

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the June 3, 2009 meeting
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Wendy LeBlanc, Eileen Brady, Jerry Leclerc, Candace Gebhart, Kathy Paquette, Germano Martins, Katie Merrill, Joan Koliss, Ray Peterson, Dean Levinson, Ken Lewis, Angela Linke, Emily Manire, Lianne Bower, and Barbaros Dinler

The meeting began at 9:10 with introductions. B. Mack indicated that he has been very busy due to a staff shortage at City Welfare. E. Brady indicated that she is willing to be Chair of this committee, with K. Paquette as Co-Chair.

Minutes from the May 6, 2009 minutes were reviewed. J. LeClerc made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by C. Gebhart. All were in favor.

W. LeBlanc made a motion to seat Eileen Brady and Kathy Paquette as Co-Chairs of the Ending Homelessness Committee. J. Koliss seconded the motion and the motion carried. All present thanked B. Mack for his long time commitment to this committee as its Chair.

Discussion took place regarding the recent media coverage surrounding homelessness, particular the encampment at Mines Falls. K. Paquette was recently contacted by NPR and she took them around Nashua. W. LeBlanc said that the Executive Committee will be working on holding a public forum to include City officials, police, GNCOC and other providers and the community at large to discuss the challenges of homelessness and brainstorm possible solutions. She spoke with the Mayor about it last week. This is still in the early discussion phase. G. Martins said that in Manchester, the police cleared out the encampments. E. Brady mentioned the Healthcare for the Homeless clinic will likely bring more folks in to care/services.

J. Koliss mentioned "Shanty Town" which is an education program for youth put on by the Immaculate Conception church. W. LeBlanc mentioned she has been asked to attend and present on the GNCOC and J. Koliss said other providers have also been invited.

J. LeClerc gave an update on the planning of Project Employment Connect. The first planning meeting was on 5/27/09 and 10 people from 9 different agencies came to the meeting. The event is for homeless, at risk, in transition, disabled and veterans. They are aiming for September 2009 and will hold the event at Harbor Homes from 9-12. The next meeting will take place on June 10, 2009. E. Manire indicated that this fits well with her Linkabilities project and she will plan to participate in the committee as well.

J. Koliss and J. LeClerc talked a bit more about their "Universal Application" for the Financial Aid Network and how it may not work well for all. D. Levinson expressed concerns about how clients might perceive this form. The group reviewed the uses and confidentiality assurances. Jerry or Joan will bring a copy to our next meeting. There was a brief discussion about NH Easy and A. Linke said there is another training coming up.

B. Dinler distributed information about CSAC (methadone clinic)

B. Mack mentioned that several GNCOC members had gone to Concord this morning to learn more about the HPRP funding.

B. Mack asked the committee to review the Wheel of Responsibility that is on the GNCOC website.

The group once again thanked Bob Mack for his excellent work as this committee's Chair.

D. Levinson suggested that we consider coming up with a mechanism for a corridor, or line of communication, between the GNCOC and City development to engage the business community.

D. Levinson also suggested that the GNCOC look at finding ways for the homeless community to assist with volunteer opportunities, such as Spanish translation of the GNCOC website.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM

The next meeting will either take place on July 1, 2009 or August 5, 2009 in the City Hall auditorium. Members will get an email with the correct date after the Executive Committee meets next week.