

GNCOOC  
Ending Homelessness Committee  
Minutes of the 11/4/09 Meeting

Present at the meeting were: Jessica Karwatske, Wendy LeBlanc, Magaly Rios, Zena Ramirez, Kathi Fortin, Tony Epaphras, Dennis Roy, Janet Roy, Laura Nault, Nathan Goodwin, Jerry Leclerc, Katherine Merrill, Jaretta Copeland, Laurie Skibba, Joan Koliss, Eileen Brady, Kathryn Paquette, K. Murray, Angela Linke, Bob Mack.

9:05 am: Call to order.

Introductions

Reviewed minutes of 10/7/09 meeting. W. LeBlanc motioned to accept the minutes. B. Mack seconded and the motion carried.

Eileen has contacted Granite State Independent Living (GSIL) to attend Project Homeless Connect. K. Fortin mentioned that the Harbor Care Clinic will be open for appointments during PHC. L. Nault asked about volunteering; B. Mack said Susan Palmer at Harbor Homes is coordinating the volunteers.

Eileen mentioned that she spoke to Candace C. Gebhart at NH Legal Aid and the Landlord Workshop will not be available until February. That should give enough time to get a list of Landlords to notify about the event.

K. Paquette asked if there was a law that mandates Landlords to accept Housing Security Guarantee Vouchers. J. Karwatske answered that a Landlord cannot be forced to use the HSGP voucher program offered at the Care Center.

Discussion ensued regarding evictions and Landlords accepting partial payments from tenants. B. Mack said that when City Welfare gives a rent voucher to a client, that usually stops the immediate eviction, but the Landlord can still proceed with eviction in the future. Two to 3 weeks can pass before the Landlord actually receives the Welfare rent voucher.

Affordable housing was also discussed. E. Brady noted that more funding is needed for rental subsidies. The Tenant's Rights Workshop will be held Friday 11/20/09 from 1-3 at Harbor Homes. B. Mack reminded everyone that the COC Toolkit has some tenant info in it as well.

Janet & Dennis Roy gave a presentation about a non-profit they are starting up—it is called the Fresh Start program, and will be offering gently used household items including furniture, kitchen items, bed linens, etc. Right now they are storing items in a warehouse space that a friend donated, and are looking for more space. If anyone has a

client in need of these items, a referral should be made via an agency representative. Clients should not be contacting the Roys directly. Also, if anyone has small household items to donate, they can call Janet Roy.

T. Epaphras noted that he is back with SNHS, working on grants.

B. Mack noted that the Wrap-Around Committee has discussed winter preparedness; W. LeBlanc said that the Rescue Mission has not been operating at capacity, as per their Lunch & Learn presentation. K. Paquette said that the Rescue Mission doesn't have a shower facility which is why some folks might be hesitant to go there. Renovations are underway to meet that need.

The committee joined together in singing Happy Birthday to Bob Mack!

Meeting adjourned at 9:50am.

Minutes prepared by Jessica Karwatske