

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care Ending Homeless Committee

Minutes of August 3, 2011

Present at the meeting were: Eileen Brady, Magaly Rios, Candace Gebhart, Bob Mack, Laurie Skibba, Ray Villeneuve, Wendy LeBlanc, Laura Nault, Katie Merrill

Call to order 9:05 by Bob Mack

Minutes from June 1st were reviewed. There was a typo in the last minutes. C. Gebhart made a motion to accept the minutes K. Merrill second the minutes as amended.

No introductions needed.

E. Brady shared with the group that she will have to leave the meeting early as she needs to attend another meeting at Citizen's Bank regarding the changes in NH & how that will impact the non-profits and the services we provide. B. Mack feels it's great that the local bank is looking at this issue that will impact the community.

Group went over the Ten year Plan

#1 – *Utilize Funding resources*: we already have in Place.

#2- *Create an organized strategy of resources for affordable housing*: we need to plan on how do we come up with an organized strategy?

#3- *Partnering with Landlords*: W. LeBlanc stated that many agencies have partnerships with landlords. The problem is telling others & having them make a poor referral. R. Villeneuve asked how we know the "bad" landlords. Many landlords don't care for people & even lie about some things making clients scared that they may lose their subsidy. W. LeBlanc suggested using legal assistance. C. Gebhart stated just because their office will no longer be in Nashua does not mean you can not utilize them.

#4- *Conduct a public forum to determine how to best address the question of intra-state & inter-state homeless resources, & the question of residential requirements for homeless service provision*: It's unknown what other cities are doing. The Coalition to End Homeless is coming out of the plan because they are no longer operating.

L. Skibba asked if there is an inventory list with names of landlords. B. Mack answered that the Toolkit contains some landlord listings. It was also noted that the NH Housing website has a listing of landlords that are helpful & willing to work with tenants. L. Skibba shared that mortgages are very challenging. Has tried to get clients homes but no realtor is willing to help. Someone mentioned that networking with local banks may help.

#5 – *Develop a standardized application process among area provides for housing and/or services to simplify the process for clients & providers*: We had spent some time working on this but came to the

conclusion that it won't work in the ways we had hoped. W. LeBlanc stated it's challenging because different funders require specific forms. B. Mack talked about the benefit to the client to have a "face sheet" to carry with them and present at each new intake or appointment. Discussed removing from the current goals.

#6- Create a NH Trust: No one really knows the details of this. This was an idea fostered by the original drafters of this Plan. Need to bring back to the Executive Committee.

#7- Investigate mainstream funders/resources that will provide a full range housing placement services for victims of Domestic Violence: Bridges is the only agency in town that works specifically with this population. Goal is 2-3 housing. We are short. We can rework it. We can recommend it then go to the executive committee & then to the bigger group.

#8- Educate & provide support to individuals & business to create employment opportunities for homeless person: We need to keep communicating with the Chamber. Project Employment Connect is struggling this year with getting employers to register. L. Skibba added now there is a new group of people that are losing jobs. W. LeBlanc stated it is due to the economy & many places losing funding & services are being cut. We will see a new group of homelessness. HUD is concentrating more on housing not on employment. B. Mack suggested we consider having an Employment subcommittee, possibly a continuation of the current PEC Planning Committee.

No further business meeting adjourned at 9:45

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