

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the January 3, 2006 Meeting
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Wendy Furnari, Gene Murray, Linda Jeynes, Eileen Brady, Tony Epaphras, Deb Fluet, Lori Wilshire and Jerry Leclerc.

The meeting began at 9:10 am. Minutes were reviewed from the November 1, 2006 meeting as there was no December meeting due to Project Homeless Connect. Lori motioned that the minutes be accepted with a few typographical edits, Gene seconded as amended. Motion passed.

Since Bob presented on Project Homeless Connect at the GNCOC meeting earlier today, no new information was shared here. A comment was that the only way to improve next year's event is to have apartments and/or transitional housing available immediately to offer that day. Eileen commented that perhaps the openings are occurring in transitional housing right now (as announced at the GNCOC meeting) is because folks are realizing that transitional housing does not always lead to permanent housing as the Section 8 wait list is longer than the stay in transitional housing.

Bob distributed the Homeless Prevention Discharge Plan which discusses the need for appropriate discharge from institutions. Discussed benefit issues and suspending them rather than terminating them. The plan includes discussion of non-driver ids which was submitted as a bill from Nashua Rep. Smith. Eileen talked about the days before the shelters and how institutions were more responsible for assuring housing for people being discharged.

Bob distributed info regarding the new Oxford House being opened in Nashua. He also mentioned that Soul Purpose has closed.

Lori talked about the 5-6 bills being introduced into legislation regarding homeless issues. Collaborative efforts are necessary- maybe we need to take the GNCOC road show to the new legislators that may need some education. Eileen mentioned that Cindy Rosenwald, a Nashua Ward 3 Rep. on our Legislative Affairs committee was just named chair of Health and Human services committee.

Bob suggested it is time to refocus on some of the plan steps such as the forum for inter/intra state collaboration. The initial target date was January 2006. Much discussion took place regarding the NH Helpline being closed, and how Service Link will pick up the slack. Tony said it would be great if there were an 1-800 # that folks could call for Southern NH. HE is going to look into whether or not this is something that Info Bank can do. Bob will talk to Keith Kuenning from the NH Coalition to End Homelessness to see if he can help with the inter/intra state collaborations. Gene will plant the seed when he sees Keith this week. Eileen mentioned that Boston has beds for homeless persons in need of medical care. If we had an inter-state forum, perhaps we could learn more about these types of resources. She said that there have been tenancy trainings in Lowell that

our clients could benefit from. It was mentioned that there is an Ethnic Awareness group at City Hall now. What are they doing? Linda will try to get minutes.

Bob brought up the subject of the universal application. There are currently two groups in Nashua working on this same issue. It is up to the rapid re-housing committee to iron this out. Tony said that the City of Chicago uses a universal application and he will try to get a copy of it.

We discussed the resource sheet that the committee has been working on. We reviewed the info on the draft and Jerry offered to take it and see if he could make it all fit on a smaller sheet. Gene suggested that it needs to be laminated/waxed.

Eileen mentioned that she attended the recent landlord/tenant forum sponsored by Legal Assistance. She said that mostly landlords attended, not many tenants.

Bob asked us to review the 10-year plan again so we can refine the steps. Eileen suggested a work session so there could be the correct amount of focus. We will do this at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15am.

The next meeting will take place on February 7, 2007 in Room 208 of City Hall. The entire meeting will focus on updating the 10 year plan to end homelessness. There will be no updates or new business discussed.