

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Board Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2016

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Ana Pancine, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Introductions were made. In attendance were Ana Pancine, Bob Mack, Wendy LeBlanc, Maryse Wirbal, Wendy LeBlanc, Alexandra Hamel, Kevin O'Meara, Rick Rutter, Cherrie Fulton and Peter Kelleher. Abigail Alicea participated by phone.

Ana let us know that she had received messages from Marcy, Dawn and Barbara indicating that they would not be able to attend.

The group reviewed the minutes from the January meeting and addressed two concerns brought to the Chair by email. The group confirmed that there were three abstentions to the vote on updating the governance charter, as stated in the January minutes. The group also agreed that the remark made by Peter Kelleher regarding homeless veterans being directed to him vs the shelter could be added. The Clerk did reiterate that she does her best to capture the general content of discussions but will not be able to include every comment made verbatim.

The first two agenda items were tabled, Safe Haven because Peter had not yet arrived at the meeting, and Nashua Housing Authority board member because Tom was not at the meeting.

Maryse reported on the Citizen's Bank proposal. She indicated that her agency is unable to take the lead as her grant writer is out, Harbor Homes cannot apply as they are above the operating budget threshold, and that in general it looks like a complicated grant that has a huge sustainability piece that we likely can't address. It was also discussed that the general "feeling" is that they are looking for a grant that address the opiate crisis. Additionally, discussion took place regarding the actual purpose of the funds and Maryse suggested we have a group work on a plan to focus on what we need for Coordinated Entry, and then once this plan is developed, we can approach local banks to ask for support. Some of the ideas shared for the purpose of the funds would be website update/re-design costs, database sharing costs, phone costs, HMIS licenses and a Coordinated Entry consultant. Ana indicated that some of these things were covered in the planning grant part of the COC application, which we should be hearing about soon.

More discussion took place regarding updating the website and suggested that Kevin lead a committee to work on this issue. Kevin agreed to Chair a website committee.

Ana indicated that the person from Families in Transition (FIT) who will be responsible for doing a presentation for us is away so she hasn't been able to definitively confirm that but expects she will be back and available to come. Bob shared that at a recent Board of health meeting, a physician asked "do we need more shelters?" Bob said he talked about the GNCOC philosophy of trying to create more TH and PH beds to have a place for people to go instead of shelters, but it would be helpful to hear what FIT

is doing in Manchester to see if we could or should be doing something differently in Nashua. Further discussion took place regarding shelter space, needs and how are people moving in/out.

Peter indicated that from reviewing raw data of the PIT, it appears that the number of Chronically Homeless will have gone down from last year.

Bob reported on Ending Homelessness/Coordinated Entry and shared that the group has identified goals and processes and although he thought there might be some additional follow-up from the State, none has come so they must approve of what we are doing. We will continue to refine the process. They are waiting to learn if HMIS can be used for CE. Peter indicated that there is a statewide HMIS advisory committee this week and he will see if they can ask if there is a plan to add a CE module. Kevin suggested a webform on our website for persons seeking CE, making it easier for them to check boxes than to have to compose an email asking for assistance. Rick shared that most calls he gets on the CE line come late in the day. He thinks people wait until later in the day to call hoping that shelter beds will be full and they can get a motel. Bob reiterated that it is important that everyone is giving the same messages to callers regarding the process.

Peter shared that Harbor Homes is seeking to relocate their Safe Haven program and this would require permission from the COC. 123 Palm Street is currently a project-based VASH house with 5-bedrooms that has been vacant for a year as there have been no veteran families qualifying for such a large apartment. He is thinking that if he moves Safe Haven from Maple Street, he can use the Palm Street property, also freeing up one or two units at Maple Street. The Palm Street location would offer the same capacity as Maple Street. The VA and NHHFA would also have to approve. Currently, the Safe Haven is using 3 units at Maple St so one would become a VASH unit and the other two could be shelter of TH. Bob made a motion to have the GNCOC send a letter of support and Maryse seconded the motion. The motion carried, with five yes votes and five abstentions from Partnership for Successful Living employees.

Website update: Ana reported that Lori has contacted MESH but has not yet heard back. It was discussed that the newly formed website committee will look at what other vendors might be available. Ana also mentioned that Liz Fitzgerald from the United Way has approached her about the UW possibly helping with this. Bob suggested that the subcommittee will reach out to Liz as well.

Peter shared that the PIT count had one client reported by two different agencies. Evidently one was a shelter and the client got into TH the next day. They are seeking clarification from HUD as to how to count him. This client is a veteran. There were three other veterans that Harbor Homes is trying to track down in order to provide services.

The group discussed appropriate tactics for the Chair to use when announcements go long at GNCOC meetings.

Bob indicated that he will be away for the March 2, 2016 meeting. The group selected Rick Rutter as co-chair of the Ending Homelessness committee, which he graciously accepted. Therefore, he will chair the 3/2/16 meeting in Bob's absence.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

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