

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes
Nashua City Hall Auditorium
December 5, 2007
www.nashua-coc.org**

Call to Order: 8:03 a.m. by Chair Lori Wilshire

All present introduced themselves and visitors welcomed.

Minutes of November 7, 2007 (handout) B. Alves noted a correction to the last paragraph on page 4. A unanimous motion was made to accept the minutes with corrections.

General Group Discussion:

B. Alves announced that recipient of the St. Marguerite's Humanitarian award was John Parolin. She also mentioned that Peter Kelleher had been nominated.

B. Bagley discussed the arrival of refugees. There have been about 34 individuals that have arrived from Somali and Burundi. She indicated that she has been notified that Iraqi refugees will also be arriving.

When the refugees arrive there are many health issues that need to be addressed. B. Bagley mentioned that everyone is trying to take a proactive approach.

L. Wilshire asked if there are any plans in place for housing once the refugees arrive. B. Bagley indicated that the committee will work with the individuals and families for 6-9 months to get everything in place.

L. Wilshire also asked how the language barrier will be handled. B. Bagley mentioned they will need to set up interpretation services to handle the challenges of the language barriers.

B. Bagley indicated that with setting up all of these services there is always an issue of cash and resources.

L. Wilshire asked if there would be a cap put in place for how many refugees the community allows.

B. Mack indicated that the committee explained that Congress could make a decision on a moment's notice.

B. Bagley mentioned that Congress looks at all of the cities resources. Manchester and Nashua are similar but Manchester currently has more resources. Manchester has already placed a cap on the numbers of refugees.

D. Lozeau indicated that Manchester has a similar process. Nashua could replicate their success and learn for their mistakes.

B. Bagley indicated there will be a committee meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2007 from 8:30 am to 10:30 am at the Area Health Center and Barbara Sevor will be making a presentation.

D. Lozeau suggested that everyone attend the meeting and indicated she is concerned about the group's reaction. She cautioned everyone as service providers to get on the front end to do it right and handle it right.

C. Rosenwald mentioned that the Legislature has received a number of calls from the City of Manchester in regard to the refugee population. There is a need for cultural teaching and many of the landlords are being blamed for lead paint issues.

S. Mead indicated that everyone needs to get a jump start on the cultural issues.

K. Williams mentioned that it may be helpful for some landlords to attend the GNCOC meetings. We need to be open and welcoming.

M. Read shared with everyone that she had received a phone call on a Sunday from the Homeless Hotline in regard to an issue with a client trying to get into Motel 6. She suggested that there may need to be additional information provided to the folks taking weekend and after hour calls.

D. Lozeau indicated that the call should have gone to a homeless outreach worker.

L. Newell mentioned she will speak with Chris Pitcher and have him address the situation.

B. Bagley announced that Community Health Department has an abundance of flu shots. The cost of the shots is \$15.00 and they can also bill Medicare if the individual is covered. If there are any agencies that would like to set up a clinic they should contact the Health Department to schedule such a clinic.

B. Bagley mentioned that the Disproportionate Minority Conference Committee (DMC) covering Manchester and Nashua are looking for leaders from the Community to speak at a forum in February.

S. Mead indicated that there is a Legal Liaison Group already in place and maybe they should combine the groups. The group that already meets consists of Probation Officers, Parole Officers, Public Defenders and Community Council. S. Mead suggested that B. Bagley contact Judge Leary.

M. Read asked that everyone working with clients to discuss basic safety issues with them regarding means of heating. People have been resorting to creative means to heat their homes.

P. Kelleher thanked everyone who attended the "World Aids Day" Event that was held on Friday, November 28, 2007. He mentioned that about 125 people attended and there was an amazing amount of contributors.

L. Wilshire mentioned that P. Kelleher had requested a letter of support for the Health Care for The Homeless Grant. P. Kelleher indicated that the application is due on December 14, 2007.

P. Kelleher mentioned that Nashua is the only major urban area that does not have a current Health Care for the Homeless program operating. He also indicated that he hopes this application will be successful due to having 10 agencies involved, both Nashua hospitals and 2 new consultants.

B. Alves motioned to grant the letter of support. Judy P. seconded the motion and the motion carried.

L. Newell handed out the current HUD APR Outcome Measurements. She indicated there has been an increase in the stay in permanent housing over 6 months. There has been an increase in transitional to permanent housing and an increase in employment when exiting.

Announcements:

L. Newell mentioned that there will be a community forum on December 18th, 19th and 20th at the theatre in Concord.

M. Febonio indicated that there are rental units available at Shattuck and Casmir.

D. Lozeau asked for rental amounts. M. Febonio indicated that Shattuck and Casmir run between \$800 and \$1,000 per month.

D. Lozeau mentioned it would be helpful to have a list of agencies and their rental rates.

L. Wilshire asked each agency to provide that information for the next meeting.

P. Kelleher welcomed Joanne Bresnahan. Joanne came to Keystone Hall from Easter Seals.

B. Mack mentioned the recent press on the GNCOC Toolkit. He thanked Urban Programs and Jerry Leclerc for their work. He also mentioned the new version will hopefully be available on the website early in the New Year.

B. Mack mentioned that the Revolving Loan Fund Advisory met on December 4, 2007. He indicated there were 11 applicants and 4 loans were issued.

J. Karwatske indicated that they will be revamping the criteria and application process.

B. Mack thanked J. Karwatske for her work.

B. Mack reminded everyone about the Project Homeless Connect event on December 6, 2007 at Harbor Homes, Inc. on 45 High Street, Nashua. He indicated that he will be at High St. today to set up.

P. Kelleher thanked B. Mack for the tremendous job and mentioned that he invited Brian Golden from the Regional Department of Health and Human Services, Taylor Caswell and John O'Brien to attend the event.

L. Goodman explained the Unitarian Church's Sunday's collection. She explained that 100% of the collection is donated to a non profit agency. The specific agency will receive each collection for a month. An agency must use the donations for a specific project and not operating expenses.

J. Karwatske mentioned there will be a Care Center Financial Literacy class on Wednesday's from 6:00pm to 7:30pm starting January 30, 2008 through March 30, 2008. The classes will be held at the Care Center on 7 Concord Street, Nashua, NH

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Minutes Prepared by Kim Berube, Harbor Homes, Inc.