

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Nashua City Hall, June 7, 2017

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

Minutes from the May 3, 2017 meeting were reviewed. A few typing corrections were noted. Barbara Alves motioned to approve with amendment, Peter Kelleher seconded. The motion passed without objection.

Committee Reports:

Board:

Ana Pancine reported that the Board did not meet in May and reminded the group that all GNCOC committees do not hold meetings in July so our next full GNCOC meeting will be August 2nd.

At the April Board meeting, the group reviewed policies and procedures to determine if any changes need to be made prior to the COC application coming out from HUD. They also discussed future presentations and the Point In Time (PIT) count. Abigail Alicea is no longer the Co-Chair of the GNCOC as she has left her position at GNMHC.

Ending Homelessness:

Chair Bob Mack was not present so Wendy LeBlanc gave the group an overview of the standard topics of discussion at the Ending Homelessness meetings.

Community Relations:

Pat Murphy let Ana know prior to the meeting that she had no report and no updates. Mike Apfelberg let folks know that United Way has started a weekly radio show on Mondays from 9:00-10:00Am to discuss non-profits and their impact on the community. He is currently booked through September but encourages anyone interested in being on the show to reach out to him.

Data Gathering:

Akshat (AK) Gadgil distributed a handout regarding data quality. He explained that data was submitted early to HUD (in advance of the COC application) and the data quality is excellent. He also shared that the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)'s System Performance report shows that the average length of homelessness in our COC is 15 days, which is showing a decrease. He discussed a number of data points with the group and questions were asked. He did mention that HUD may be changing what standards are measured. He also said that anyone who is interested in data collection is welcome to contact him and join the committee.

Peter Kelleher pointed out that data show that the Housing First model really works.

Wendy LeBlanc also took a moment to explain to new attendees how the data and HMIS ties into our COC application and how that funding is tied to the GNCOC's processes.

Some new members asked for help in getting set up with HMIS.

Employment:

Tom Lopez talked about the planning that is taking place for the Employment Connect event. A community volunteer has taken on the role of coordinator for the event and is working to get employers to participate in the event. The committee is looking for support in the form of amenities or donations. He explained that Employment Connect is different from other job fairs because they offer services for clients prior to approaching employers, such as clothing, haircuts, resume and interviewing skills. Financial donations from participating agencies are also very appreciated.

Tom also invited anyone to participate in the ongoing Employment committee meetings as they usually discuss other issues regarding employment. They meet the third Thursday at the Nashua Soup Kitchen on Quincy Street at 3:00pm. (an email was sent to the group later stating that the meeting is actually from 1:00-2:00pm)

Youth:

Doug Howard shared that the subcommittee will be meeting for the first time on June 20 from 9:30-10:30 at Nashua High North. Folks can let Doug know if they are interested in joining. The first meeting is to identify what everyone in the community is doing, this group will hopefully supplement what is already taking place. Tomorrow they are having a conference call with "Ryan's House for Homeless Youth", a host home program out of Washington. Others are welcome to join if they wish to go to Peter Kelleher's office at 77 Northeastern Boulevard at noon.

Tom Lopez asked about engaging with the Boys and Girls Club and said he will give Doug the contact info.

Other Groups:

Donna from NSKS will email Olga's notes from the Shelter Director's meeting.

Peter Kelleher talked about his participation in the VA Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans and explained how this national committee travels to various locations to see how veterans homelessness is being addressed. The group will be coming to Nashua September 13-15, 2017. It is likely that they will want to meet with the COC Board.

Announcements:

Tom Lopez shared that the Positive Street Art mural being painted currently near City Hall has the theme of "Gratitude" and is meant to inspire our homeless clients.

Don Pare talked about the gentleman who has doing free bike repairs for some time and is now partnering with St Patrick to do an event on August 5, 2017 from 9-3. They are looking for donations of good parts and bicycles.

Sylvia Gale shared a couple upcoming events:

Nashua Community Conversation on Race and Justice, Inc. is holding a conversation to build positive relationships with local Police Department. Thursday, June 15, 2017 at Rivier University at 6:00PM. Table facilitators are needed.

June 20 is the Refugee Day Celebration at Adult Learning Center from 11-12.

Gate City Immigrant biannual summit will be on October 13, 2017.

Susan Mead shared that the National Guard is holding a Welcome Home event for Vietnam Veterans on June 17 at Alvirne in Hudson. Tables/booths open at 10:00 and the ceremony will begin at 11:00. Our Governor and Federal delegates will be there.

Michael Reinke talked about the community collaboration working to provide breakfast and lunch to children in the Crown Hill neighborhood throughout the summer. There will be six locations where families can pick up the food. Beth Todgham shared that Southern NH Services also provides food throughout the City during the summer months, and this collaborative program in the Dr. Crisp Area is a pilot to see if they can make a bigger impact.

Ana indicated that we were running over meeting time and said that any additional announcements can be emailed to her and she will forward to the group.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05AM.

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