

**Minutes of the
Ending Homelessness Committee
Of the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
March 30, 2006, 8:30 – 10:00 am
Harbor Homes Board Room**

Present at the meeting:

Bob Mack (EHC Chair), Eileen Brady, Maria Brown, Lori Cardin, Linda Jeynes, Peter Kelleher, Jack Kelley, Wayne MacDonald, Laura Nault, Klaas Nijhuis (minutes), Anne Quinn, Jean Russell, Lisa Tufts

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am.

Minutes from the March 1 meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Linda Jeynes, seconded by Laura Nault, the minutes were approved as presented.

The group agreed to reduce the number of meetings of this committee to one per month (following the general Continuum meeting) allowing time for subcommittees to meet and do their work.

The partnering support letter previously e-mailed to members of the committee was discussed. One typo was caught and the membership accepted the text for mailing through regular post. Suggestions were made as to who else to send it to. Peter Kelleher agreed to have Harbor Homes prepare the mailing list ASAP to Lori Cardin for mailing. It was noted that the letterhead was approved at the previous General CoC meeting.

Subcommittee updates:

Prevention strategy: Bob Mack spoke about the activities around establishing the revolving loan fund. He said he would also get back to the other matters of the Prevention Strategy subcommittee after he finishes preparing for the annual budget presentation. Lori Cardin noted that she is still awaiting some language from Maryse Wirbal for incorporation into a Resolution by the Board of Aldermen for City funding going towards capitalizing the Revolving Loan Fund.

Bob Mack still needs to connect with John Nelson of the School Administration regarding linking those homeless families reported by the schools in the Annual Homeless Census (GAPS) with available services.

Rapid Re-housing: Last month, an e-mail invitation to join this committee was sent out by Germano Martins and Klaas Nijhuis to the general membership of the Continuum. To date no one has responded. The subcommittee chairs will next extend phone invitations to persons who would be helpful to have on the subcommittee.

Other: Bob Mack reminded us that we are now in SuperNOFA season, with an end-May deadline; that may impact the time that can be dedicated to other subcommittee work.

The committee was alerted to a poverty simulation done in Savannah Georgia as reported by NPR and brought to our attention by Maria Brown. An e-mail was sent around earlier with the reference

material. There was discussion about incorporating such a simulation in a conference to create awareness of homelessness and poverty within our community – a follow up to our prior two conferences.

Plan Execution: Klaas Nijhuis was asked what progress he has made on getting an intern to help with tracking Plan progress and doing analysis. He reminded the committee that he had agreed to get someone by April. Additional suggestions were provided by the members as to where interns might be recruited from: Tech College, Carol Furlong's contacts, Church Youth Groups, High School Student Senate announcements, School Resource Officers.

Eileen Brady talked about the State House activities she was involved with on March 29 regarding affordable housing. The general sentiment is that affordable housing given the tax and land use structures in this state, can not affectively be addressed at the state level, but must be done at the local level. There is a lunch meeting March 31 at St. Paul's Church in Concord for further development of awareness of housing and poverty issues that Eileen will be attending.

Maria Brown commented on the presentation at Anheuser-Busch regarding the Workforce housing initiative of the United Way. She provided names of several who attended.

Wayne MacDonald asked if municipal welfare collects anecdotal information on individual homeless circumstances. Maria Brown and Bob Mack indicated that they did. Wayne MacDonald confirmed that the police may be able to identify where the homeless might reside.

Bob Keating mentioned the article on the Concord Hospital discharge of a homeless person to the Congregational Church shelter and who died 12 hours later. Bob Mack mentioned the discharge planning efforts undertaken at the State by Patrick Herlihy and Mariellen Durso locally. Peter Kelleher mentioned that the US Interagency Council is focusing on Concord for the next 10 Year Ending Homeless Plan. He also mentioned the conversations occurring between Keystone Hall and the two hospitals and invited members of the committee to attend the noontime meetings, which occur the first Fri of every month at 45 High Street. There was an expressed frustration with the lack of meat in policies, and that we ought to start moving to legislation. The problem is there is no oversight. It was suggested to contact Joan Schulze to see if she might consider reenergizing the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Continuum.

Ann Quinn discussed her personal experiences around homelessness. She noted the need for housing for those with dual addictions. The Ending Homeless Plan has in it the creation of recovery-based housing with supportive services.

Bob Keating mentioned going forward with an affordable housing trust fund, and talked about approaching Nashua's billionaire to capitalize it. It was agreed to bring the matter to the Executive Committee of the Continuum.

Maria Brown lamented that sympathy towards the homeless and those in poverty is frequently dismissed as "they ought to do something for themselves".

On a motion by Bob Keating seconded by Jack Kelley, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 am.