

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

Call to order: 8:02 a.m. by Chair Wendy Furnari

All present introduced themselves and visitors welcomed.

Minutes of February 4, 2009: B. Alves motioned to accept the minutes. J. Leclerc seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- **Executive Committee:**

W. Furnari mentioned that there was a discussion regarding reaching out to new people attending the COC meetings. Executive Committee members will call new members after their first meeting to touch base and offer guidance if needed.

Vote on revision to GNCOC guidelines: W. Furnari asked everyone to review a handout showing the change to **Article 4, Section A3** which defines a **Conflict of Interest**. The new language recommended by the Executive Committee reads: On SuperNOFA funding and other funding recommendations, staff of agencies being reviewed for funding and individuals with pecuniary interest in agencies being reviewed for funding shall make known on public record any potential conflict of interest and shall recuse themselves from voting.

L. Censabella motioned to accept the change in the guidelines. P. Kelleher seconded the motion and the motion carried. R. Peterson abstained from the vote.

- **Ending Homelessness Committee:**

B. Mack indicated that this committee has been revisiting the plan and highlighting accomplishments. He explained they recently met with a local property manager to discuss what resources landlords utilize when tenants need assistance. They also discussed problems that clients may have with Social Security Rep Payees.

- **Community Relations Committee:**

B. Doolan mentioned that this committee has not met since the last GNCOC meeting. They had been working on reaching out to the Hudson and Litchfield area. She indicated that they had met in the past with the Hudson Selectmen and the Selectmen did not feel that participation in the GNCOC was a priority for Hudson.

J. Leclerc said that he is the President of Hudson Grange. The small group is planning to invite the GNCOC to present to the Grange and they will also invite the selectmen to see what the GNCOC is about.

B. Mack mentioned that he and L. Wilshire met with Sue Butler from the Great American Downtown and recently prepared a new homeless outreach card.

- **Legislative Affairs Committee:**

P. Kelleher mentioned that this committee has not met recently but discussed a recent bill that did not pass. The bill was proposed to provide lottery ticket winnings to homeless veteran's service providers.

P. Kelleher was also asked to give an update on the recent stimulus money. He indicated that a package has been created for NH which will provide jobs and 1.16 million dollars to Nashua.

M. Bilz mentioned that some of the funds will be for increased community action, weatherization and fuel assistance.

B. Bissett explained a recent \$473,000 earmark for the Dalianis House.

- **Data Gathering Committee:**

L. Newell mentioned the next meeting will be Friday, 3/6/2009 at 2:00pm. The committee has been working on the Nashua Point in Time results and goal setting for the Ten Year Plan. B. Mack indicated that the next meeting will be held at Bonhoffers on Franklin Street.

B. Doolan asked L. Newell about the numbers for the transitional housing exits. She noted that the numbers seemed unreasonably high. L. Newell indicated she will look into this for her.

- **Continua:**
MCOC:

L. Newell indicated that this committee discussed the Project Homeless Connect. There will also be a Day Resource Center in approximately 3 months at Helping Hands on Central Street, Manchester.

- **BOSCOC:**

L. Newell mentioned that they met with Bernie Bluhm regarding the statewide client survey. Area colleges will be preparing questionnaires and distributing them to local service providers. She also mentioned there will be a groundbreaking for Strafford County Transitional Housing.

ICH:

P. Kelleher said that this committee has been meeting more frequently and focusing on the stimulus package. B. Mack asked if they are working on formulizing the state plan. P. Kelleher replied yes but the implementation is slow.

NH Coalition:

This committee will be meeting on Friday, 3/6/09 at 9:30am at the Salvation Army on Clinton Street in Concord.

NH Shelter Providers:

K. Merrill mentioned that they met with Robert Rodler from DCYF. They discussed after care programs, tuition, school fees. She indicated they have also been discussing case management, mental health and overflow issues.

Announcements:

Bernice Lopez from the U.S. Census and Public Relations in NH explained that they are focusing on hard to count populations. She indicated they are looking to collaborate with all social agencies. P. Kelleher asked when the census would start. Bernice replied it will take place in 2010 and between April and June 2009 they will be canvassing addresses and sending out flyers.

P. Kelleher announced that Nashua has received the funding for the Health Care for the Homeless. He thanked everyone for their support.

W. Furnari announced on behalf of Lori Wishire that there will be a public hearing in the Aldermanic Chamber at City Hall on March 30, 2009 at 7:00pm regarding distribution of the CDBG funds. L. Wilshire is encouraging everyone to attend and explain why the funds are needed at the non-profits.

L. Goodman from Congressman Hodes office announced she has a new colleague, Gail Russell.

A question was asked regarding a client in need of dental treatment. C. Salamanca explained there is a religious group in Lowell, MA. M. Castanho asked if the person had Medicaid because most providers will provide services.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Berube, Keystone Hall