

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Nashua City Hall, April 5, 2017

Chair Ana Pancine called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM. All made introductions. Ana reviewed the GNCOC meeting structure.

Minutes from March 1, 2017, meeting were reviewed. Wendy LeBlanc noted that a revised version of the minutes was done, including mention of the Special Award for Eileen Brady's retirement. Ana said she would send this out to folks once she receives from Wendy. Barbara Alves motioned to approve with amendment, Magaly Rios seconded. The motion passed without objection.

Committee Reports:

Board:

Ana Pancine stated that the Board did not meet in March. On February 10, 2017, they met and discussed the March presentation to the GNCOC. They also planned on the awards for Eileen Brady and Lisa Christie from NSKS, to acknowledge their contributions to the GNCOC, as they retire.

There was discussion regarding the need for a more robust data gathering committee to more actively review GNCOC data, Annual Performance Reports from COC funded programs, and therefore make a stronger application to HUD for COC funds. Ana also mentioned the new funds for Planning that has been awarded to Harbor Homes for our COC and that the group will be working together to determine how best to utilize those resources.

Ana shared that HUD had recently sent a questionnaire about our efforts in addressing youth homelessness. It is clear that this is a new focus for HUD and we need to do a better job of concentrating on this population. Bob Mack expanded on this a bit and stated that the GNCOC is planning to form a youth homelessness subcommittee. He shared that we seem to do fairly well at connecting youth 18 and over, but are less successful with school age children. Peter Kelleher mentioned that Doug Howard is working on a new program involving host homes for older youth who are still in school. Cherrie Fulton explained Doug's role within the Nashua school district and Harbor Homes. Bob Keating said that the data show that last year there were 307 homeless children in the school system and 27 between the ages of 18-24.

Ending Homelessness:

Bob Mack reported that because he was not present at the last meeting. Rick Rutter had chaired. The group is waiting for Point In Time data. They reviewed agency capacity and folks reported on any current or upcoming vacancies.

The conversation took place regarding calls to the Coordinated Entry line from folks wanting to relocate to NH.

The discussion was held regarding criteria for services at Southern NH Rescue Mission including meals- and Olga from NSKS reminded us of their mealtimes. It was also noted that City Welfare is now closed from 12-1.

Community Relations:

Pat Murphy reminded us that this group is on hiatus but that the task of updating the website was turned over to an ad-hoc committee. Kevin O'Meara reported that they haven't met recently and that Melissa Baird- Sullivan, who was working on this with him, has left Marguerite's Place, so he needs to revitalize the committee. Bob Mack explained to the full group that the Community Relations group is willing to present an overview of the GNCOC to community agencies that may wish to have this for their Boards or other purposes.

Data Gathering:

Abigail Alicea reported that we need to make the committee more robust to accurately track and report on the data available to us. Akshat Gadgil, a new staff person at Harbor Homes, will be working with Donna Curley in HMIS and will likely be involved in this process.

Ana spoke about HUD's new electronic system that will be utilized to submit documents. They also shared that the Point In Time data is not yet ready for publication.

Employment:

Donna Marceau shared that the date for this year's Employment Connect event will be on September 20th at St Patrick's. They will be collecting clothes to donate to clients that are suitable to wear to an interview. They will begin accepting donations in late August. They are also looking for employers so if any agency expects any vacancies; they should consider signing up as a business. Don Paré mentioned that last year, people came to the event that was employed but that because those were low paying jobs for menial labor, they were looking for a better opportunity.

The next meeting of this committee is Tuesday, April 11 at 2:30 at NSKS.

Donna also reminded folks that she has resources to help eliminate barriers to gaining employment so please refer those in need of this support to her at NSKS.

She also let people know that on Friday, April 14, One Greater Nashua will be meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to meet with employers who may be able to help find jobs for homeless folks.

Other Groups:

Ana stated that Olga Cruz let her know that there was no report from the Shelter Directors.

Peter Kelleher shared that according to HMIS, there were 22 homeless veterans in NH last night but none were in Greater Nashua. Harbor Homes is currently working on opening a 35-unit Permanent Housing facility for veterans in Plymouth.

Peter also told the group that Nashua has been officially recognized as ending veteran homelessness. This doesn't mean we will never have another homeless veteran, but that we have the resources available to rapidly re-house anyone.

Andrea Reed mentioned that people ask why we still have a Stand-down event for homeless veterans, and she explained that we want to continue to offer services and continue to identify homeless individuals who may be veterans.

Announcements:

Bob Keating reminded everyone about the Ending Homelessness Fund's community education forum coming up on Thursday, April 27th from 5:30-7:00 at 45 High Street. This forum will be about the Safe Station program in Nashua.

Bob Mack reported that the City has submitted another three-year grant application to HUD for renewed funding for HOPWA subsidies and that this program is in conjunction with the Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force and Harbor Homes.

Bob also reported that Nashua Department of Public Health and Community Services is the first public health department in NH to achieve accreditation status and that this demonstrates the level of services provided through community partners.

Wendy LeBlanc stated that she cannot attend the May GNCOC meeting and asked that if anyone was available to fill in and take minutes to please let Ana know.

Kevin O'Meara from Local First talked about the Neighborhood Merchant Alliance and Donation Network and the events they are trying to coordinate for National Small Business Week, which is April 30- May 6. They are planning a variety of activities to promote small business. They are looking for presenters to talk about partnerships between businesses and non-profit agencies. Kevin will send an email with more details as they are available.

Christy Shaw from the Balance of State COC shared that the COC application (NOFA) is scheduled to be released in May, with a close date in August. She also let us know that they are forming a new subcommittee on youth homelessness.

Liz Fitzgerald reported that One Greater Nashua, a group that helps new Nashua residents acclimate to the community, will hold their next group at the Nashua Public Library on Thursday 4/6/17 at 3:30 PM.

Dan Weeks let us know that SB3, a bill to restrict voter access passed the NH Senate. If you would like more information about this, you can speak to Dan. Dan is also a member of the newly forming Energy and Environment Committee and is available to provide more information on that as well.

Doug Howard reminded us that Literacy Day at Nashua High North would be held on Saturday, April 8th from 9-12. The Lion's Club will be doing eyeglass screenings. Nashua Transit is providing free transportation for the event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 AM.

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