

**Committee on Ending Homelessness**  
**Minutes of the April 4, 2007 meeting**  
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Wendy Furnari, Gene Murray, Tony Epaphras (late arrival), Deb Fluet, Lori Wilshire, Jerry Leclerc, Laura Nault, Anne Quinn, Eileen Brady, Linda Jeynes, Mary Andosca, Linda Newell, Klaas Nijhuis and Byron Stepner

Bob Mack called the meeting to order at 9:10 am. Minutes from the March 7, 2007 minutes were reviewed. Lori motioned to accept the minutes, Linda seconded, motioned carried.

Wendy introduced Byron Stepner to the group. Byron is interested in developing affordable housing in Nashua and is looking for input/mentorship from GNCOC members that may be willing to assist him in finding property that meets grant guidelines for targeted areas.

Bob reported that there are no committee updates for prevention and rapid re-housing. He mentioned that wrap-around services are still happening with the wrap-around meetings that take place consistently to review individual cases and engage all agencies working with the client to plan for meeting all needs.

Jerry reported that 5000 cards are in the process of being printed after editing an error on the proof. St. Joe's is paying for the cards despite the increase cost realized after Jerry's original quote to him was for 1000 cards, not 5000. Wendy suggested a thank you to the person at St. Joe's responsible for authorizing the expenditure. Jerry will get info to Bob and Bob will send a thank you letter.

Klaas discussed the SuperNOFA and some of the challenges this year. He did say that we ranked higher than the other NH Continuums last year. The biggest concern is that in order to get the full amount of points, each project needs to leverage 200% of the award. Eileen said that most states have state funding to use as leveraging but not in NH. Klaas said we need to mention these challenges when we meet with Congressman Hodes later this morning.

Additional items discussed to share with Congressman Hodes included the SuperNOFA process including the pro-rata share, that the 10 year Plan to End Homelessness is dependent upon Federal funds, Sen. Gregg's earmarks were eliminated from the HUD legislation, permanent housing is the mechanism to end homelessness and the expansion of Section 8 is key, and Housing First.

Klaas talked about the need to collect good data so we can quantify it when presenting to others. He mentioned the success of the HOPWA grant and how he was able to share with the Alderman recently that there are currently no homeless persons with HIV/AIDS in Nashua.

Bob talked about going back to the Plan and editing target dates. Lori said we should do that before the Community Relations committee goes before the Board of Alderman the second session in May. Bob said that Mayor Streeter wants his Directors and staff to see the presentation before it goes before the Alderman.

Eileen mentioned the housing trust fund is underway and we need to make folks aware of it.

Laura asked if anyone had heard from Mike Perez about whether or not Legal Assistance was going to provide a tenants rights forum. Bob said that he is working with Mary Febonio to coordinate workshops. Laura will call her to follow up.

Laura asked if Lori had reached David Blacksmith at NH Rescue Mission and Lori replied that she has been unable to connect with him but understands that Code Enforcement is involved. Laura and Anne shared their concerns about what is happening there. Bob reminded us that the GNCOC has no authority to do anything about this; it is out of our hands. Linda is willing to ask for an update from Code Enforcement.

Bob talked about clients in need of several months rent to avoid eviction. Landlords are waiting too long to move to evict, making it too difficult to come up with 4 months rent in order to avoid eviction. Bob said that one landlord has been distributing flyers that say "Free Rent" with a list of agencies like Nashua City Welfare, NSKS, etc.

Anne shared some additional concerns about individual client situations.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

The next meeting will take place on May 2, 2007 at Harbor Homes, Inc., 45 High Street.