

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the September 5, 2007 meeting
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Wendy Furnari, Lori Wilshire, Jerry Leclerc, Laura Nault, Linda Jeynes, Eileen Brady, Jessica Karwatske, Carol Furlong, Maria Brown, Linda Newell, Gini Barss, Katy Petrini, Anne Quinn, Kathryn Paquette, Klaas Nijhuis and Germano Martins

The meeting began at 9:05am. Bob announced that he cannot stay long and that Lori would take over as Chair of the meeting.

Jerry moved to accept the minutes of the August 1, 2007 meeting, Lori seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bob began talking about the wrap-around services committee that meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm at the DPHCS 18 Mulberry St. The group discussed expanding its role into a referral review group, as well as looking at additional aspects of the EH Plan. There has been some frustration on the part of some members of this committee as well as other community members regarding clients coming from other parts of the State and getting services or placement when there is a need for services from clients from the Greater Nashua region.

Discussion took place regarding the service area of the GNCOC and local agencies and what to do for folks presenting from other parts of the State. Germano noted that for clients needing services from DHHS, they can apply at any office and their application will be transferred to the appropriate local office.

A brief discussion took place regarding criminal background checks.

Germano asked to revisit the minutes from August 1, 2007 and asked that we amend the first sentence of paragraph 3 to read "Germano spoke about the rapid re-housing committee resuming its' activities". He moved that we make the change, Linda seconded, motion carried.

Germano talked about the most recent rapid re-housing committee meeting and how they looked at the grid on the Plan to End Homelessness. They are reflecting on the question "How do we track the number of clients that have left programs for Permanent Housing?" Is there a way to track local welfare assistance from repeat customers? There was some discussion on various methods of tracking this information. Germano also talked about the web-based application they are working on. He also talked about having a one-page referral form that can be handed out to consumers. Kathy said she already has one made up and she will share it with Germano and the committee.

There were no updates regarding the wrap around committee.

Gini Barss from Upper Room was introduced and asked how to become involved. Wendy offered to meet with her after this committee meeting to explain the GNCOC and the committees.

A reminder was given that the first meeting for Project Homeless Connect will take place on Friday September 7 at 1:15PM at 18 Mulberry Street.

Gini asked about the rumor she hears frequently from clients about bedbugs in the shelters. Information was shared about the problem, but it is currently not an issue.

Discussion took place regarding the lack of transportation services, particularly from Nashua to the methadone clinic in Hudson. Eileen will bring up this concern at the next "Transportation Group" meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM

The next meeting will take place on October 3, 2007 in Room 208 of City Hall