

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes
Nashua City Hall Auditorium
November 7, 2007
www.nashua-coc.org**

Call to Order: 8:03 a.m. by Vice-Chair Wendy Furnari

All present introduced themselves and visitors welcomed.

Minutes of October 3, 2007(handout) S. Mead noted a correction on page 1, paragraph 3. M. Durso noted a correction on page 1, paragraph 4 and L. Christie noted a correction on page 1, 8. L. Christie motioned to accept the minutes with corrections. P. Kelleher seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Ending Homelessness Committee: B. Mack mentioned that the committee met with a local landlord, Paul Laflamme and discussed challenges he faces. The committee also revisited reaching out to other landlords and developing a tool kit for the landlords.

The goal is to prevent evictions and homelessness and why wait for the tenants to receive a notice to quit.

B. Mack also indicated that they would like to meet with providers that may be unfamiliar with the shelters.

B. Mack updated everyone on the Project Homeless Connect. The planning group recently toured Harbor Homes, Inc., 45 High Street to plan the set up. The group has sent out flyers announcing the event will be held on December 6, 2007 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm.

B. Mack mentioned that we may not be authorized to hang a banner this year on Main Street.

GAPS L. Jeynes mentioned that she is missing five forms for the October count. She also indicated that the Point in Time count will be held on January 30, 2008.

HMIS: C. Pitcher explained that HMIS stands for Homeless Management Information Systems and this is used to collect data. He also handed out the latest HUD APR to provide a monthly review of goals.

C. Pitcher explained AHAR and that Nashua is involved on a national level. All of October reports need to be completed by November 9, 2007 in order to run the reports and send to congress.

P. Kelleher indicated that it is great to have a monthly report.

C. Pitcher mentioned that the report is prepared by U Mass, Boston and if anyone would like a copy he will provide one.

B. Mack asked if some agencies may not be collecting data. C. Pitcher explained that this shows coverage of funded and non funded agencies.

Community Relations: No Report.

Legislative Affairs: J. Schulze mentioned that the upcoming bills can be reviewed on the State wide website. If anyone has any interests she will schedule a meeting.

D. Smith announced that a recent bill regarding pay day lending has support from both sides and they are looking at a cap.

M. Read mentioned that the Red Cross has had recent issues where tenants have had to leave their apartments but the problem is not considered a disaster. J. Schulze explained that this may be a city issue and not a state issue.

B. Mack suggested contacting NH Legal Assistance. S. Mead also suggested contacting Elliott Barry.

Continua: MCOC- C. Pitcher mentioned that Manchester is holding its first Project Homeless Connect and is working hard to reorganize.

BOSCO- C. Pitcher mentioned that this committee met on Tuesday, November 6, 2007 and worked on the definition of what it means to be employed.

K. Keunung mentioned that Bill Guinther gave a presentation on the history of HUD and found that not many people are familiar with the process.

ICH- K. Keunung mentioned that the ICH is working on implementing the 10 Year Plan. He also mentioned that this committee adopted the Revolving Loan Fund on December 31, 2006 which provides money for first month's rent and security deposit.

P. Kelleher indicated they are focusing on certain sections of the state or certain areas to build on.

L. Christie indicated there is a need for affordable housing but no money in the plan.

P. Kelleher asked K. Keunung about funding for Permanent Housing. K. Keunung replied that if agencies applied for a Permanent Housing grant they are almost guaranteed to receive it.

Rapid Re-housing: G. Martins discussed the development of a standard application. There is a need to meet with the housing providers and develop an application similar to the HMIS application.

This Committee meets the first Tuesday of every month at 8:00am at the Red Cross. If anyone is interested please contact Germano Martins or Martha Read.

G. Martins indicated that agencies and private landlords are welcome. W. Furnari asked G. Martins to send an e-mail in regard to this.

Executive Committee: W. Furnari mentioned that the Executive Committee discussed restructuring the committee and asked for feedback on alternating weeks with reports and presentations.

She also indicated that B. Mack and M. Durso are working on a potential form that agencies can use to provide information to the GNCOC on what is happening in their agencies that contributes to the 10 year plan to end homelessness.

K. Paquette mentioned that she feels it would be a good idea to restructure the meetings.

P. Kelleher indicated he likes the idea of having dialogue on different issues. He suggested 1/3 of the meeting be for urgent matters and the other 2/3 be open for discussions.

W. Furnari indicated that every meeting would have time for time sensitive material.

P. Kelleher mentioned this would help everyone get to know each other.

L. Christie suggested hearing from other towns.

P. Kelleher motioned to support the changes. B. Alves seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Announcements:

Heather Tarr discussed the Veterans Stand down event that is being held at the Manchester Armory on November 15, 2007 from 8:00am to 12:00pm. If there are any Veterans in the area that are interested in attending she will be providing transportation.

Some of the events will include employment specialists. Help with applying for Veterans benefits and hair cuts. In addition there will be a job fair from 12:00pm to 6:00pm.

G. Martins explained that the event is open to all Veterans and they are not required to provide a DD14.

M. Durso mentioned that she is seeing more refugees in Nashua and a lot of the homeless are doubling up.

P. Kelleher updated everyone on the Health Care for the Homeless application. He indicated that this application has been submitted in the past and has not been successful.

He mentioned he has hired a national consultant and hopes that this application will be accepted.

P. Kelleher also mentioned the 2 day training for SOARS and that Bob Reading from the Social Security office also attended.

The program will increase the success rate of first time Social Security applications. P. Kelleher also mentioned that 55% of the first time applicants succeed. Only 3%-5% of the homeless succeed on the first try.

P. Kelleher also mentioned that Manchester has the Healthcare for the Homeless program and they have worked with Social Security to have successful applications.

M. Read indicated that if anyone is working with individuals from the refugee camps the Red Cross will assist.

K. Paquette mentioned that it is important to get the HealthCare for the Homeless. She recently had an experience with an individual that had a medical issue and no healthcare.

K. Keunning announced that upcoming legislative bills are Fuel Assistance checks, non drivers license ID'S for individuals leaving the prison system.

W. Furnari reminded everyone about World Aid's Day on Friday, November 30, 2007 at 45 High Street.

B. Mack announced that the Continuum was denied the recent grant application to the NHCF. He indicated that there was no financial report attached.

B. Alves mentioned that she will be accepting nominations for the St. Marguerites Humanitarian Award . If anyone is interested they can log on to www.margueritesplace.org

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Berube, Harbor Homes, Inc.