

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care Ending Homelessness Committee

Minutes of the March 2, 2011 Meeting

Present at the meeting were: Eileen Brady, Magaly Rios, Jerry LeClerc, Katherine Merrill, Kathy Paquette, Anne Allgaier, Dennis Roy, Janet Roy, Raymond Villeneuve, Wendy LeBlanc, Joan Koliss

9:05 am Call to Order by Chair Eileen Brady

Minutes from January 5th meeting were reviewed. There was no meeting in February due to the weather. J. LeClerc made a motion to accept the minutes & J. Roy second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Accomplishments to be added to our 10 year plan: Nothing new noted.

E. Brady reported that there has been a lot more awareness on all the different bills in the State legislature. There is one bill that includes having people get a drug test if they need assistance from Department of Health and Human Services. This makes it a barrier to some people. Who would pay for the drug test? W. LeBlanc added the Mary from the NH Food Bank is helping people enroll for Food Stamps. You don't know if you qualify unless you apply.

E. Brady gave the committee a handout named "A hundred or so things you or your organization might do to end homelessness in Greater Nashua". The groups focused on the Community Building section. Develop a community center for the homelessness. We currently have "The Connection Club house" that use to be called "Connections". W. LeBlanc noted that Nathan has left Harbor Homes. Come July we may not have it due to funding. K. Paquette expressed that is not a community center for the homeless like it use to be before it was the Connection club house. It's more structured & makes it hard because there is no where to meet with the homeless. Club House is great for the homeless but many choose not to go anymore because you cannot just go and hang out there anymore.

K. Merrill stated that their will be a big impact come July with all the budget cuts. E. Brady expressed how important it is to call your local state representative.

There will be more crimes committed if the homeless have nowhere to go. People that never been homeless will become homeless. Harbor Homes may lose money for the homeless shelters. The shelter has been maxed out since April 2010. Group discussed affordable access to community based organizations that encourages human development like Rivier College and High Schools. At the Nashua Public Library many homeless people go during the day. No complaints from staff but low on customers.

E. Brady suggested is a good time to educate people about all the bad things that will happen after the state budget cut. J. Roy stated that we need more compassionate legislators. Some people are single minded & have no idea in what it is to be out in the streets homeless. We need to educate our families

& our community that homelessness does exist. Maybe a public service announcement is called for. Getting the students involved having a contest in finding a catchy slogan to put on the Soup Kitchen truck for awareness. Vista Print will print things out for free.

W. LeBlanc expressed concerns that once again the committee is coming up with great things to discuss and lots of interesting, philosophical discussion is taking place, but not too many tasks are being identified and delegated.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00

Minutes prepared by Magaly Rios, Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force