

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the October 4, 2006 Meeting
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Wendy Furnari, Gene Murray, Germano Martins, Linda Jeynes, Klaas Nijhuis, Deb Fluet, Eileen Brady, Tony Epaphras, Laura Nault, Anne Quinn, Linda Newell and Chris Pitcher

The meeting began at 9:05 am. Bob Mack was suddenly called away and was unavailable to chair the meeting. Klaas filled in for him and chaired the meeting.

Minutes were reviewed from the September 6, 2006 meeting. Laura motioned that the minutes be accepted, Gene seconded. Klaas pointed a few spelling errors to be amended. Motion passed.

Germano reported for the rapid re-housing subcommittee. They have collected applications from many agencies and have decided that the HMIS form that is already being used will provide all of the basic information that most agencies need. Klaas mentioned that we take information from our intake forms and put it on the HMIS form, so why not just use the HMIS form as the intake form? It will save a lot of time and energy. Agencies can then add additional pages for program specific information. Germano explained that the idea is to give the clients the ability to have their information shared *with their permission* to other agencies to avoid filling out multiple intake forms at multiple agencies. An email will be sent to the GNCOC notifying us of when the next rapid re-housing subcommittee will take place. Klaas encouraged anyone with strong knowledge of HMIS and/or client confidentiality issues to attend to iron out the details of this shared intake form.

Discussion took place regarding the wrap around services sub committee. David Cull may not be able to chair this group. Deb mentioned that the wrap around group is meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the month. There was some confusion about the role of the subcommittee. Those participating in the monthly case conferences thought that this was the wrap around subcommittee. Klaas explained that the subcommittee is actually charged with reviewing "The Plan" and the wrap around services identified there. Deb and Gene volunteered to bring this information back to the group doing the case consults and see how they can incorporate this larger piece into what they are currently doing.

Project Homeless Connect was reviewed and Klaas described the event again and reminded folks of the next committee meeting which is October 12th at 9:30 am at 45 High St.

The revolving loan fund committee will meet again on Oct. 17th at 11:00am at Nashua Pastoral Care. Germano reported that the last meeting involved finalizing the promissory note that homeowners will need to sign to receive mortgage assistance. This will involve placing a lien on the property to assure repayment of the loan.

We briefly discussed the one page fact sheet with resources that is being created to give to police to share with homeless persons. Germano had emailed a draft to Bob and thought Bob would bring it to the meeting so Germano didn't bring it. We also quickly looked at the draft that Donnalee Lozeau distributed at the Executive Committee meeting on Sept. 20th. This is a work in progress although we hope to have a completed item to distribute to clients at project Homeless Connect.

Klaas suggested that for future EHC meetings we add an item 5.1 to the agenda to discuss new ideas, after all the updates from subcommittees have been presented.

Today, Eileen talked about the need for another large-scale community event to keep the general public informed about the issue of homelessness in Greater Nashua. We thought that it would be great if we could use the media attention garnered from Project Homeless Connect to announce a community wide event.

Germano talked about the challenges that people face with getting rental assistance when they do not have "Affordable housing". It is difficult for someone to receive help if there is no way for them to demonstrate their ability to maintain the housing. If they had a way to maintain the housing they wouldn't need the assistance.

Laura asked some questions about transportation for homeless clients. She had read that HHI had gotten a new van. Klaas let her know that the vans are used to transport clients to appointments or their case manager sometimes brings them to appointments as well.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50am.

The next meeting will take place on November 1, 2006 at 9:00 at City Hall rm 208.