GNCoC General Committee Meeting

April 3, 2024

1. **Call to Order**
   1. Wendy LeBlanc began the meeting at 9:01 am and led attendees in introductions.
2. **Special Presentation**
   1. Mike Apfelberg gave a presentation thanking Ashley Jackson for her amazing work as our GNCoC Coordinator and presented with her a gift and flowers on behalf of the CoC. Thank you, Ashley, you rock!
3. **Approval of the Minutes**
   1. Wendy LeBlanc shared the March 6, 2024 Meeting minutes and asked for a motion to approve. Mike Apfelberg made the motion, and was seconded by Bobbie Bagley. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.
4. **Action Items**
   1. Presentation on *The Housing Voucher* Program by Tish Lupa from NH Housing and Kristie Schott from DHHS
      1. NH Housing promotes, finances, and supports housing solutions for the people of NH.
         1. NH Housing has financed 1,800 units of multifamily rental housing, monitors operations of thousands of units of rental housing they’ve financed, administers federally funded rental assistance for 9,000 households statewide, and have helped 1,300+ families purchase a home.
      2. The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program
         1. (informally known as State Section 8 program) provides rent subsidies so eligible families can afford to rent decent, safe and sanitary housing. NH Housing provides Section 8 Voucher subsidies to eligible families throughout the state.
         2. NHHFA is responsible for determining tenant income eligibility, inspecting units to ensure HUD’s standards are met, and negotiating reasonable rents that reflect the local housing market.
         3. Tenant-based assistance: the assisted unit is selected by the family.
      3. HCV Program Details
         1. About 4,300 vouchers are administered by NH Housing (of approximately 9,700 total in the state)
         2. Vouchers can be applied to homeownership
         3. Special allocation of vouchers for veterans
         4. Program funded at approximately $42 million this year
         5. Over 7,000 applicants on the waiting list
      4. HCV Participant Profile –
         1. 2023: Avg Gross Income $19,260, Avg Monthly Gross Rent $1,182, Avg Months on HCV Program: 113 (9+ years)
         2. 2019: Avg Gross Income $16,730, Avg Monthly Gross Rent $1,182, Avg Months on HCV Program: 109 (9+ years)
      5. Waiting list information
         1. NH Housing waiting times
            1. Depending on the preference or special program there could be a short wait or a much longer one
         2. Special Programs
            1. 265 Mainstream Vouchers for people with disabilities (75 Moving On Vouchers)
            2. 185 VASH units for homeless veterans (direct referral from the VA)
            3. 30 Non elderly persons with a disability
            4. 64 Family Unification vouchers (direct referral from DCYF)
         3. High Ranking Preferences: 6-12 months possible wait if not pulling
            1. Terminal Illness- Households with a family member who has a terminal illness
            2. Choices for Independence (CFI) formerly HCBC – Households with a family member who is eligible for services through the State Medicaid Waiver
            3. Transitional Housing – Transitional Housing programs (FIT, The Way Home, DHHS and also Veterans through Harbor Homes) which provide individual case management services
      6. Preference Info and How to Apply
         1. The rent burdened/at risk of homelessness comes after the higher-ranking preferences and the wait time is estimated to be 7-9 years
         2. What qualifies someone for this preference?
            1. Paying more than 50% of gross income for rent/utilities or
            2. Lacking fixed, adequate nighttime residence, or
            3. Temporarily living with friends or relatives, or
            4. Living in a substandard living situation or other temporary placement, or
            5. Being a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking.
         3. How to apply
            1. The HCV application is in English and Spanish at NHHousing.org
            2. It can be completed online, but must be printed, signed by all adults who will be living in the household, and mailed or faxed to NHHFA
            3. People are placed on the HCV list by date of application so send it in ASAP
            4. Call 1-800-439-7247 and select the call center for general information or to get an application
      7. HCV Eligibility Requirements
         1. Statutory Requirements – To qualify for housing assistance, adult household members must:
            1. Meet the HUD requirements for citizenship or immigration status (at least one household member)
            2. Pay any money owed to NH Housing or any other housing authority
            3. Not be subject to lifetime state sex offender registration requirements
            4. Not have been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of a federally assisted housing
            5. Adult household members must also:

