

**Committee on Ending Homelessness**  
**Minutes of the February 6, 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, Laura Nault, Klaas Nijhuis, Olga Cruz, Bob Keating and Candace Gebhart

The meeting began at 8:15 with introductions.

The minutes were reviewed and Lori moved to accept the minutes as written. Jerry seconded and the minutes passed unanimously.

Bob M. began the meeting by letting everyone know that the toolkit is finished and is available on line.

Eileen asked Candace, from NHLA, about workshops for tenant rights. Candace was not aware of our previous request but will work on it. It was suggested that there be more than one session and perhaps it could be a “traveling workshop”, presented at various agencies.

Bob M. said he has been looking at key action items in the Plan and began discussion on the early warning system. The group discussed their individual understanding of the early warning system and how it functions. The general consensus was that this includes the GNCOC email list and our ability to communicate with each other to request assistance for a particular client need or community situation. Bob M. indicated that he feels that the wrap-around services group also meets this need. Bob K. said that he believes we have accomplished most of this goal. Kathy P. said she believes that the website being created by the NH Coalition to end Homelessness will provide a similar service.

Bob K. opened the discussion about Housing First and we all discussed how it may be working in other communities and what does it mean for our community. Klaas suggested that we watch a film that Bob K has about the Housing First model and see if we can figure out how to implement this in Nashua. Discussion revolved around how this model attempts to transition resources from the shelters to housing.

Kathy mentioned how she assists clients and shared how some of her clients have had their landlord become their SSA payee. This would be reviewed by NHLA.

Bob mentioned a few other agenda items- update on the universal application, coordinate mechanism for housing placement and client focus groups. Eileen volunteered to take the lead on coordinating some client focus groups. Candace and Kathy volunteered to help. The group said that a representative from Harbor Homes would be helpful and Wendy volunteered to email Katie Merrill (who had left this meeting early).

Discussion about how to document and track many activities being done in the community by various agencies that are actually action items/strategies identified in the Plan. It would be valuable to leverage time and resources by combining activities. We need to continue to review Plan action steps and update and simplify.

Eileen shared that Southern NH Medical Center has yet to reschedule their tour of the shelter.

Candace updated the group on the payday lending legislation, in that the Governor has had second thoughts about it because approximately 100 people would lose their jobs. The legislation is not dead and advocates are still hammering away.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM

The next meeting will take place on March 5, 2008 in the City Hall auditorium.