

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2009
Nashua City Hall Auditorium
www.nashua-coc.org**

Call to order: 8:06 a.m. by Chair Wendy Furnari

All present introduced themselves and visitors welcomed.

Note: January 7, 2009 meeting cancelled due to inclement weather.

Minutes of December 3, 2008: L. Wilshire motioned to accept the minutes. B. Alves seconded the motion and the motion carried.

GNCOC Presentation: The Greater Nashua Continuum of Care was established under the direction of HUD in 1994.

W. Furnari explained that when the Continuum was first formed it consisted of a few local service providers and eventually grew to include the large number of social service agencies you see represented here today, as well as representatives from City, State and Federal government, local businesses and landlords. She also explained the 10 Year Plan which documents the community's needs, plans and action steps towards ending homelessness.

The GNCOC is made up of a variety of committees:

Ending Homelessness Committee: B. Mack mentioned that this committee looks at the action steps of the 10 Year Plan and is responsible for updating the plan. The committee looks toward the Data Gathering and Community Relations Committees for help. B. Mack reviewed the definition of homelessness and indicated that one of the biggest barriers is the limit on resources. B. Doolan asked that if she were interested in joining this committee what would be expected. B. Mack replied that if someone likes to be involved in discussions and brain storming, they may enjoy being a part of this committee.

Community Relations Committee: P. Murphy explained that the Community Relations Committee began in June of 2006 when there was a need for public awareness. The goal was to start focusing on collaboration and outreach to other communities that are part of our catchment area but not engaged in our process. Some of the accomplishments of the Community Relations Committee are the updates to the Continuum's website and the development of a brochure. The committee met with businesses along Main Street in Nashua and provided brochures last year. P. Murphy mentioned the power point that was created by Lori Wilshire and Bob Mack that has been shown in different communities. B. Mack said the Community Relations Committee has done a good job with reaching out.

Legislative Affairs Committee: W. Furnari explained that Representative Joan Schulze is the Chair and she provides updates on specific bills that relate to housing and homelessness. The committee also makes recommendations for new legislation.

SuperNOFA Committee: W. Furnari indicated that HUD provides 1.7 million dollars yearly to a variety of funded agencies in Greater Nashua for permanent and transitional housing as well as some supportive services. She said that HUD requires the community to submit the application for the funding. The first section of the application is about the Continuum and the second section explains each funded agency. The Continuum is currently waiting on this year's award announcement. L. Wilshire thanked people at the table that aren't funded but are important to foster relationships with.

Data Gathering Committee: L. Newell provided handouts and explained the HUD Outcome Measurements. She also discussed the Point in Time survey and reminded everyone to input their results into the survey monkey.

Wrap around Committee: B. Mack explained that this program is set up to find out what services clients need. Many times clients will attend these meetings. This committee offers providers an opportunity to brainstorm with a network of providers on challenging client situations.

Project Homeless Connect: B. Mack mentioned that this is a one day event stemming from a national program that was adopted by Nashua several years ago. This event provides the opportunity for individuals to connect with services and information.

Other & Announcements:

P. Kelleher stated that GNCOC is the largest and longest running meeting and he commented on how rewarding it is to see everyone work on a common goal.

L. Christie said that five people started the Continuum and look how much it has expanded. She indicated that a huge barrier is the lack of resources.

T. Benhardt mentioned that he works for the fuel assistance program and asked everyone to let their clients know about the program. He indicated that a lot of people don't like to ask for help.

L. Goodman announced that Congressman Hodes moved his office to Main Street. There is an open house scheduled next month and L. Goodman will let everyone know the exact date and time.

R. Peterson mentioned the free tax filing program being held at the Nashua Library. He said it is volunteers trained to do taxes. He also mentioned there are millions of dollars not being claimed.

J. Karwatske indicated there is a financial literacy training being held 3/11/09 through 4/22/09 once a week on Wednesday evenings at the Pastoral Care Center.

K. Paquette requested information from individuals representing the surrounding towns regarding any motels that are being used as shelters.

B. Mack announced an upcoming Continuity of Operation training being held at Rivier College on 3/9/09 from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Berube, Keystone Hall

