

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the April 2, 2008 meeting
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Wendy Furnari, Eileen Brady, Linda Jeynes, Jerry Leclerc, Katherine Merrill, Klaas Nijhuis, Peter Kelleher, Carol Furlong, Linda Newell, Jessica Karwatske, Laurie Goodman, Lori Lonsdale, Laura Nault, Candace Gebhart,

The meeting began at 9:10 with a review of the minutes. J. Leclerc moved to accept the minutes as written. P. Kelleher seconded and the minutes passed unanimously.

Introductions were made.

B. Mack asked for updates on the Workforce Housing legislation. E. Brady and P. Kelleher shared the discussion that took place at the recent Legislative Affairs subcommittee meeting, including the concern that one State rep. from Nashua shared about this legislation not actually doing anything to provide more resources. E. Brady gave her perspective about why this will help and cited an example of Neighborhood Housing working on a project in Milford.

B. Mack asked if anyone had any additional updates regarding prevention strategies. None were offered.

B. Mack brought up the universal application and asked if there was any movement. K. Nijhuis indicated that it has been some time since he has been involved with this. B. Mack mentioned the DHHS online application and that might be helpful to learn more about. He indicated that Commissioner Toumpas is coming to Nashua soon and Bob hopes to he can join a GNCOC meeting. J. Karwatske confirmed that the Financial Assistance Network (FAN) is still using a shared application form.

E. Brady mentioned the asset building brochure that the United Way has published. She is giving this out to all consumers requesting financial assistance. W. Furnari said she would contact Ray Peterson and see if we could get him to bring some to the next GNCOC meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the Individual Development Account (IDA) program administered by the Care Center. J. Karwatske stated that there is currently only one person enrolled in the program. They did have a graduate that got his Doctorate, and they are now changing the guidelines to include purchasing a car.

B. Mack asked about the focus groups for homeless persons. K. Merrill reported that the first two sessions are scheduled for 4/7/08 at Connections and Ash Street shelter. 4/14/08 will be at Kinsley Street shelter and 4/28/08 will be at Maple Street Shelter. They plan to ask questions regarding the causes of homelessness, etc... K. Nijhuis inquired about

having groups at Anne Marie House or at transitional living facilities. E. Brady indicated that this is a start. B. Mack said that this is targeted to folks using the shelter system.

P. Kelleher offered an overview of the early warning system he has proposed. This has been shifted to the wrap around group for discussion. There are many questions and concerns to be addressed regarding the feasibility of the project. Full deliberation will take place at the next wrap around meeting.

P. Kelleher reported that the Legislative Affairs committee identified 6 elements in the 10- year Plan that were assigned to the LA committee. There have been several modifications made. P. Kelleher inquired as to how we get these updates to the EHC. B. Mack requested that the modifications be sent to him for inclusion in the Plan.

E. Brady mentioned that in Manchester's 10-year plan they have a paid coordinator through the United Way. She said that it's a good thing we have folks in our Continuum that are capable of taking this on.

B. Mack mentioned that he is connecting with Chris Williams of the Chamber of Commerce to discuss components in our Plan, including a job fair.

K. Merrill shared her challenge with not having a referral to offer sex offenders who call the shelter. C. Gebhart said that she is aware of one shelter in Massachusetts that will accept this population. No one knew what town the shelter is in.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM

The next meeting will take place on May 7, 2008 the City Hall auditorium.