

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2008
Nashua City Hall Auditorium
www.nashua-coc.org**

Call to Order: 8:02 a.m. by Chair Wendy Furnari

All present introduced themselves and visitors welcomed.

Minutes of April 2, 2008 (handout): J. Leclerc motioned to accept the minutes. L. Wilshire seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Committee Reports

- **Executive Committee:** W. Furnari mentioned that this committee discussed the SuperNOFA and the costs associated with working with Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC). There was also a discussion regarding the need for a Vice Chair, P. Kelleher volunteered to work as a Co-Vice Chair if someone else would assist him. W. Furnari indicated that if someone is interested in filling this position they can contact her or any other member of the Executive Committee.
- **Ending Homelessness Committee:** B. Mack mentioned that the committee discussed Work Force Housing and IDA accounts. An IDA is a savings account to be used for the purchase of a home. If anyone is looking for further information they can contact the Nashua Housing Authority, Pastoral Care or the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter. B. Mack also explained the early warning system which is an enhancement to the Shelter Wrap Around Service Committee.
- **Community Relations Committee:** W. Furnari introduced Pat Murphy as the new Chair for this committee. She also indicated that the Town of Amherst has joined in the Good Neighbor Agreement. W. Furnari thanked B. Mack for updating the power point for the presentations.
- **Legislative Affairs Committee:** P. Kelleher indicated that this committee has been reviewing the Ten Year Plan and will forward any edits to Bob Mack.
- **Data Gathering Committee:** L. Jeynes mentioned that she, Bob Mack and Bob Keating met to gather numbers and reform the committee.
- **HMIS:** L. Newell handed out updated HUD Outcome Measurements for everyone to review.
- **SuperNOFA:** P. Kelleher mentioned that this committee is a portion of the continuum which dedicates services to the NOFA process and submits to the full continuum for ranking and voting. He explained that the funding is usually \$1.5 to \$1.6 million which is mostly for the permanent housing programs. P. Kelleher mentioned that this is the first year that HUD is requiring that the proposals be submitted electronically and the committee is working hard to maintain the same success of funding. TAC is assisting to

get everyone registered by June 15, 2008. W. Furnari added that the full COC will need to meet twice in July and will take August off.

Continua:

- **MCOC:** L. Newell indicated that this committee has also been working on their SuperNOFA.
- **BOSCO:** L. Newell mentioned that this committee has been working on NOFA goals and had a presentation on the HOPWA grant and PATH grant. There was also a discussion for two new projects, the first is for rapid re-housing and the second is a safe haven project.
- **ICH:** P. Kelleher indicated that this committee has been working on the funding for local initiative. He also mentioned that HUD awarded 35 VASH vouchers to the Manchester Housing Authority. B. Mack asked if any veteran could apply for this housing and P.K responded that he would send an e-mail to the full continuum with additional information.

Request for Letter of Support: P. Kelleher explained that he is looking for a letter of support for an employment support program for veterans. The program helps homeless veterans reintegrate. The maximum amount awarded would be \$200,000. B. Mack asked if the grant was for supportive services. P. Kelleher responded that employment is a significant challenge. B. Mack asked if P. Kelleher was looking for the maximum amount. P. Kelleher replied yes. L. Wilshire motioned to honor the request. The motion was seconded and carried.

P. Kelleher also addressed the need for a second letter. He explained that this involves the SAMHSA Grant which provides substance abuse treatments. P. Kelleher explained that additional information would be available on the SAMHSA web page. HUD provides \$400,000 each year. M. Durso asked if the grant also addressed healthcare issues. P. Kelleher explained that there is a portion of the grant that encourages healthcare collaboration. L. Goodman asked P. Kelleher if a letter of support from Congressman Hodes would help. P. Kelleher responded yes. L. Wilshire motioned to honor this request. K. Paquette seconded the motion. B. Mack asked if housing would be involved. P. Kelleher indicated no. The motion carried.

W. Furnari indicated that Laurie Skibba had also recently requested a letter of support and it was done via e-mail because of the timing.

Announcements:

L. Wilshire mentioned that Alderman Clemons is working with Code Enforcement regarding violations when landlords are either unreachable or unresponsive.

L. Goodman announced that Congressman Hodes will be at the Nashua Public Library on May 31, 2008 at 10:00 am to discuss economy issues and gather information to help shape the legislation. W. Furnari asked L. Goodman to send an e-mail to the full continuum.

R. Peterson provided handouts regarding the coalition partners. Some of the topics covered are tax help, financial literacy and budgeting. He indicated that the next meeting will be held at the Triangle Credit Union.

G. Martins reminded everyone that Harbor Homes, Inc. would be hosting the District Council meeting on May 20, 2008 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. The meeting will give everyone an opportunity to discuss concerns regarding health, homeless and housing issues. He requested that everyone RSVP to get an idea of how much literature will be needed.

M. Durso announced that the health center now has two new physicians. She indicated that there has been a significant increase of patients due to loss of employment and many people being self employed with no health insurance.

K. Williams explained that the Mayor's Task Force has been working with the Div. of Public Health on welfare and environment. One of the major concerns has been the heat issue, during the winter months there was a family left without heat. The Task Force has also been working with the refugees to prepare them on the proper way to report on health, finances and safety. W. Furnari asked where the refugees were coming from. K. Williams indicated they were coming from Africa. W. Furnari then asked if they were being tested for HIV. M. Durso mentioned that testing is being done for HIV but they are also seeing malaria. J. Kollis asked if someone needed to be referred to the Task Force and K. Williams indicated anyone could be contacted.

A. Quinn mentioned that some people don't have the mental capacity to complete the necessary DHHS forms and understand what they are reading. A. Quinn indicated that there is a serious issue because land lords are not renting to people coming out of the YMCA due to the bed bug issue. K. Paquette indicated that she has been working closely with the owners of Temple St and other agencies to assist with moving and being careful not to transfer the bugs. She assured everyone that the problem will be lightened. L. Christie asked if there was a new manager at Temple St. and K. Paquette indicated yes. B. Mack mentioned that A. Quinn does have a valid issue regarding cognitive impairment and mental issues he indicated that hopefully they would be referred to an appropriate agency.

M. Durso mentioned that it tends to be a lack of experience and not necessarily a mental issue. D. Cull mentioned he has been working with the mental health agencies trying to get housing.

K. Paquette mentioned that the emergency fuel assistance ended on the 30th of April but there is a small amount of assistance to place people.

P. Kelleher reminded everyone that Harbor Homes, Inc. will be re opening the Mainstream program on May 21st and May 22nd from 8:00am to 5:00pm

There was also a discussion of a new organization, FBA which stands for Faith Based Action. The organization consists of 75 agencies with Hillsborough County. If anyone is interested in more information they can view the website fba-net.com.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Berube, Harbor Homes, Inc.