

GNCOOC  
Ending Homelessness Committee  
Minutes of the 12/2/09 Meeting

Present at the meeting were: Jessica Karwatske, Mike Amichetti, Wendy LeBlanc, Laura Nault, Magaly Rios, Kathryn Paquette, Eileen Brady, Janet Roy, Dennis Roy, Jerry Leclerc, Katherine Merrill, Angela Linke, Laurie Skibba, Joan Koliss, Michael DeFabio, Tony Epaphras, Lianne Bower

9:00am: Call to Order

Introductions

Review of minutes of the 11/4/09 meeting.

J. Roy noted a correction to the minutes on page 1, paragraph 7; currently the Roys are storing donated household items at their own home for Project Fresh Start, and are searching for some warehouse space so they can store donated items. They currently do not have warehouse space available.

W. LeBlanc made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. J. Leclerc seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Project Homeless Connect

E. Brady noted that the PHC planning has been going very smoothly. Approximately 20 agencies are signed up. She reminded the committee to promote the event, as there are many families in town who are new to homelessness.

Tenant's Rights Workshop

No date has been set yet for the Landlord Workshop. The Tenant's Rights workshop was held on 11/20/09 at Harbor Homes. L. Nault said she found the workshop to be very informative, and although she already knew some of the information, she did learn some new things. Lots of questions were asked. J. Karwatske mentioned she also attended the workshop and was disappointed that only 10 people showed up. However, the material presented was very informative.

E. Brady suggested that maybe the Tenant's Rights Workshop could be held quarterly and perhaps at different times of day to accommodate the schedules of more people. Unfortunately the workshop was held at 2pm, which is when many parents are picking up their kids from school.

## Census

K. Paquette said that Homeless Outreach has been contacted by the U.S. Census workers to provide them with information about numbers of homeless folks and where they are staying. Homeless Outreach has decided only to give general information to respect the confidentiality & safety of persons who may be unsheltered and living in the woods.

## Immigrant Integration Initiative

W. LeBlanc brought up the Immigrant Immigration Initiative that Foquia Ijaz spoke about during the regular CoC meeting. There are many problems that arise when considering the challenges that newly settled refugees and immigrants face, including affordable housing.

Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of lobbying the government about increasing the benefit amount that refugees receive for housing. Unfortunately they all receive the same amount of funds regardless of the price of rent in the communities in which they settle. New immigrants have a limited amount of time in which to learn to speak the language and find a job, and are not eligible for Section 8 or Public Housing because they are not citizens.

The meeting adjourned early at 9:29am.

Minutes prepared by Jessica Karwatske, NPCC