

**Committee on Ending Homelessness**  
**Minutes of the March 7, 2007 Meeting**  
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Wendy Furnari, Gene Murray, Tony Epaphras, Deb Fluet, Lori Wilshire, Jerry Leclerc, Laura Nault, Anne Quinn, Eileen Brady, Linda Jaynes, Sarah Soboslai, Mike Perez, John Burruto (joined late)

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am by Bob Mack. Minutes from the February 7, 2007 minutes were reviewed. Lori motioned to accept the minutes with one minor typographical edit. Laura seconded, motioned carried.

Bob discussed the Ending Homelessness Plan and that the Executive Committee is taking a closer look to review and make changes. It may make sense to restructure the subcommittees. Project Homeless Connect is as good example of how we get services to people and how we may divide that into strategies/subcommittees: shelter/housing, employment/education, health care and other social supports.

There was a discussion amongst the group regarding advocacy and how folks may need support to keep them from backsliding, once they have attained housing or other necessary services. Trust can be a major issue for some clients so building a rapport with staff and participating in the wrap-around services meetings can be helpful for those very challenging folks. Laura asked a question about Legal Aid and Mike reviewed how services could be delivered from his agency. Eileen said that the recent landlord/tenant forum did not attract any tenants and suggested a forum just for tenants. Mike will look into this possibility. Lori suggested he connect with Mary Febonio and Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Nashua. Anne discussed SSI being “attached” or the landlord becoming the tenant’s payee.

Jerry showed us the final template of the Ending Homelessness card. St. Joseph’s Hospital will print 5,000 cards and donate them to the CoC. The cards will be given to the outreach workers, the police, churches, hospitals and agencies to give to clients dealing with homelessness.

Further discussion on the need to document accomplishments in the EH Plan. Bob mentioned that the Governor’s budget includes \$400K for a statewide loan fund, similar to what the GNCOC already put into place through Pastoral Care. The Community Relations Committee is looking at who is responsible for what pieces of the Plan and who has signed Good Neighbor Agreements. There is a concern that people/agencies identified as implementers of action steps may not even know that this has been assigned to them. Lori said that the Executive Committee is working through the plan item by item so that we can take credit for accomplishing the things we have done. She said that the dates on the Plan need to be updated and some may need to be ongoing rather than have an end date. Linda asked about updates being on the GNCOC website. Lori and Bob said that they are waiting to completely update it rather than giving it to Miles in piecemeal.

Bob mentioned that the SuperNOFA goals are different from the Plan goals and we need to figure out how to tie them together.

Bob also shared with us that HUD is interested in providing some support to the GNCOC regarding implementation of the Plan. He has no details yet but will be meeting with Ernie Zupancic from HUD tomorrow afternoon to get more info. Lori will join them.

Bob reminded us to keep looking at the Plan and if we have any comments to let him know.

Eileen shared concerns about the Southern NH Rescue Mission. According to Laura, 8 people are now living there. It is not known if they followed any procedures to get a variance or go through the process to be approved as a shelter. It was reported that there is very little oversight and Eileen said that there could be safety and health issues based on level of supervision. NSKS has reached out to David Blacksmith to offer support to go through the proper procedures but so far nothing has happened. Lori offered to reach out to him.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15am.

The next meeting will take place on April 4, 2007 in Room 208 of City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Furnari – EHC Secretary