

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Board Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2016

www.nashua-coc.org

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

Introductions were made. In attendance were Ana Pancine, Wendy LeBlanc, Alexandra Hamel, Kevin O'Meara, Cherrie Fulton, Barbara Alves, Pam Small, Lori Piper, Damn Reams and Abigail Alicea.

Ana let us know that she had received messages from Tom, Lisa, Bob, Rick, Maryse and Peter indicating that they would not be able to attend.

Introductions were made.

The group reviewed the minutes from the February 12, 2016 meeting. Cherrie made a motion to approve them which was seconded by Alex. All were in favor.

Presentations:

The group agreed to ask NH Center for Non-Profits and Habitat for Humanity to present at the April meeting. Ana indicated that FIT has asked to present in June. The group agreed to also ask Circles to present in June.

Pam mentioned that the Nashua Inter-faith Council is interested in getting more involved in the community and wants the GNCOC to know about them. Wendy suggested that they don't need to make a presentation in order to start participating in GNCOC meetings and that Pam could let them know they are welcome to come and perhaps could take a few minutes during announcements to give a brief introduction regarding their interest and goals.

Cherrie mentioned that the newly forming "NH Listens" group may be a good option in the future. They are developing an early childhood council that may include issues of child homelessness.

GNCOC Award:

Tier 1 was funded and Ana provided a chart with dollar amounts, showing an increase in leasing lines for those programs to coincide with market rents. Since PH12 was split between Tier 1 and Tier 2, \$0 were awarded in Tier 1. They have been told that they intend to announce Tier 2 awards in "springtime".

A brief discussion took place regarding when the program in Tier 2 would expire and Keystone's RRH is through October and the PH's are through December.

HUD Grantee meeting:

Ana and Abigail shared highlights of this meeting from last week, also attended by Bob Mack.

HUD talked a lot about working with Public Housing Authorities (PHA) and our COC chairs are going to participate in a work group to help navigate the Nashua's PHA to get them more involved in not only COC meetings, but in priorities recommended by us. Currently, HUD's only mandatory exclusions from Section 8 and public housing are level 3 sex offenders and those convicted of drug crimes. Each local PHA can set their own priorities and it isn't a significant process to do so. Dawn shared that they recently have made DV clients a priority at Nashua Housing and three of her clients have recently gotten vouchers.

There was a debriefing of the COC application and they asked participants for feedback on the application process. There was new criteria on this last application requiring information from the local PHA and it was difficult for lots of folks to get this info, mainly because it is not something the PHA necessarily tracks.

There was a wonderful presentation on homeless youth from a provider in Portland, Maine. Ana feels this is going to be HUD's newest focus and that COCs should partner more with local youth organizations. Cherrie indicated that the last count in Nashua identified 536 homeless students, many of whom are couch-surfing so wouldn't be identified as homeless on the COC count. There was some discussion regarding what happens at school when a student identifies as homeless.

There was also an overview of the Coordinated Entry process.

Website:

Lori indicated that she asked her contact at MESH for assistance and is waiting to hear back. Asked the group what exactly we would want them to do and there was some discussion about the various ways they could help, from design to getting the key words in a Google search.

Discussion took place regarding where things stand on the funding/planning group. This group has not moved forward since the Citizen's Bank grant seemed to be a poor fit. It was decided that the Community Relations committee should reconvene and work on both the funding plan to determine the funds needed for this project, as well as plan for working on the website. Abigail will call Pat Murphy to reconvene the CR committee and Pam and Kevin will join to help with this process.

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

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