

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2008
Nashua City Hall Auditorium
www.nashua-coc.org**

Call to Order: 8:02 a.m. by Chair Lori Wilshire

All present introduced themselves and visitors welcomed.

Presentation of Fuel Assistance Awards: Chris Grenier of Citizen's Bank and Keith Kuenning, NH Coalition to End Homelessness, presented fuel assistance awards to the following agencies: Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, Keystone Hall, Harbor Homes' Emergency Shelter and Bridges. K. Kuenning indicated that over the past four years Citizens Bank has donated over \$300,000 to local shelters.

Minutes of January 2, 2008 (handout) W. Furnari motioned to accept the minutes. M. Read seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Presentation-"Adult Protective Services": Bruce Angus handed out copies of the Statute. He indicated that everyone has the right to self determination and to make their own choices. The program helps not only the elderly but incapacitated adults over the age of 18. Reports of self neglect, neglect, abuse and exploitation are investigated. B. Angus indicated that in the State of NH everyone is mandated to report suspected abuse. The agency works in partnership with nursing agencies, hospitals, Community Council, Police Departments and other various agencies. B. Angus also explained a new registry for caregivers that will require them to register if abuse or neglect has been founded. He also mentioned that there is a Bill Payer Program that helps the elderly manage their bills but one requirement is that they are able to make their own financial decisions and sign their own checks. P. Kelleher asked about the geographic area for this district. B. Angus explained that it is covered from Pelham, NH out to Greenville, NH. M. Read asked if there would be access to the registry from the internet. B. Angus indicated that the registry would be closed and only certain people would have access. S. Mead asked B. Angus to define a Caregiver. B. Angus indicated it is someone who helps an individual on a scheduled basis and may be a volunteer or someone paid by an agency or a guardian.

Presentation-SOARS: Maureen Ryan from the Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services explained the new pilot program being launched in Nashua. SOARS stands for Social Security Outreach Access and Recovery. The program provides training for Homeless Advocates. The trained individuals will be able to walk applicants through the Social Security process in a detailed way. M. Ryan explained that the Train the Trainer Program plans to extend State wide. The first training class will be held, March 26th and 27th and will have 10-15 participants. M. Durso asked how Health Care Providers can get involved with this program. M. Ryan indicated that the SOARS curriculum addresses working with individuals and additional planning will be needed at the local community level. The connection will be with the local Homeless Outreach Worker or the Homeless Hotline. W. Furnari asked if the program was targeted to individuals in permanent housing or just with the homeless. M. Ryan indicated that at this time the program is set up for the homeless but she will do more research. P. Kelleher mentioned the SOARS program will be a good tool to add to the Continuum and the partnership will bring a greater understanding.

General Group Discussion:

B. Mack mentioned the Division of Public Health is preparing a survey for people who need assistance to complete day to day activities.

K. Kuenning of the NH Coalition to End Homelessness announced a new website that will be consumer oriented and will be a resource to better connect providers with services to the homeless. He indicated the website will roll out in the fall. A meeting will be held on March 7, 2008 at the Salvation Army in Concord, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. K. Paquette encourages everyone to attend the meeting.

L. Newell handed out the recent HUD Outcome Measurements for everyone to review.

T. Epaphras announced that Greg Schneider of Southern NH Services will be joining the Executive Committee to replace Donnalee Lozeau.

P. Kelleher mentioned that Veteran Matt Bernard is in the beginning stages of studying and filming homeless Veterans.

B. Mack announced that the Wrap Around Committee will be meeting on February 26, 2008, 1:00pm at 18 Mulberry Street.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Berube, Harbor Homes, Inc.