

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the March 5, 2008 meeting
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Wendy Furnari, Eileen Brady, Kathryn Paquette, Linda Jeynes, Tony Epaphras, Jerry Leclerc, Katherine Merrill, Lori Wilshire, Klaas Nijhuis, Peter Kelleher, Carol Furlong, Linda Newell, Jessica Karwatske, Laurie Goodman, and Lori Lunsdale

The meeting began at 9:10 with introductions.

The minutes were reviewed and L. Jeynes moved to accept the minutes as written. P. Kelleher seconded and the minutes passed unanimously.

B. Mack began the meeting by sharing the first draft of the development survey that he worked on with Mariellen Durso. He stated that he would like to turn this survey and the collection activity over to the Data Gathering Committee. L. Jeynes indicated that some of the items on the survey were part of the annual PIT count that just took place. P. Kelleher made a motion to turn this over to Data Gathering committee, K. Paquette seconded. E. Brady asked if this would capture information on faith based initiatives such as St. Phillip's new affordable housing program. More discussion took place on how to gather that information as well. The motion passed.

B. Mack distributed sheets with some of the action steps for the Plan to End Homelessness. We discussed item 1.2.4 (Legislator open house). P. Kelleher indicated that much movement has taken place around this issue since the inception of the Plan and this need has changed as we now have a number of State legislators, as well as representation from Congressman Hodes' office, attending the GNCOC meeting as well as a Legislative Affairs subcommittee. E. Brady agreed that she has seen a significant increase in the number of State Reps. at the Housing Forum; there is always a challenge of telling them what we need them to do. E. Brady went on to share information about HB1472 which codifies a law that has already been in place requiring municipalities to provide opportunities for builders to build affordable housing. B. Mack suggested that item 1.2.4 be referred to the Legislative Affairs Committee and that there are currently four bills aimed at the goal of affordable housing. The group discussed that the current Chair of Legislative Affairs, Rep. Joan Schulze, may have difficulty convening a meeting of the committee during the time of Legislative session. W. Furnari agreed to call her and offer to have someone else Chair the committee so that we can meet sooner than this summer.

K. Paquette brought up item 3.5.1 (Develop consensus for law enf. to be mandated reporters of homelessness) and stated that she believes it needs to go to legislation because she has witnessed issues of arrest rather than assistance to homeless persons. P. Kelleher said that he believes that this ties in with item 1.1.6 (early warning system) and that although we have made strides with the police but that we still need to develop a system for the general public to alert the local homeless providers of incidents of

homelessness. T. Epaphras suggested providing training to the new recruits and P. Kelleher mentioned that Community Council has been integrated into the new police training. B. Mack said that he will call Nashua Police Chief Don Conley to make him aware of the GNCOC and how we can help with issues of homelessness. P. Kelleher continued to share his ideas for an email link for the police or general public to utilize 24/7 and to coordinate with the shelters, homeless outreach, and other interested parties to arrange a schedule for ongoing coverage. He will send out an email to the GNCOC to schedule an ad hoc committee to work on items 1.1.6, 3.5.1 and 3.7.5 (24-hour rec. location).

K. Paquette shared her recent successes with early morning calls for assistance turning into positive results by the end of the day by her sticking with the client throughout the day to get employment, housing, etc., set up with clients.

B. Mack reported that the housing conference committee is not moving forward at this time as additional work needs to be done to lay the groundwork for a future conference.

E. Brady reported that there is a meeting scheduled with herself, K. Merrill from HH and NHLA to begin planning for a consumer forum for tenants provided by NH Legal Assistance.

P. Kelleher asked if we ever got eviction information from NH Legal. B. Mack replied that Mike Perez had gotten some baseline data which he shared with the committee some time ago. This data does not, however, include evictions that happened outside of the court system. This is another example of data that may be obtained by the Data Gathering Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM

The next meeting will take place on April 2, 2008 the City Hall auditorium.