

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the August 2, 2006 Meeting
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Wendy Furnari, Gene Murray, Germano Martins, Linda Jeynes, Klaas Nijhuis, David Cull, Deb Fluet, Eileen Brady, Tony Epaphras and Wayne MacDonald.

The meeting began at 9:00 am.

Minutes were reviewed from the July 5, 2006 meeting. Klaas asked David for the name of the woman from Soul Purpose that attended so that her name could be added to the minutes. He replied that her name is Theresa Rodnois. Klaas motioned that the minutes be accepted as amended, Tony seconded. Motion passed.

Bob began the meeting by discussing the Ending Homelessness Plan and the challenge of tracking our successes in regards to the action steps in the plan. Klaas suggested that the way to measure this will be by tracking the # of homeless unsheltered, the # of transitional and permanent beds and the # of units of affordable housing. If we could document the staving off of evictions that would also be good but there does not seem to be a mechanism to capture this data.

Much discussion took place regarding the fact that our APRs and other reporting tools don't give an opportunity to document anecdotal information on the psychological challenges or other social indicators. Tony and David talked about the importance of case management and emotional support, but again, how do we document this? HUD's forms have check boxes or fill in the blanks, and don't offer a place for narrative information.

Klaas said that perhaps HUD doesn't want this narrative info but other funders such as private foundations do. He suggested that we have a committee historian to read the newspapers and keep track of success stories and issues that could have been prevented. Although no one volunteered to take this role, the committee decided to spend some time at the beginning of each future meeting sharing success stories so that they can be documented in the minutes of this committee. Wendy volunteered to send an email to the GNCOC membership, inviting them to come to the EHC meetings to share stories.

More discussion took place about the importance of case management for homeless or formerly homeless clients. For example, the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter is doing a great job of moving folks into permanent housing, but they do not have the resources to provide ongoing case management to these people. Tony mentioned how HUD continues to move away from providing money for supportive services. We all make referrals to agencies but many do not have enough case management. Some agencies like the HIV/AIDS Task Force and Soul Purpose have very hands-on case management but many other places can not provide such intensive services.

Bob distributed copies of the tenant toolkit for folks to take back to their agencies for their clients. Gene confirmed that he has provided the NPD with his business cards and Officer MacDonald confirmed that they have been added to the Department's "hot sheet" that all the officers carry.

Germano reported on the Rapid re-housing subcommittee. The group met and reviewed how rapid re-housing fits into the Ending Homelessness Plan. They are looking for more members. They have contacted David Blacksmith from the Southern NH Rescue Mission. Germano talked about having a universal application like they do in the North country, to streamline client participation in various programs. This would be available at a user section of the CoC website as well as a list of landlords. They will explore this further at their next meeting. There was also some discussion regarding Memorandums of Understanding between agencies, but Germano feels that they are unnecessary.

Germano also talked about the TANF expo in Manchester, which they are planning to replicate in Nashua tentatively on November 30th. Since TANF regulations have changed to require healthy adults on TANF to work or volunteer. It is an opportunity for approximately 20 agencies accepting TANF volunteers to setup tables and TANF recipients can come through and get information or sign up to volunteer.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25am.

The next meeting will take place on September 6, 2006 at 9:00 at City Hall rm 208.