

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

Nashua City Hall, September 6, 2017

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

Minutes from the August 2, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Peter Kelleher motioned to approve, Candace Gebhart seconded. The motion passed without objection.

Committee Reports:

Board:

Ana Pancine reported that there were not many people in attendance at the August meeting due to vacations and conferences. The group reviewed the policies and procedures as required by HUD, to be submitted with the COC application. Ana reviewed some other items in regards to the COC application, such as extending the deadline for the bonus project submission.

No one has come forward with willingness to assume any of the leadership roles within the COC that need to be filled as Ana and Wendy LeBlanc have completed their terms. Ana and Wendy discussed the roles and what the positions would involve. Tom Lopez explained that as current GNCOC Vice Chair, he would normally assume the role of Chair but due his Aldermanic role, that may be perceived as a conflict. He said he would remain as Vice-Chair unless someone else comes forward. Gary Hooper stated that he would be willing to be Vice-Chair.

Ending Homelessness:

Rick Rutter, Vice Chair, reported that this committee would be meeting again after the GNCOC meeting and invited folks to stay. He mentioned the upcoming Coordinated Entry meeting and the updated Toolkit which is on the GNCOC webpage. He let us know that the group also discussed youth homelessness initiatives last month.

Community Relations:

Pat Murphy had no updates as the committee is currently not meeting regularly but they are always available to do presentations about the COC process to community groups or Boards that might want to know more about it. She said she wasn't sure what was happening with the webpage and Ana stated that we are waiting to hear about some free support.

Data Gathering:

Akshat (AK) Gadgil shared that this committee has been meeting regularly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 77 NE Blvd in Nashua. The next meeting is on 9/12 at 9:00AM. The goal of this committee is to understand the data that exists and eventually use that data to inform policies. They are focusing on performance measures on current COC programs. They also have a data page now on the GNCOC webpage.

Akshat also told us about the process used this year to rank the projects on the COC application. Since it is supposed to all be driven by data from the Annual Progress Reports (APR), they asked a neutral party to do the ranking and the United Way agreed and did a wonderful job.

Ana spoke a little more about the COC application and the necessity of data.

Employment:

Tom Lopez talked about the planning that is taking place for the Employment Connect event which will be held on 9/20/17 at the St Pat's gym. From 8-1 there will be supports available such as clothing, haircuts and employment prep. 10-2 will be the actual job fair. Greater Nashua Mental Health Center, Nashua Public Library and SNHU volunteers have been instrumental in coordinating the "Suit yourself" clothing drive. Bins are located around town to collect clothes suitable to wear to work.

A community member has taken on the role of coordinator for the event, for a small stipend, and is working to get employers to participate in the event. So far she has done really well at recruiting.

Youth:

Doug Howard shared that the subcommittee met last week and are working to find solutions for homeless kids. He met with some folks at DHHS who said that we should focus on the 18-22 year old population, as opposed to under 18. Doug reviewed the "Host home" model that they are looking into. This committee normally meets the 3rd Tuesdays of the month but will not be meeting in September due to school starting.

Other Groups:

Peter Kelleher shared that the Secretary of the VA Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans and other committee members will be coming to Nashua next week to see our programs up close and see how we ended veteran homelessness in Greater Nashua.

Olga Cruz had emailed Ana that there was no shelter director's meeting to report on.

Announcements:

Wendy LeBlanc reminded folks that the 10th Annual Thomas O Cash HIV/AIDS Walk is going to be at Greeley Park on 9/16.

Tom Lopez talked about the Downtown Arts Festival that will be taking place on Saturday, 9/9 from 1-5PM.

Don Pare said that the bike program has been extremely successful and they are now having a weekly bike clinic at St Pats every Monday from 3-7PM.

John Miller from Job Corps introduced his colleagues and program, letting us know they offer job training with housing for people aged 16-24.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54AM.

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