

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 7, 2010**  
[www.nashua-coc.org](http://www.nashua-coc.org)

**Call to order:** Chair Wendy LeBlanc called the meeting to order at 8:05am. All present introduced themselves, and visitors were welcomed.

Minutes from the meeting of March 3, 2010 were reviewed. There were no changes made. Lisa Christie motioned to accept the minutes. Barbara Alves seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

W. LeBlanc explained to newcomers that the format for the meeting is committee reports one month, and the following month presentations. April 2010 is the month for committee reports.

**Committee Reports:**

**W. LeBlanc reported for the Executive Committee** - She indicated that the new Director of the Nashua Library, Jennifer Hinderer was a guest at the March EC meeting. It was a productive dialog with Ms. Hinderer and L. Christie indicated that the new director was very receptive and open to working together to ensure that the library staff understood the struggles of the homeless population that visits the library, and that the library staff also understand where someone's 'Right to Privacy' starts and ends. S. Mead of the Greater Nashua Health Center at Community Council will be following up with Ms. Hinderer to provide a staff presentation. Also, at the EC meeting it was determined that the May presenters to the general COC May meeting will be some of the organizations that have received HPRP ARRA stimulus funds and their experience and success with the funds. The City's consolidated plan was discussed and a public meeting was scheduled. B. Mack and M. Durso met with emergency room staff of SNHMC to discuss how the COC and the hospital could better collaborate. The hospital staff indicated that they are seeing a lot of older (55+) homeless persons in the ER. P. Kelleher reported that effective 7/1/2010 HHI will lose the funding for Connections, which has been in place for 26 years. They are busily reaching out to others to see how that gap might be filled. Any ideas from the general COC members would be welcomed.

**E. Brady reported for the Ending Homelessness Committee** - She indicated that not as many members have been attending the meetings. The subcommittee has not yet met to discuss sex offenders and housing for them, and how to balance rights and responsibilities for these individuals. There was a major emphasis in the last meeting on reviewing the accomplishments (which have been many) and what remains to be done on the Ending Homelessness Plan as the deadline of 2012 is fast approaching.

**P. Murphy reported for the Community Relations Committee** - She indicated that the next meeting is scheduled for 4/21 at the Merrimack Town Hall at 10:30 AM, where they will be looking at the Point in Time count as well as the municipal elections in the GNCOC catchment to reach out to those newly elected officials and educate them on the GNCOC.

**Nashua, NH Representative, Joan Schulze reported for the Legislative Affairs Committee –** The committee did not meet, however **Rep. Schulze** reported on certain activities going on presently at the State House. She reported that H.B. 1566 requiring financial institutions to disclose certain information regarding recipients of medical assistance for the aged, blind and disabled through an electronic asset verification system, did not pass the house, as there is not enough monies to fund it. She indicated there is a lot of ongoing discussion surrounding the LLC business tax. She also reported on a Child Fatality Bill in the House that is currently in discussion, which would require all deaths of children 0 – 1 years of age to be investigated. **E. Brady** asked about the human services impact and safety net if the gambling bill were to pass. Rep. Schulze responded that the gambling lobbyists are very active and visible. She also expressed concern on the human services needs impact, as well as indicated that it would bring low-level jobs such as dishwashers, janitors, etc. **Alderman L. Wilshire** indicated that she had spoken with both Nashua Senators and they are both in support of the passage of the bill and have indicated that it would bring mid-level management jobs to the State and that the first \$50 million was to go to the Health and Human Services Division.

**Alderman L. Wilshire** also indicated the meeting schedule for further discussion relative to the City's Consolidated Plan. There will be meetings on 4/7 with the Human Affairs Committee (HAC) to discuss the potential funds the City may get funded from CDBG; 4/12 the HAC will discuss the non-profits applications for CDBG funds; 4/19 the HAC will prioritize the funding requests and prepare submission to the Board of Alderman; 4/27 the Plan will be discussed by the BOA; and 5/3 there will be a public hearing on the funding proposals.

**L. Newell reported for the Data Gathering Committee and HMIS -** Ms. Newell reported that the committee worked on the Point in Time count, it has been sent to the State and she expects to have final numbers to report for the May GNCOC meeting. They are currently working on the task of the Housing Inventory Chart which is due in by the end of April. She provided a handout of the HUD outcome measurements through the HMIS system, and walked the members through that report. She reported that the HPRP grant is going well; that 500+ clients have been served statewide. She will send out AHAR information through the COC website following the meeting.

#### **Statewide Committees:**

**T. Epaphras** attended the **MCOC meeting**. It was reported that the Homeless Service Center (a center similar to Connections in Nashua run by Harbor Homes), is being funded through the Manchester United Way and the City of Manchester. It will be located at 142 Central Street and is anticipated to open on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**L. Newell** attended the **BOSCOC meeting**. It was reported that the NH Hospital is transitioning the reallocation of HUD funds from the NH Hospital to a transitional housing program. It entails a \$236,000 grant. **P. Kelleher** indicated that he understands that this was a strategic business decision of the NH State Hospital.

**P. Kelleher** attended the **ICH meeting**. He indicated that the committee is updating the ending homelessness plan and intends to finalize the plan at the next ICH meeting. He also reported on a couple of other items. (1) That the Ending Homeless Veterans Plan, which is a four year plan, is 60% - 70% complete, and requested for the GNCOC to please provide any of their ideas to be considered for incorporation. There have been about 10 meeting on the veterans plan to date. (2) The Point in Time count went up, and the increase is due to children that had not been in the count before. He indicated that the COC may want to consider the impact of children in the Ending Homelessness 10 Year Plan. **W. LeBlanc** indicated that a lot more data was provided by

the school systems this time around, and that may be the reason for the increase. (3) **P. Kelleher** indicated that there are also efforts underway through other networks in both Portsmouth and Keene to reduce the homeless veterans population.

**C. Gebhart** attended the March **NH Coalition to End Homelessness meeting**. The March meeting was a training session about homeless children. She indicated there will be no April meeting, that they will now be quarterly with the next one in June.

**E. Brady** reported that she met with Alyssa of the **NH Housing Coalition**, and that the coalition is basically starting from scratch, that Alyssa is working only 20 hours weekly and it is challenging to obtain information. E. Brady did attend the NH Cares Meeting and they are very concerned about the Human Services needs surrounding gambling issues if the gambling bill does pass.

**K. Merrill** reported that the next **Shelters Directors Meeting** is on April 16<sup>th</sup>. No current report.

#### **Announcements:**

Barbara Alves of Marguerites Place, Inc. shared that their childcare center is now open to the public and they will be hosting an open house on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 4:00pm. All are invited, please check the website at [www.margueritesplace.org](http://www.margueritesplace.org)

Lisa Christie of the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter invited all to participate in their 17<sup>th</sup> annual NSKS Run for Food and Shelter. It is also on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and starts at the YMCA. Check in from 11:00am – 12:30pm. It will include a 10K race, 5K race, 3K walk, and Kids Sprint. The sprint starts at 12:30 and the races at 1:00. Please check out the website for details on how to participate: [www.nsk.org](http://www.nsk.org).

There being no other announcements, the Chair reminded the members of the upcoming meetings detailed on the Agenda, and the meeting was then adjourned at 8:50 AM.

Minutes prepared by Lori M. Piper, Merrimack County Savings Bank