

**Greater Nashua Continuum of Care  
Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 9, 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, Carol Furlong, Peter Kelleher, Linda Newell, Meghan Bilz, Barbara Alves, Mariellen Durso, and Lori Piper.

**Minutes of May 12, 2010 (handout):**

Minutes were reviewed. Thereafter, B.Alves motioned to accept the minutes as presented, which was seconded by M. Bilz, and the motion carried.

**Topics of Discussion:**

- **HUD HEARTH ACT**

W. LeBlanc explained that the HUD definition of “homeless” has changed and asked if there were any concerns. The general consensus by the committee is that it is a better definition.

- **Consolidated Plan**

Members of the committee reviewed the City’s response to the concerns raised by the committee in a written response, and it was felt that the committee did its due diligence, and the response by the City reflects this.

- **SuperNOFA**

Both W. LeBlanc and L. Newell indicated that the Housing Inventory Chart, Point-in-Time count, and the NOFA registration has been done. Gina Schaak from TAC has indicated that she does not expect the application to come out until at least July 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **PIT Challenge**

W. LeBlanc indicated that Gina Schaak from TAC helped to work through the various challenges that occurred with getting the count accurately completed and provided to the State, which has been done. It was noted that with the new HMIS coordinator through Harbor Homes, this may hopefully serve to improve the data collection. The Data Gathering Committee will work diligently to ensure that all participants working on this PIT in the future have a solid understanding of the rules. There were a lot more people, and new people participating in the process this year. B. Mack stated that the PIT is not required every year. M. Durso stated this is all part of learning and being team players with everyone being as involved, that although there were some errors, it is positive that there is an increased level of participation. M. Bilz suggested that possibly the State of NH should provide some new training of best practices in the future to prevent the resubmissions to the State that took place this year. L. Newell explained that the numbers gathered from all of the Continuums are presented to the Governor’s Executive Council.

- **Political Climate Discussions/Comments**

W. LeBlanc commented on the letter that HHI received from the new library director, indicating that they have reviewed their policies/procedures and the homeless now will have the same borrowing privileges as the general population. W. LeBlanc will forward the letter to the GNCOG.

W. LeBlanc indicated that we may have Executive Committee on July 14<sup>th</sup> (although there will be no July GNCOG mtg) if the application for the SuperNOFA is out. Otherwise she will cancel the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

L. Newell spoke to the group about the NOFA process, and there are new rules out, but no application yet. Everyone had received the email with the new rules.

P. Kelleher indicated that Shaun Donovan is the new national director of HUD and was in the State last week, visiting a new HUD project in Bow, NH that CATCH is participating in.

B. Alves mentioned that she has two openings as two women have moved on to MP Housing. B. Mack sent a candidate to her that didn't make the appointment.

M. Durso indicated that they are seeing a lot more behavioral mental health issues at the clinic, related to the economy, loss of jobs, etc.

P. Kelleher stated that Keystone Hall received a Pregnant and Post-Partum Women Grant for 16 women and their children starting July 1, 2010. They are collaborating with the mental health center and Marguerites Place. The women can stay in the transitional housing for six months.

M. Durso indicated that they have worked well with CareNet in the past, as W. LeBlanc expressed concerned about the organization that she had heard about through a contact at Planned Parenthood.

B. Mack brought up the HUD outcome measurements that L. Newell had provided at the June GNCOC meeting asking for ideas on what we can do as a Continuum to improve the percentage of homeless persons moving from Transitional Housing to Permanent Housing. The data is indicating that the organizations serving these persons do not know where they are going when they leave transitional, and the Continuum needs a solution to this. L. Newell suggested looking at the individual agency APR's to help in this process, that possibly it is a data issue of information being entered incorrectly. B. Alves indicated it is clear as to the data fields and what should be entered.

P. Kelleher brought up the issue of we have 24 months to meet the target deadline in the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. He asked if B. Mack and City Welfare have seen any trends over the past 8 years that he could share. B. Mack indicated that the trends are consistently inconsistent. P. Kelleher stated that there are 15 new VASH vouchers being administered by NHHFA. He talked about the latest homeless count of 346 with 39 unsheltered (17 households of adults and children and 22 adults only), and suggested that we set a goal of no more than 100 homeless and no unsheltered homeless in the next 24 months. There was a lot of discussion about how to actively reduce this population, and to also ensure that there are no homeless children. It was suggested that the Wrap Around Committee is being underutilized and needs to have more proactive involvement of trying to solve these cases on a case by case basis. P. Kelleher recommended that a joint meeting of the Executive Committee and the Ending Homelessness Wrap Around Committee formulate a plan to put this strategy into action. He has suggested taking 10 people out of the 39 on the list and finding a solution for them within the next 60 days. It was also suggested that 30 minutes be devoted to this topic at the next GNCOC meeting. M. Durso suggested that you need to have the help of individual case workers coming into the process with the individual and/or family to help in the process. W. LeBlanc to discuss a joint meeting with the other group.

W. LeBlanc spoke about the Telegraph article where the mayor was quoted as indicating that these people need to be helped on an individual case by case basis, which is suggested by the comments above. The ending homelessness committee has also asked the City's Urban Programs Department to attend the GNCOC and get more involved.

As time was getting tight the meeting was adjourned at 9:40am.

Minutes taken by Lori M. Piper, Merrimack County Savings Bank