

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Ending Homelessness Committee
Minutes of the 2/3/10 Meeting
www.nashua-coc.org

Present at the meeting were: Jessica Karwatske, Mike Amichetti, Lianne Bower, Magaly Rios, Wendy LeBlanc, Cristal Solemne, Laura Nault, Eileen Brady, Dennis Roy, Janet Roy, Jerry Leclerc, Katherine Merrill, Kathryn Paquette, Laurie Skibba, Candace C. Gebhart, Jarretta Copeland, Barbaros Dinler and Germano Martins.

Call to order: 9:00am by chair Eileen Brady

Introductions

Review of minutes from the 1/6/10 meeting. W. LeBlanc made a motion to accept the minutes; C. Gebhart seconded the motion and motion carried.

The 10 Year Plan will be addressed at the meeting in March and all committee members are expected to bring a copy of the Plan with them to that meeting.

Landlord Workshop

C. Gebhart said that the Landlord workshop is being held on March 4, 2010 from 7-9pm at the Nashua Public Library. There will be a press release in the Telegraph and NHLA has sent a mailing to Landlords they are familiar with. Agencies can notify Landlords that they work with as well.

Attorneys Elliot Berry and Fred Myer will be discussing fair housing as well as obligations, responsibilities and rights of Landlords/property managers. L. Nault asked if tenants can come to this forum, and C. Gebhart said that no one will be turned away, but the topics are geared towards Landlords and property managers.

Sex Offenders

There has been much discussion statewide about the lack of shelter space available for sex offenders. K. Merrill noted a letter that was received by the committee of statewide shelter directors from the American Civil Liberties Union, regarding discrimination faced by sex offenders.

Both K. Merrill and K. Paquette stated that during the week after the ACLU letter was received, they have both gotten a number of calls from offenders in need of shelter. K. Paquette said the only shelter she knows of in NH that will house sex offenders is in Lancaster.

Discussion ensued around topics of liability and safety issues for shelter staff and all shelter guests if a sex offender is housed—not only the safety of children and other residents, but the safety of the offender as well.

E. Brady stressed that there are multiple concerns involved in this issue. She suggested forming a committee to address the issue, not only amongst the GNCOC, but statewide. This is certainly an issue that needs to be dealt with on a larger governmental level. She suggested that possibly a focus group could be put together, to ask shelter guests their opinions about safety issues in the shelters. If anyone wants to join the committee or has any ideas or suggestions about how to solve this problem, e-mail Eileen at Eileen@nksk.org.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00am

Minutes prepared by Jessica Karwatske, NPCC