appointments and Billing, and Staying Healthy.

Videos are available on YouTube and the City of Nashua website. DVDs have been distributed to about 11 agencies/health centers. If anyone has questions or wants materials, they can contact Courtney at marrsc@nashuanh.gov or 589-4552.

We watched the video and then there were questions and comments.

Q: You mentioned that transportation has improved? How so? We are not seeing this. A: This is still a big challenge in Nashua although there may have been some expansion in other areas. We recognize that transportation is the biggest barrier.

C: There are only 104 views on that You Tube video. If you send the link to all of us we can post it on our respective Facebook pages. A: Courtney will send the link to Ana to forward to all of us.

C: Regarding pharmacy services, some pharmacies have alerts for the pharmacy tech when it is a new medication so they know to offer counseling to the client. Unfortunately, this doesn't actually happen in many cases.

C: Because the urgent care facilities are in the outskirts of town, if a person has no transportation, they have no choice but to go to the hospital emergency room. A: Bobbie Bagley mentioned that there is a new transportation program on line but she will have to get back to us with the info.

Q: Regarding language barriers, do the materials have info on how to get an interpreter? A: yes, there is some info in the packets.

Q: Will it be made in languages other than English and Spanish? A: With more funding in the future that would be great, but funds have already been used up on this project.

Announcements:

Bobbie Bagley announced that this is National Recovery Month and will include the Mayor's Opioid Task Force with the next meeting on 9/15/16 at 9-11:30. There is a special event on 9/26/16 with Dr. Whittier at GNMHC. Nashua Access channel is running a series on addiction this month. It is also National Preparedness Month and they are working on providing information to folks to assist them in developing their own family communication plans and other activities in case of disaster. September 30 is National Preparedness Day. Keep an eye on the City website for more information.

Tom Lopez let the group know that Employment Connect is scheduled for 9/21/16 at St Patrick's on Main Street. 8-11AM will be activities to prepare clients for job search, such as a clothing pantry, haircuts, and supportive employment services. "Suit yourself" is currently collecting clothes for this (13 drop off locations for clothes around Nashua). The job fair component will be from 11-2.

Maryse reminded the group that the Front Door Agency will be starting another Financial Literacy program starting on 9/14/16. It is a 5-week course held at First Church. She had flyers for those interested.

Mike Afelberg reminded us that on September 23rd, United Way will be doing their annual "Sleep Out". This is a fundraising event where participants sleep in a box outside to generate awareness of issues of homelessness. He brought info packets to distribute.

Wendy LeBlanc reminded folks that Saturday, September 24th is the Thomas O Cash HIV/AIDS Walk to benefit the Task Force. The event is held at Greeley Park, registration begins at 10:00 and the Walk begins at 11:00.

Elizabeth Martin said that the Veterans' Stand Down is going to be held on 9/22/16 at 45 High Street. Resources are available for homeless veterans.

Bob Mack shared that St Joe's is having a fundraiser on 9/24/16 at Sky Meadow to raise funds to support the City's new mobile health clinic.

Tom Lopez shared that Positive Street Art is holding a movie event for veterans at 7:00PM on 9/17/16 at the French Renaissance Park. The movie will be Top Gun.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01AM

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