

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes April 2, 2008
Nashua City Hall Auditorium
www.nashua-coc.org**

Call to Order: 8:00 a.m. by Acting Chair Wendy Furnari.

All present introduced themselves and visitors welcomed.

Minutes of March 5, 2008(handout): B. Mack noted the corrections in the following paragraphs, page 1, paragraphs 4 and 5, page 2, paragraphs 6 and 8. B. Mack motioned to accept the minutes with corrections. J. Leclerc seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Election of Officers: W. Furnari mentioned that the Executive committee met on March 19th and discussed the slate of officers. W. Furnari indicated that she would step up as chair and P. Kelleher mentioned he wouldn't mind being a Co-Chair if someone else offered to assist. W. Furnari asked for a motion to elect her as Chair. Barbara Alves motioned to elect Wendy Furnari as Chair. M. Read seconded the motion and the motion carried.

SuperNOFA Update: P. Kelleher mentioned that the first meeting was held on March 19th at Harbor Homes and the NOFA is due to be released late spring. Marie Herb and Gina Schaak from TAC also attended the meeting. The committee looked at scoring and strategies. He also mentioned that everything will be submitted electronically and each agency will be individually submitting. W. Furnari announced that Lori Piper from Merrimack County Saving Bank has agreed to supply lunch for those who attend the meetings.

Request for Letter of Support: P. Kelleher requested a letter of support from the Continuum for a veterans grant. The first portion of the grant would be funding for new vans and second portion of the grant would be to increase the capacity of units for homeless veterans. He also mentioned that at this time there are 247 homeless veterans in New Hampshire. L. Christie motioned to honor P. Kelleher's request. B. Mack seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Presentation: NH Legal Assistance- Candace Gebhart presented for Attorney Elliott Barry. Candace supplied many handouts regarding tenant's rights. She explained that 50% of the cases handled are evictions. NH Legal Assistance is working to help stop homelessness by helping tenants when they are facing eviction for non payment of rent. Tenants are usually given a Notice to Quit and a Demand for Rent which they have 7 days to pay or they will be given a court date. C. Gebhart indicated she encourages tenants to wait until the last day to set a hearing date. If there are issues other than non payment of rent, the tenant usually has 30 days. A lot of times the court will issue a discretionary stay for 90 days if the family has children attending school or if the eviction is connected to a disability. M. Read asked if there was a limit to the amount of security deposit that a landlord can ask for. C. Gebhart indicated that it is limited to one month's rent and it is illegal to ask for first, last and security when a tenant moves in. M. Read also asked if there is any recourse for not returning a security deposit. C. Gebhart indicated that a landlord has 30 days to return the deposit and must supply a detailed list regarding any repairs. Another question that was asked was if there is any recourse for maintenance issues. Tenants can withhold rent for maintenance issues but they must notify the landlord and file a Form 540A with the court.

J. Karwatske questioned what is considered to be normal wear and tear. C. Gebhart explained that it is usually painting and sometimes carpet if someone has a disability. She indicated that tenants should always be advised to take pictures.

C. Dubois asked if a tenant is able to go back to retrieve there personal items. C. Gebhart indicated that the landlord is required to store the items in a dry, convenient and secure place and can not charge for a storage area.

S. Mead asked how many staff members are with NH Legal Assistance and if there are any priorities. C. Gebhart mentioned that the first priority is keeping people housed. She also indicated that there are 2 Attorneys, 2 Para's and 2 Support staff.

B. Mack asked if rules are different with a rooming house. C. Gebhart responded yes and explained that tenancy is usually 90 days and tenants are required to leave and come back after a week. She also mentioned that bed bugs are considered a nuisance and not a health hazard.

Announcements:

W. Furnari mentioned that Mary Febonio has stepped down as Chair of the Community Relations committee and the next meeting will be held at 45 High Street in the Board Room on April 10th at 11:00.

W. Furnari reported on behalf of State Rep. J. Schulze that the bill for IDs did not pass, it was considered Inexpedient to the Legislature.

S. Mead mentioned that the State is looking into suspending and not terminating Medicaid for 30 days when people are in prison.

M. Read mentioned that there are 38 to 100 individuals and families homeless in Manchester after a fire. They are being temporarily housed in the St. Joseph Regional High School. B. Mack requested the number to the Manchester Red Cross. M. Read provided 624-4307.

P. Kelleher announced that Harbor Homes will be placing a public notice that the Mainstream housing list will be reopening. The program is designed for low income individuals and families with disabilities. He indicated that some of the preferences will be local residents, homeless families and veterans.

L. Jeynes provided a handout with the results from the Point in Time Count and L. Newell provided APR handouts for the SuperNOFA goals.

J. Karwatske mentioned there will be a Financial Literacy Program on April 30, 2008 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Care Center. The program is held once a week for 7 weeks.

B. Mack reminded everyone of a survey that was sent via e-mail for the functional needs population and emergency preparedness. A conference will be held on June 5, 2008 at Rivier College.

S. Mead mentioned an event that she attended for librarians and it was an opportunity to provide everyone with information and the COC website.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Berube, Harbor Homes, Inc.