

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the August 5, 2009 meeting
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Eileen Brady, Bob Mack, Wendy LeBlanc, Jerry Leclerc, Candace Gebhart, Dean Levinson, Angela Linke, Laura Nault, Magaly Rios, Jaretta Copeland, Janet Roy, Dennis Roy and Barbaros Dinler

The meeting began at 9:05 with E. Brady letting us know that Kathy Paquette was absent today for medical reasons and B. Mack letting us know that Katie Merrill and Lianne Bower were at the NH Easy Training.

Introductions were made and E. Brady asked that new members add their information to the sign-in sheet so she can be sure and include everyone on the email list.

Minutes of the June 3, 2009 meeting were reviewed and D. Levinson noted that two items he had raised at the meeting were not included. The following statements were included in the June 3, 2009 minutes at his request: D. Levinson suggested that we consider coming up with a mechanism for a corridor, or line of communication, between the GNCOC and City development to engage the business community, and D. Levinson also suggested that the GNCOC look at finding ways for the homeless community to assist with volunteer opportunities, such as Spanish translation of the GNCOC website. B. Mack moved to accept the minutes as revised and C. Gebhart seconded. Motion carried.

E. Brady indicated that all those present at today's meeting were also present at the full GNCOC meeting directly prior to this meeting, we have already received many updates.

J. Leclerc updated the group on Project Employment Connect. He thanked M. Rios for her hard work on the flyer. He also shared that Emily Manire at Linkabilities said she can provide lunch for consumers that attend the event and can possibly pay for haircuts if we can't get enough volunteers. J. Leclerc indicated that he will send out a list of other needs to the GNCOC to see what folks can help with. Additional discussion took place about potential resources for attracting employers such as the Chamber of Commerce, etc... L. Nault brought up the question of transportation and J. Copeland asked about job coaches.

E. Brady reviewed the Financial Assistance Network application and discussion took place regarding the uses. J. Roy asked about how info can be verified. We discussed the form as a tool for the client to have to help them provide consistent data to all agencies they present to and that agencies may still need to request back up documentation such as income verification.

B. Mack mentioned a meeting that the Welfare Directors had recently with Commissioner Toumpas regarding the budget "shambles" and how they can create efficiencies in the system. This led to a question from D. Levinson about how NH DHHS handles their fraud investigation unit and does anyone have figures on expenditures vs. revenue from this department? E. Brady indicated she would ask her friend who works

there. B. Mack stated he does not have these figures for Nashua but gave a bit of an overview of what types of things they get reimbursed for, such as SSA or APTD awards.

E. Brady asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Wheel of Responsibility and got no replies.

Discussion took place regarding the Neighborhood Stabilization Project (NSP) and Homelessness Prevention and Rapid re-housing Program (HPRP) funds. NSP has been awarded and HPRP is still in the pipeline as they determined after the fact that New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) was not eligible as originally planned. B. Mack asked if NHHFA offers emergency assistance. C. Gebhart replied that they do.

Discussion with landlords needs to continue. E. Brady asked C. Gebhart if New Hampshire Legal Assistance could do another forum and she said yes, she will work on it.

E. Brady asked D. Levinson to talk more about his ideas regarding generating interest from the business community. He mentioned that maybe we could try a process similar to what the United Way does with their Executive to Executive program to help us better connect with corporations that may be willing to assist. W. LeBlanc mentioned the outreach we have done to the Nashua Rotary West, Chamber of Commerce and Great American Downtown. B. Mack indicated that although the contact with these groups has been made, we are usually left asking “now what?” once we have connected, what are the next steps? Events like Project Employment Connect might be the tangible way we can have them assist.

L. Nault asked about hanging banners on Main St for our events and discussion took place regarding the barriers to making that happen.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM

The next meeting will either take place on September 2, 2009 in the City Hall auditorium.