

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

December 6, 2017 - Nashua City Hall

Chair Mandy Reagan called the meeting to order at 9:05AM. Introductions were made by all. Minutes from the November 1, 2017 meeting were reviewed and a few minor edits were noted. Wendy LeBlanc motioned to approve with corrections, Peter Kelleher seconded. The motion passed.

Safe Station- Peter Kelleher The Safe station program is a program to prevent overdoses and fatalities. A person can go into any Nashua fire station to get help. They are screened at the fire station and then Harbor Homes staff is contacted to pick up the client and bring them to the program or hospital, as necessary. In one year, Safe Station has assisted over 1200 people. This is eliminating many emergency room visits and clients are getting connected to services to keep them clean and sober. Many of these individuals are getting insurance for the first time through the Harbor Care clinic navigators. . Some are even getting dental care at Harbor Care. A handout was given to everyone showing some data. One highlighted fact is that we have reduced overdoses by 24.5% over the past year.

Open Doors- Kelly Ryan This program has been running since October 2016. This program is for pregnant woman/parenting women using drugs. Some of these clients are coming out of the Cynthia Day program. This is a 4-month program that can assist with many things such as child care, employment services, rental assistance, and transportation. Can help with security deposit if there is an income. This is not a voucher program, therefore the client doesn't pay the program back. Works closely with DCYF and other local area agencies. Data shows a 45% rate of maintaining housing due to this program. 6/8 week waiting list.

Syringe Exchange Program- Wendy LeBlanc In June 2017 the State of New Hampshire officially legalized Syringe Services. The Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force is working with other area agencies such as the Health Department, Harbor Homes, and Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter to make this happen. Looking for funding as Federal funds cannot be used to buy needles, but program staff can be supported by Federal funds. We are in the early stages right now, today we are just letting the community know this is coming and we hope to be up and running by February 2018. Our goal is to help individuals who are currently injecting drugs to do so safely. Lots of benefits for this program such as less HIV/Hep C transmission, no more needles at in our children's playgrounds or on the streets. P. Kelleher reported that 85% of the people who entered the safe station have been diagnosed with Hepatitis C due to sharing needles. A handout was given out to all with some information in the benefits of having this program. Looking for volunteers to help us with this new program

Data Subcommittee Vote- Committee voted Tom Lopez to be the new Chair for the Data Subcommittee.

Announcements:

- United Way is doing a weekly program on WSMN Radio and is welcome to all nonprofits to talk about their agencies. Mike Apfelberg has been hosting the show since March and has had 50/60 different agencies. Let Mike know if you are interested in talking about your nonprofit.
- Please update your agency's information to 211 so they are giving folks the right information.
- November 12th lunch and learn at 77 Northeastern Blvd to learn about Circles Greater Nashua. Noon-1:00pm. There will be another session in January at 45 High St at noon.

- Homeless Vigil on December 21st at 5pm in the front of the Methodist Church. Candlelight vigil and music.
- Employment Connect Subcommittee will be meeting on December 27th at 1pm at the Nashua Public Library to discuss 2018 Job Fair. Anyone who is involved with employment is encouraged to come help us make it a another successful year.
- Folks who need assistance enrolling on the Marketplace can get assistance locally at 45 High St, a flyer was given out to everyone that shows the 6 different locations people can go to get help.
- Project Homeless Connect will be on the 24th of January. If your agency wants to have a table, they must register.
- New substance misuse resource guide online encourage all to check it out at nashuanh.gov-resource

Meeting Adjured 9:00AM