

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the May 2, 2007 meeting
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Wendy Furnari, Lori Wilshire, Jerry Leclerc, Laura Nault, Anne Quinn, Eileen Brady, Linda Jeynes, Mary Andosca, Sarah Soboslai, Jean Russell, Jessica Karwatske, Sue Mead, Jaime Contois and Tony Epaphras (late arrival)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Bob Mack. Minutes from the April 4, 2007 minutes were reviewed. Lori motioned to accept the minutes, Mary seconded, motioned carried.

Bob reported that there are no committee updates for prevention and rapid re-housing. He mentioned that wrap-around services are still happening with the wrap-around meetings that take place consistently to review individual cases and engage all agencies working with the client to plan for meeting all needs.

Jerry was thanked for St. Joseph's Hospital providing the homeless outreach cards, which were distributed at the GNCOC meeting.

Bob focused on the Ending Homelessness Plan and mentioned that the past month has been consumed by SuperNOFA work so not as much attention has been directed towards the Plan. He explained to new committee members what the plan is and the challenges we have had in keeping it updated and organized. Wendy mentioned that this committee work is in addition to all of our regular jobs and it is difficult to find time to work on this.

The committee acknowledged that many goals are being met but may not be documented. Eileen mentioned the minimum wage increase and how that will positively impact the folks we serve. Lori asked for an update on the legislation regarding IDs for folks getting out of institutions. As far as we know it has passed. Sue is on the committee working to suspend rather than terminate Medicaid for folks institutionalized. Bob talked about SB226 regarding changing sanctions to TANF recipients not able to meet requirements.

Bob mentioned that working with local landlords needs to be rejuvenated. Inventory of agencies is basically done and the City intern did some work on resource surveys. Wendy mentioned that she had heard from the intern that NHA does not provide subsidies to people with HIV, which everyone found hard to believe. Lori volunteered to look into this and also to find out the status of the waitlist. Discussed that GAPS work is still ongoing, revolving loan fund is working and hopes to increase based on new State legislation that is pending (Governor's \$400,000 rental assistance proposal). We have already identified which agencies target specific subpopulations. However, there are other pieces of the plan that are very cumbersome and challenging to report on such as the piece about increasing funds for employment services. Eileen mentioned that Job Corps is coming and that the ABLE Network recently received federal funds for the 55+ population.

Bob's goal is to update the Plan prior to the meeting with the Board of Alderman scheduled for late May.

Jamie talked about her experience with universities and interns and will share contact info with Bob. Discussed the challenges of turning over something like this to an intern and Jamie offered some suggestions. Need to break down into more specific tasks – i.e.: housing resource survey, specific data collection/analysis, etc.

More conversation took place about whether or not we have a baseline number for some of the action steps i.e.: creating new beds. Do we know how many we had to start with? Jean is going to check the last few SuperNOFAs to see what she can get from there. Eileen also suggested that the Mayor's Task Force on Affordable Housing might have some data. Lori thought that GIS might have this info and Bob offered to contact Angelo, the Chief Assessor for the City of Nashua.

Anne asked about the seized property she keeps seeing advertised on TV. The group said that the cost to purchase and run is not feasible.

Lori asked about the Point In Time count and suggested that we ask each Mayoral candidate what they plan to do to end homelessness and address affordable housing issues.

Jamie offered some additional suggestions about our process such as setting 3 action step goals for the next meeting. She said she is working with a coach on this type of goal setting and will share her info with Bob as well.

Laura asked if there was an update from Code Enforcement regarding the Rescue Mission. Linda reported that Code Enforcement is working with Rev. Blacksmith and he is trying to qualify it as a church. Eileen said that she recently spoke to Marc Plamondon and although he brought the subject up to her, he was not aware of any problems.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20am.

The next meeting will take place on June 6, 2007 in Room 208 of City Hall