

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care  
Meeting Minutes  
January 6, 2010  
[www.nashua-coc.org](http://www.nashua-coc.org)

**Call to order:** 8:05 a.m. by Chair Wendy LeBlanc.

**All present introduced themselves and visitors welcomed.**

**Minutes of December 2, 2009 (handout):** B. Alves motioned to accept the minutes. L. Wilshire seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Presentations:**

Oliver Bengle from Linkabilities (a project of Gateways Community Services) talked about the project he has been working on to gather information on employment opportunities for those with disabilities as well as other community services, overlaps and gaps. He shared that he recently discovered that the NH 211 website already contained much of the same info so instead they will be working on possibly helping 211 further expand the employment portion.

W. LeBlanc shared that Cristin Cahill and Nate Goodwin from Harbor Homes are heading up a committee to determine the interest of service providers in the community for formal training for their staff on financial literacy issues so that they can better serve their clients. The thought is that perhaps case managers would benefit from learning more about programs and processes of various financial resources and “Train the Trainer” type opportunities. N. Goodwin shared that one idea was to offer the Money Smart program. This is in conjunction with the Asset Builders Coalition. There was much discussion about how clients can best learn and implement financial literacy skills. W. LeBlanc asked for a show of hands from providers who would be interested in sending staff to a program like this and the response was overwhelmingly favorable.

Shelter providers were asked to give an update on the status of capacity. K. Merrill indicated that they are always full and that she does her best to make referrals and give out blankets to those seeking shelter that they cannot accommodate. L. Christie indicated that they are also at capacity, however, because the So. NH Rescue Mission is more tolerant of substance use, many of the male clients that would normally go to Ash Street shelter are instead going to the Rescue Mission. She also stated that she has been receiving many calls from other states.

**Announcements:**

W. LeBlanc said that she had received a request for a letter of support from Keystone Hall and asked A. Escalante to describe the project. A. Escalante talked about the SAMSHA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) grant that will expand outpatient and residential services. They are in the process of purchasing a new building that will have the capacity to add residential beds, with a long-term goal of also offering medical detox. L. Christie asked about the City ordinance regarding zoning of substance abuse facilities and asked if there is anything the GNCOC can do to support Keystone’s ability to operate at the new location. P. Kelleher indicated that so far the Alderman’s response to the ordinance was favorable for Keystone. L. Wilshire agreed to keep the GNCOC posted about any public meetings about this issue. L. Christie motioned to write a letter of support. B. Alves seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

L. Wilshire indicated that the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Request for Proposals is available and due February 5, 2010. The Mayor has called a meeting on Monday, January 11, 2010 to share information with non-profits about the changes to the Review and Comment Application. L. Wilshire also mentioned that the City of Nashua's Consolidated Plan is due in May and so far she is unaware of any meetings being held for community input.

L. Goodman reminded folks that anyone applying for Federal grants should contact her for a letter of support from Congressman Hodes.

T. Epaphras reminded us that the Point In Time count will take place on January 27, 2010. W. LeBlanc indicated that the forms and instructions will be sent out shortly, as the Data Gathering Committee meets on Friday to finalize everything.

A. Phillips shared that the NH Charitable Foundation applications for 2010 will be due on March 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a workshop on 1/26/10 at the Nashua Public Library at 9:30AM to review the process for applying.

T. Bernhardt asked if anyone knew about an upcoming community cultural celebration. L. Goodman indicated that it will be held on 1/8/10 at Main St. United Methodist Church at 154 Main St.

A. Donovan announced that the Red Cross is forming a committee on dealing with disasters and the first meeting will be on 01/7/10 at 177 Lake St from 5:00-6:00PM.

**Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 am.**

**Minutes prepared by Wendy LeBlanc, Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force**