

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2008
Nashua City Hall Auditorium
www.nashua-coc.org**

Call to order: 8:03 a.m. by Chair Wendy Furnari

All present introduced themselves and visitors welcomed.

Minutes of October 1, 2008: B. Doolan noted a correction on page 2, paragraph 4 and B. Mack noted a correction on page 2, paragraph 1. B. Mack motioned to accept the minutes as amended. L. Jeynes seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- **Executive Committee:** W. Furnari explained that structure of the committee was reviewed and the lengthy discussion was tabled. The date and time of the executive meetings was changed to the second Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. L. Newell had also requested that HMIS become one grant instead of three. The committee requested additional information before making a decision. C. Gebhart had provided the committee with information about public pay phones but due to limited information C. Gebhart and the executive committee agreed to have no further discussion.
- **Ending Homelessness Committee:** B. Mack explained that there was a review of the plan's action items and how to work toward accomplishing the goals. There was also a discussion regarding the Early Warning System. He indicated that the City of Nashua will be issuing vouchers to anyone that the shelters can't accommodate during the winter months. K. Merrill indicated that she is already seeing overflow at the Maple Street Shelter. B. Mack also added that the City of Concord is having its first annual Project Homeless Connect on December 2, 2008.
- **Community Relations:** P. Murphy indicated that the next meeting will be November 19, 2008 at 10:00AM and as the committee is working towards bringing the other local Welfare Administrators into the COC loop, this meeting will be held in Milford, in an effort to attract those from the surrounding communities. She also thanked Maryann Castanho for hosting the meeting.
- **Legislative Affairs:** No report.
- **Data Gathering:** L. Jeynes mentioned the committee is in the process of revamping the ending homelessness plan and the next meeting will be held on December 5, 2008 at 1:00pm. B. Mack also mentioned Springfield, MA has an

annual report which has a user friendly format and incorporates all of the SuperNOFA goals.

- **HMIS/PIT:** L. Newell welcomed Scott Ivey who recently joined Community Services Council. She also provided a hand out of the Performance Measurements. P. Kelleher asked how it was determined what months would be included in the handout. L. Newell replied that the summer months are not readily available but if someone wanted to review them she would be able to provide that information. L. Newell also reminded everyone that the Point in Time (PIT) will be on January 28, 2009 and explained that there will be changes to the forms. W. Furnari suggested that L. Newell explain the forms during the January meeting.
- **SuperNOFA:** P. Kelleher indicated that the application was submitted and because it was submitted electronically this year there was a bit of a learning curve. He also expressed his appreciation to everyone who helped. B. Doolan questioned that where the application date was postponed would the awards be announced within the normal time frame. P. Kelleher replied that everyone should hear something by December. He also praised Gina Schaak a consultant from TAC for her work.
- **Continua:**

MCOOC: No Report.

BOSCOC: No Report.

ICH: P. Kelleher indicated that this committee has not met. He also mentioned that HUD has announced a new Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The program will award 19.6 million dollars to NH and targets foreclosed and abandoned properties. P. Kelleher mentioned the public hearing would be held on this day, November 5, 2008 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the Housing Finance Authority.

Announcements:

Bernie Bluhm from the Department of Housing and Homeless announced a new survey to get a sense from the homeless of how they access the system (social security, food stamps, etc). He indicated that the survey will be 8 face pages long and the first surveys will be given to people in the shelters. The data will be available to anyone and the individuals will remain anonymous. B. Bluhm indicated that Southern NH Community College will be doing the work in the Nashua area. M. Durso indicted that the non English speaking population may be missed and that the shelter is not an option for some of these individuals, therefore they double up. W. Furnari asked what the goal was and B. Bluhm the survey would raise awareness of how the system works. It would also provide valuable information statewide.

M. Durso announced that the Area Health Center recently hired two new physicians from India. She also indicated that the health center has been meeting with Community Council providers to provide better collaboration.

R. Gelinas thanked everyone who attended the Veterans Appreciation event. He also mentioned that Boscawen Cemetery is dedicating a portion of the cemetery to the Air Force.

P. Kelleher announced that he is anticipating openings if anyone knows of any homeless veterans.

W. Furnari mentioned that Community Council will be giving a presentation at the December 3, 2008 meeting.

B. Mack stressed that the e-mail address set up for the early warning system is a good communication tool. He also mentioned that 60% of people are exited from shelters due to substance abuse.

P. Kelleher commended B. Mack for his work with the wrap around committee and he also mentioned the Thanksgiving Dinner being held at Harbor Homes on Tuesday, 11/25 from 11:30am to 2:30pm.

P. Kelleher discussed the January Point in Time and he indicated he would like to see more effort and support put into listing the chronically homeless. Nashua indicated there was 120 to 150 homeless listed from 1995 but we don't know who. He wondered if it would be more effective to use HMIS. L. Newell said that the HUD definition is narrow and not all agencies are participating in HMIS. P. Kelleher indicated he would like to revisit this issue.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Berube, Keystone Hall