

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the September 3, 2008 meeting
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Wendy Furnari, Eileen Brady, Linda Jeynes, Jerry Leclerc, Peter Kelleher, Lori Lonsdale, Laura Nault, Candace Gebhart, Kathy Paquette, Germano Martins, Anne Quinn, Carol Furlong, Jessica Karwatske, Katie Merrill, Jack Kelley and Laurie Goodman.

The meeting began at 9:10 with introductions.

Minutes from the June 4, 2008 minutes were read as there was no meeting in July or August. J. Leclerc moved to accept the minutes, L. Jeynes seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion took place regarding the Early Warning System. This goes along with the Homeless Hotline as a method for community members to report incidences of homelessness. An auto response to the email will be developed. P. Kelleher asked when it will go live and B. Mack reported that it works now; we just need to promote it. Project Homeless Connect seems like a good launching point and we hope to have publicity for that event and media attention can mention the email address.

Project Homeless Connect was discussed. It is scheduled for 12/3/08 from 12:00-4:00PM at Harbor Homes. The Great American Downtown group may permit a banner this year, as the Chamber supports it, but we need to find sponsors to pay for it. P. Kelleher mentioned that it is important to gather good data on participants at PHC as it appears that the numbers of participants are dropping, which is a good thing. This is a measurement of success in ending homelessness. For the last three years we have had 40 client attendees, 160 client attendees and 107 client attendees counted respectively. K. Paquette mentioned that some folks come for the giveaways and may not be homeless, but it was agreed this was a positive thing to keep people connected.

Discussion took place around having a separate Employment Connect event. It is important to have an accessible location with access to transportation. There was some information shared about where folks can go to get bus tickets. J. Karwatske said that Nashua Pastoral Care Center often has bus tickets available. P. Kelleher shared that ½ of 1% of those on SSA get off of it. P. K. reported that MEAD clients can earn up to \$80,000 annually. There have been many changes to the system and pathways to get clients employed without losing benefits. The GNCOOC has done a tremendous job regarding housing and other services but one major challenge remains and that is in the area of employment. G. Martins said that there needs to be a program for homeless persons in need of employment. E. Brady stated that this is the program that Tom Lopez runs at the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter. B. Mack suggested that a group of employment providers need to come together to hold an event and coordinate services. P. Kelleher stated that “Linkabilities” the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant held by Gateways will be holding a conference of key stakeholders in May of 2009. In the meantime, E. Brady and P. Kelleher will discuss with appropriate staff at their agencies about forming a committee to discuss employment needs and possibly plan an event.

There was mention of the functional needs workgroup for emergency preparedness and the need to reschedule.

B. Mack reported that the Data Gathering Committee has been working on the Plan to End Homelessness, specifically reformatting / refining the action items and aligning them with Super NOFA goals.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM

The next meeting will take place on October 1, 2008 the City Hall auditorium.