

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Minutes of the May 5, 2010 meeting

8:00am Call to Order by Chair Wendy LeBlanc. All present were introduced and newcomers welcomed.

Review of the minutes from the 4/7/10 meeting. B. Alves made a motion to accept the minutes as written. J. Leclerc seconded the motion and motion carried.

HPRP—The Way Home

Natalie and Diane from the Way Home in Manchester came to talk about their rapid re-housing program which uses funds from the HPRP. Their funds are available for individuals/families statewide. Applicants must be homeless. Other criteria for qualification include victims of domestic violence staying in DV shelters, and participants living in Transitional Housing programs who are timing out of their programs. The rental subsidy is short-term and sustainability is key.

Qualified applicants for the Rapid Re-Housing program can receive assistance with the security deposit and 1st month's rent. If they need help with the 2nd and 3rd months' rent, The Way Home will contribute 50% of the rent amount. The grant money must be exhausted by September 2012. The Way Home also has homeless prevention funds.

HPRP—Greater Nashua Mental Health Center

Mark Thornton from the Greater Nashua Mental Health center spoke about their homeless prevention program that has been made possible through the HPRP grant. Applicants must be clients of GNMHC and be certified as Severely Mentally Ill or Severely and Persistently Mentally Ill (SMI, SPMI) who are at-risk of homelessness.

Focus is on the recovery process: medical, employment and housing. Clients must have income less than 50% of Area Median Income. Participants are required to apply for Section 8 and Public Housing, and the rental arrangement must be sustainable for the client. GNMHC currently has 4 clients in this program. Clients are eligible for \$150/month rent subsidy. Rent arrearages, security deposits and utility assistance are also eligible. Monthly subsidy is ongoing until the client is independent.

Bureau of Behavioral Health Bridge Grant—Harbor Homes

Brian Boyer noted that Harbor Homes' criteria for their grant is similar to the previous presenters. Applicants must be homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Must be transitioning from a psychiatric hospital to permanent housing. Funds are available statewide. They have the capacity to assist 26 individuals and have helped 17 so far. The

program is long-term and will provide HUD funds for 18 months, then BBH will provide a subsidy until clients get Section 8.

Announcements

J. Leclerc mentioned that the Project Employment Connect committee met to start planning the next event. Event will be held at Harbor Homes on September 16, 2010. Angela Linke is collecting information about resume/employment workshops going on in the community. If anyone has any information to share, they can contact Angela. The next PEC meeting will be at Harbor Homes on 5/6/10 at 1pm.

L. Wilshire noted that a draft of the Consolidated Plan is available on www.gonashua.com and comments are due by 5/25/10 to Carrie Schena in the Urban Programs Dep't. Comments will be responded to in writing.

R. Andrade was featured on the cover of Parable, the magazine of the Catholic Diocese of Manchester, NH, regarding his efforts to assist the families who lost their homes in the February 7th fire at 45 Pine St. Great job, Ramon!

W. LeBlanc will email the "Action Steps" of the 10 Year Plan to the CoC, in order to update the accomplishments we have made toward ending homelessness.

J. Roy from Fresh Start Assistance reminded the committee that if any agency meets with a client who needs household items, furniture, etc. that referrals need to come from agencies, not clients.

L. Newell said that the homeless resource center in Manchester is now open. It is located at 142 Central St. and is open from 8am-4pm.

9:03am Meeting adjourned.