

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the June 4, 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, Linda Newell, Tony Epaphras, Jen Adams, Ken Lewis, Matt Broadhead and Germano Martins

The meeting began at 9:10 with E. Brady sharing an editorial from the Telegraph written by Bob Keating regarding the articles on homelessness and other homelessness issues.

Introductions were made and the minutes of the May 7, 2008 meeting were reviewed. With one minor change to the minutes, C. Gebhart moved to accept the minutes, seconded by P. Kelleher. Motion carried.

B. Mack updated the committee on the recent wrap around services meeting and the discussion of the early warning system. Instead of trying to implement a receiving facility, the group agreed to instead work on a community communication piece that will include an email address for community members to email to a list including participating agencies as well as the homeless hotline. The email list is still being worked out. The homeless hotline is in operation from 8am-8pm through the summer months and although issues may not be addressed immediately, they do notify the local outreach worker ASAP. K. Paquette stated that the hotline worker will call around the state to find a shelter space.

Lots of discussion took place regarding employment connections. B. Mack reported that Peter Kelleher is scheduled to meet with staff from Gateways (formerly Area Agency), Bridges and Nashua City Welfare to discuss the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant that Gateways recently received called "Linkability" and see how the GNCOC and its agencies dealing with employment issues might work together. P. Kelleher noted that this could be very important to our SuperNOFA application as we have "a ways to go" from our current 22.7% of those employed at exit of permanent housing to our goal of 55%. E. Brady asked if Tom Lopez from NSKS should be part of this meeting. The reply was that this is an initial meeting to see how we can all work together and after that, Tom and other employment advocates would likely join the table.

E. Brady mentioned that the Globe recently did an article on the Pine Street Inn and their success at getting folks employed and she asked if the Community Relations committee of the GNCOC might be able to work on something like this.

K. Paquette shared that Labor Ready now has a test they require new employees to take and if they fail, they cannot try again for a year. This is making it difficult for many people to get work at the one place that was always available. L. Lonsdale talked about many of her clients being seasonal workers and they need something to transition them

from summer work to winter work. B. Mack mentioned that Delta Education has 30 temporary placements.

B. Mack reported that the Community Relations meeting with the Chamber was postponed due to internal Chamber issues with their own leased space.

B. Mack talked about the Data Gathering committee and the work they have been doing to reformat the Plan to End Homelessness. L. Jeynes reported that she, Bob Mack, Chris Pitcher and Bob Keating are meeting to make the Plan more user-friendly. Chris is identifying what is measurable and what is not so that moving forward, we can collect data more effectively to demonstrate success on the Plan.

B. Mack reported that the rapid re-housing committee is defunct and that it is difficult to keep different subcommittees tracked. He mentioned that the Project Homeless Connect planning group needs to reconvene soon. L. Jeynes asked what results from PHC can be measured? We can track the number of participants and services received that day, but not specific examples of how the event is specifically ending homelessness. E. Brady suggested a questionnaire be given to providers at the event to track successes of any clients they work with. Additional discussion took place regarding the emphasis of the event and that it has primarily been about health care but needs to include a stronger employment emphasis. Maybe we should have two events, one specific to employment.

P. Kelleher asked to revisit the topic of defunct committees. We know we are making progress but are we actually accomplishing anything? After discussion supporting this concern, P. Kelleher made a motion that the Ending Homelessness Committee recommend to the Executive Committee to evaluate subcommittees and what outcomes are achievable and measurable in reference to ending homelessness. T. Epaphras seconded and the motion carried.

There was some additional discussion about having two “Connect” events and W. Furnari suggested waiting until we learn more from the wrap around committee and their meeting with Gateways.

K. Paquette mentioned the challenge many folks still have with transportation. They can get a job but have no transportation. C. Gebhart added that many have no ID either. E. Brady mentioned that Rideshare can be an option.

Discussion took place about the July 2 meeting and the group decided that since B. Mack would be on vacation we will skip the July meeting.

E. Brady announced that the Housing Forum legislation finally passed the House and Senate and should be signed by the Governor. She indicated that this took many years and lots of work and special thanks was owed to the Municipal Association (Local Government Center).

G. Martins indicated that the 3,000 foreclosures expected in NH this month are not due to the sub-prime issue but instead due to the economy. E. Brady mentioned the Forum on June 12th at the Radisson.

E. Brady asked again about NH Legal Assistance holding a tenant forum. C. Gebhart is working with HHI to schedule this. P. Kelleher said that this would also be a good thing to report in the SuperNOFA.

K. Paquette mentioned that her landlord, Paul Laflamme is running for State Senate and might be good to include in the tenant forums. Several members said that would not be allowed because of perception of campaigning. C. Gebhart also expressed concerns that the information should be presented by a neutral party, not from a landlord's perspective.

P. Kelleher distributed copies of the Innovations from the Inter-agency Council on Homelessness for us to review to see if we might get any good ideas.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.

The next meeting will take place on August 6, 2008 the City Hall auditorium.

THERE WILL BE NO JULY MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE.