

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care  
Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 8, 2010  
[www.nashua-coc.org](http://www.nashua-coc.org)**

**Call to order:** 8:35 a.m. by Chair Wendy LeBlanc.

**Present:** Wendy LeBlanc, Bob Mack, Lisa Christie, Candace Gebhart, Carol Furlong, Peter Kelleher, Meghan Bilz, Lynn Censabella, and Lori Piper

**Minutes of November 10, 2010 (handout):**

Minutes were reviewed and a couple of minor corrections were made: (1) **75%** rather  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 17 year olds are men coming in for preventative treatment; (2) it was questioned as to whether it was SNHMC or St. Joseph Hospital that M. Durso indicated are going in the back door of the hospital. M. Durso was not at this meeting and that will need to be clarified; (3) W. Leblanc indicated that it will be the "Community Relations Committee" rather than her that will send a letter of introduction out to Nashua officials. With these changes, L. Christie motioned for the minutes to be accepted, and B. Mack seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Topics of Discussion:**

**GNCOC Subcommittee (Legislative):**

C Gebhart indicated that NH Legal Assistance met with the new Nashua senators, told them about the GNCOC and asked that they attend the meetings to familiarize themselves with the various agencies, and how they may be able to help their constituents. The senators indicated they are already receiving calls from constituents looking for certain human/health services. They indicated they did not believe their schedule would allow them to attend the monthly GNCOC meeting. W. Leblanc has been tasked with asking Joan Schulz to continue to lead the legislative subcommittee, and through the process keep the new legislature (senators and representatives) updated.

**Conference/Recognition Awards:**

A discussion took place surrounding the possibility of holding another conference regarding the Ten year plan to end homelessness. P. Kelleher indicated that it is in the 10 year plan that the COC intended to hold conferences. He suggested that if a conference is held this would be a good time to acknowledge, celebrate others in the community and/or state that have helped the GNCOC to move towards its 10 year ending homelessness goal.

It was discussed that while great progress has been made, there continue to be many challenges and eight years into the plan, it may be a good time to hold a new conference to report on the successes, highlight accomplishments to date, but to also emphasis a renewed effort on how to get to the finish line.

It was decided that we would review the upcoming January 2011 point in time count and make a determination at that point on the primary focus of a possible conference, including looking at innovative, or best practices of others around the country. It was suggested that 1) the HEARTH Act would be a good presentation piece; 2) outcomes focus to take an honest look at what has and has not been done well; and 3) while both veterans housing and substance abuse support has come a long way, there needs to be significant improvement in mental illness treatment availability and services.

The topic of a possible conference will be placed on the January 2011 agenda for reconsideration.

**Newsletter:**

C. Gebhart indicated that the Manchester COC has a monthly newsletter prepared by a staff person, and asked should the GNCOC consider a newsletter. There was a lot of discussion about this. It was determined that the GNCOC does a good job of communicating with the various providers, the website is a good source of information (the Manchester COC doesn't have a website). C. Furlong suggested that possibly the Clubhouse Connections could consider a newsletter for one of the next skills units. The idea of a newsletter was tabled at this time.

**Political Climate:**

P. Kelleher indicated that he sees the EX Committee group as the broad leaders of health and human services across the community and counts on the group to get the 'pulse' of how things are going. It was stated that agencies are not hearing many complaints about panhandling and that crime does not appear to be a major issue at this time.

**Other:**

W. Leblanc indicated that the Data Gathering Committee has been somewhat dormant, and needs a resurgence.

L. Christie relayed that the NSKS will have Christmas baskets available for 10 – 3 on 12/21 and 12/22.

P. Kelleher indicated that HHI is working with an outside source on a video about the veterans to spur support for legal advocacy for this population.

B. Mack indicated that the Homeless Connect event was successful. It appeared that over 100 households (130+ people) attended, many who were homeless. There appeared to be fewer people this year, but a more targeted effort on the types of services the attendees were in need of. Also, not as many people needed medical aid (such as blood pressure, hearing, flu shots, etc) as many of the attendees indicated they were using the new Harbor Homes Medical Clinic for the homeless. Anecdotally it seems that the emergency departments of the hospitals are seeing less homeless people, and this could be as a result of the opening of this homeless clinic at HHI.

A discussion ensued relative to the relationship between the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce and the GNCOC. The EX Committee would like to work on the Chamber seeing us as allies, helping the overall good of the downtown community. L. Piper, as a board member of the Chamber offered to speak with the President of the Chamber and Board Chairman to suggest that the COC attend an upcoming board meeting and present the GNCOC slide show and answer questions.

W. Leblanc indicated that she continues to need input from the committee members for both agenda items and presenters for the general COC meetings.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30AM.

Minutes prepared by Lori M. Piper of Merrimack County Savings Bank