

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Ending Homelessness Committee

Minutes of the 10/6/10 Meeting

Present at the meeting were: Eileen Brady, Jessica Karwatske, Wendy LeBlanc, Jerry Leclerc, Bob Mack, Katherine Merrill, Kathryn Paquette, Dennis Roy, Janet Roy, Laurie Skibba, Ray Villeneuve, Ruth M, Lisa Milam, Tom Doucette, C.J. Gorius

9:15am Call to Order by Chair Eileen Brady

All present were introduced and newcomers welcomed.

Review of minutes from the 9/1/10 meeting. W. LeBlanc motioned to accept the minutes as written. J. Leclerc seconded the motion and motion carried.

10 Year Plan Accomplishments

The committee discussed adding today's COC presentation to the 10 Year Plan's list of accomplishments. Representatives from the towns of Mason and Wilton joined the COC meeting today, which serves as proof that the COC is reaching out to other communities.

Discussion ensued regarding reaching out to more businesses in the community (i.e. Rotary Clubs, Chamber of Commerce, Great American Downtown) and W. LeBlanc invited folks to join the Community Relations Committee to share ideas about that.

C.J. Gorius from Wilton Town Welfare said that the COC meeting was very helpful and he got some good information about support services in Greater Nashua. In the past 6 months, he stated that he has only seen about 3 homeless families and homelessness is not very extensive in Wilton.

Project Employment Connect

J. Leclerc indicated that this year's PEC was well attended by folks seeking employment. The resume writing workshop was very successful. The event was low on employers, as some corporate businesses such as McDonald's stated to him that they need 6-8 months advance notice to get approval from corporate to participate in these types of events. Perhaps the PEC committee will need to begin reaching out to employers much earlier next year so they can secure more employers.

Once again, they are considering charging a small fee to employers who register; the fees can then be donated to Harbor Homes for use of the space at 45 High St. B. Mack mentioned that the PEC committee might want to review the time frame in which the

event is held; many more employers are beginning to hire temporary employees for the holiday season, which may present an opportunity for the unemployed.

W. LeBlanc noted that it would be helpful if there were a mechanism in place so that folks who attended and got a job can report back to the committee. J. Leclerc is concerned with erasing the stereotype/stigma of homelessness when recruiting employers for the event. Ruth from Connections mentioned that she attended the event and found it to be a good networking opportunity and a good way to give back to the community. J. Leclerc asked her to write a brief quote for him to use in advertising next year.

Project Homeless Connect

PHC is currently in the planning phase. The event will be held on 11/30/10 which is earlier than in previous years. Next year's event is already booked for December. Volunteers will be needed to help set up and also to guide visitors through the event.

Any agency who is participating is asked to list on the registration form any "give-away" items they may be offering (socks, winter hats, hygiene products, etc.). Set-up will be on 11/29/10 at 1:00pm.

Homeless Toolkit

B. Mack asked if any progress is being made on updating the Toolkit. C. Gebhart was supposed to be looking into getting an intern to work on the updates. She is currently on sabbatical, so W. Leblanc said she will work on finding someone to begin the update.

Other

R. Villeneuve mentioned that the labyrinth at Rotary Common Park is now complete, and the dedication ceremony is being held on Saturday, 10/9/10. All are welcome to come and enjoy this new place of personal and spiritual reflection. E. Brady asked if he could get some flyers or handouts so they can be available at PHC.

K. Paquette is still having trouble with her email at SNHS, and requested that her personal email address be added to the COC/EHC contact lists. She can be reached at katpaq@comcast.net

E. Brady has asked for a volunteer to take over the recording duties for the EHC because J. Karwatske will be leaving the Care Center on 10/15/10. Anyone who is interested can contact Eileen. Duties will include attending the EHC meetings and recording the minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55am

Minutes prepared by Jessica E. Karwatske, Nashua Pastoral Care Center