

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the November 7, 2007 meeting
City Hall, Nashua

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Wendy Furnari, Eileen Brady, Kathryn Paquette, Linda Jaynes, Carol Furlong, Jerry Leclerc, Germano Martins, Christine Lavalley and Katherine Merrill

The meeting began at 9:15 with introductions.

The minutes were reviewed and Germano moved to accept the minutes as written. Linda seconded and the minutes passed unanimously.

Bob brought out the Toolkit and mentioned that we need a volunteer to review it and update the document. Jerry offered to bring it to St. Joe's volunteer pool and see if he could get someone there to work on it.

Bob reviewed what Germano had reported out at the GNCOC meeting on rapid re-housing. They talked about using the HMIS forms as the universal application and trying it first with landlords that are non-profits, and then if that works well to try it with private landlords.

We began a discussion on the 10-year plan and noted some successes. Wendy asked if new subsidies "count" towards the creation of 50 affordable housing units. Bob said while it may depend on interpretation, Eileen explained that if there is an affordable housing unit available and someone with a subsidy moves into that unit, it negates the affordable housing unit, as it is "taken up" by someone who could have afforded an apartment at a higher market rent.

There was discussion about the influx of refugees and how this will create challenges for services since the assistance offered is short term. Eileen talked about how Manchester has a better infrastructure in place to support the refugees and they generally don't have to go to City Welfare. She then said that Nashua might be a transition site instead of a permanent site for many of these folks. Tony asked if the hospitals were seeing refugees and the reply was that they are going to the Nashua Area Health Center.

Germano asked about item 2.2.3 on the 10 year plan and feels that it dovetails with the universal application. Bob agreed.

Bob asked Christina about a landlord's responsibility in a situation where the building becomes uninhabitable but is not considered a disaster to qualify for Red Cross assistance. Martha Reed at the GNCOC brought up this question of landlord responsibility. Christina replied that there is no clear law but if heat or water is involved that the tenant can go to the court and file a 548 form, which would offer the judge an opportunity to order resolution.

Christina talked about the community outreach grant that NH Legal Assistance has from the City of Nashua and asked for ideas on topics and how to engage clients. After discussion, she decided that she might try to do a 3 part series, one for landlords, one for tenants and one for service providers. Eileen suggested she try Ledge St School.

Germano asked about forming a subcommittee on grant opportunities/ grant writing to try to help get some additional funding into our community. Bob noted that some agencies have grant writers on staff. Germano may send an email to the GNCOC asking for interested individuals to work on this committee.

Bob gave a brief reminder of Project Homeless Connect.

Kathy P. brought up the challenge of individuals being released from the Nashua court with their belongings still at Valley St. jail. She has gone with a note to get belongings of her clients. Eileen said she lives near the jail and can pick things up for folks with a note.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM

The next meeting will take place on December 5, 2007 the City Hall auditorium.