

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the August 4, 2010
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Eileen Brady, Candace Gebhart, Ray Villeneuve, Janet Roy, Dennis Roy, Laurie Skibba, Jerry LeClerc, Kathy Paquette, Katie Merrill, Angela Linke, Magaly Rios, Lisa Mislam, Steve Horton, Wendy LeBlanc

The meeting began at 9:05 with introductions and a review of the minutes. W. LeBlanc moved to accept the minutes as written. C. Gebhart seconded and the minutes passed unanimously.

E. Brady asked L. Mislam for an update on Connections. Lisa reported that the program is now called Connections Clubhouse and has changed its structure to follow the clubhouse model which helps members build relationships, confidence and abilities. S. Horton shared his positive experiences with the new program. The group discussed the difference between Connections Clubhouse and H.E.A.R.T.S. the new peer support program in Nashua for those with mental illness.

J. LeClerc gave an update on Project Employment Connect which will be held on September 16th.

Discussion took place surrounding the State of NH behavioral health budget cuts. Advocacy has been a challenge and these cuts will impact important programs that our clients rely on. E. Brady explained NH CARES and how that group advocates for this funding. E. Brady shared that some State officials don't agree that more programs for those with mental illness and substance addiction would impact the corrections system, saving money there.

The group brainstormed about accomplishments to be added to the 10 year plan. HEARTS, Connections Clubhouse and the Cynthia Day center at Keystone were mentioned as well as the Neighborhood Stabilization Program success.

M. Rios gave a brief overview of the Cynthia Day program at Keystone for pregnant and post-partum women struggling with addiction.

E. Brady shared that there had been a very good article in the Parable Magazine of the Catholic Diocese by Father Dan St. Laurent about his experiences with homeless persons in our community.

E. Brady also reported that the Citizen's Alliance will be holding a workshop on the Federal Budget on August 12th.

E. Brady asked if anyone has any suggestions about how we bring more people to the meeting, although we did note that there was a great turnout for this meeting including three new members.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM

Submitted by Wendy LeBlanc, Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force