

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care  
Ending Homelessness Committee  
Minutes of 5/6/09 meeting

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Candace C. Gebhart, Eileen Brady, Wendy LeBlanc, Magaly Rios, Jessica Karwatske, Dean Levinson, Linda Newell, Ray Peterson, Laura Nault, Anne Quinn, Kathryn Paquette, Carlos Salamanca, Joan Koliss, Jerry Leclerc, Laurie Goodman, Katherine Merrill, Peter Kelleher, Meghan Bilz.

The meeting began at approx. 9:10am with introductions. Review of the minutes from the 4/1/09 meeting. W. LeBlanc motioned to accept the minutes; J. Leclerc seconded the motion. Minutes accepted.

B. Mack addressed the 10 Year Plan, and noted the amendment to SuperNOFA goals on pg. 3-re: HUD increase to 70% goal of clients moving from Transitional Housing to Permanent Housing upon exit. Minor edits will be made to the Plan as needed without going to a vote by the full CoC. The final draft will be out once the change is made re: HUD 70% goal.

Also addressed was the job fair-#8 on the Plan (pg. 6). A subcommittee will need to convene to report back about coordinating a job fair for low-income/homeless folks. Perhaps NHEP or Linkabilities.

K. Paquette asked if all food stamp applicants are required to enroll in NHEP. We can look into this. E. Brady mentioned that we need to have a lead agency to spearhead the job fair. She spoke to Tom Lopez, the employment advocate at the Soup Kitchen.

P. Kelleher said that the public access TV channel in Chelmsford is drawing national attention and will possibly be coming to Nashua to film regarding unemployment.

J. Leclerc said he would be willing to work on developing a subcommittee for the job fair. It could be a "Project Employment Connect". W. LeBlanc will e-mail the details to the full CoC if Jerry can type up a blurb about the Employment Connect idea. E. Brady mentioned that the reason the employment piece was left out of the most recent PHC was because it was hoped that a job fair would be held in the spring.

K. Paquette said she may have a link to PC Connection for representation at the job fair. P. Kelleher reminded the committee to think from an employer's perspective on offering jobs to at-risk and homeless persons; there may be some resistance, especially with the job market the way it is right now. How can we get the business community to be a part of the CoC?

C. Salamanca mentioned that there is a federal program that offers incentives to employers to hire ex-felons—is there a similar program to offer incentives to hire the homeless?

Discussion ensued over having a universal application for services in Nashua and B. Mack mentioned the Financial Assistance Network that has developed their own form in regards to providing financial assistance to consumers. If a true “universal application” could be developed for all services in Nashua, it may help to avoid duplication of data and verifications that clients need to present to different agencies. Manchester has some kind of universal application in place already.

L. Newell mentioned that there may be other data sources when collecting info for the PIT count, such as hospitals; however this may be difficult due to HIPAA laws.

R. Peterson suggested that 211 could collect monthly statistics regarding how many calls are coming in from each town. L. Newell suggested that the Homeless Hotline could track the number of calls it receives each month as well

C. Salamanca said that the Rescue Mission tracks the # of meals they serve and # of guests they have at the shelter each night.

B. Mack noted that the direction of the EHC needs to move more towards implementing the Plan’s action items so we can continue to move forward to end homelessness. Bob will not be at the next EHC meeting, and he is looking for a new Chairperson for the committee.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 10:15am