Not have been convicted of homicide or sexual offenses against children within 15 years prior to application (based on arrest date)

Not have been convicted of assault, rape, robbery, burglary, arson or kidnapping within 5-year period prior to admission (based on arrest date)

Not been convicted of rug related criminal activity (conviction of manufacture, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs within 5 years from date of arrest)

NH Housing will consider whether the household member who is no longer engaged in such behavior has participated in and rehabilitated successfully. Applicant has to submit evidence of successful completion of a supervised drug program.

The prohibition includes use of medical marijuana which is federally prohibited and not allowed in federally assisted housing even though it is legal in NH

* + 1. Moving On Voucher Eligibility Requirements
       1. The qualifying household member must be disabled
       2. The qualifying member must be over the age of 18 and under 62 (when leasing)
       3. The family must be currently living in permanent supportive housing within CoC funded or ESG funded projects.
    2. Moving on Voucher Current Numbers
       1. 64 Leased
       2. 11 Searching
       3. 6 On Waitlist
       4. Once the remaining 11 lease will need to expire the vouchers of those still searching and continue to build a waitlist
    3. Applicant has been pulled, what is needed?
       1. Copies of SSN Cards and Birth Certificates for all members of the households
       2. Copies of every type of income such as wages, unemployment, child support payments, DHHS benefits, Veterans Benefits, Self-Employment
       3. Copies of Bank Statements
       4. Copies of your SSN benefits Statements for all household members
       5. Gathering items as soon as “pull letter” is received will avoid delays in determining eligibility
    4. What happens after voucher is issued?
       1. The applicant has 120 days to search for housing and may ask for additional days if needed. They must:
          1. Locate a place to rent, find out cost of rent/utilities and ask if owner will accept payment from HCV program.
          2. Complete the Request for Tenancy Approval with the owner and fax/mail to NH Housing.
          3. If housing is not found by 120 days, they will be notified that their voucher expired. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation for additional time.
       2. Resources –
          1. Housing Search Assistance

There is a list of vacant market rate units that accept vouchers at NHhousing.org/search-for-housing

Zillow/Trulia; NH Housing Staff also monitor for available rentals and can let applicants know if any become available in their area

NH Housing can negotiate with owners/landlords if rent/utilities are close to what applicant can afford with the voucher

* + - 1. Final HCV steps
         1. NH Housing will explain HCV program to owners if they have questions
         2. HUD Quality Standards Inspection must be done by NH Housing. Landlord need to complete any required repairs before assistance can begin.
         3. A Contract Package is mailed to the owner and must be signed and returned in order to execute the lease
    1. Contact information:
       1. Alisha Lupa and Angie Doyle; Rental Assistance Manager/ Housing Liaison; alupa@nhhfa.org / adoyle@nhhfa.org

1. **Subcommittee Updates**
   1. Data Committee – presented by Wendy LeBlanc on behalf of Kyle Farrell
      1. The Data Committee is making progress in learning how to read data with assistance from ICA. They are starting by looking at each individual agency data to help understand the big picture. Specifically, we will be looking at System Performance Measures #1, #4, and #7; Income, Length of Time Homeless and Successful Exits.
   2. Youth Committee – presented by Mike Apfelberg
      1. Mike shared relevant to the NH Housing presentation that there are also Fostering Youth Independence (FYI) Housing Vouchers at NH Housing and Nashua Housing, which are for youth who are aging out of Foster Care or have previously lived in Foster Care.
      2. Mike shared that at the Youth Committee, youth serving programs such as Nashua Community College, McKinney Vento, Stepping Stones and others share program updates and case conference to come up with solutions for youth in our community. We are also discussing progress on the YHDP Grant.
      3. The meeting occurs the first Thursday of each month at 9 am via zoom, with the next one being Thursday April. All are welcome, please contact Mike Apfelberg at mapfelberg@uwgn.org or Hannah Stohler at hstohler@margueritesplace.org for the zoom link.
   3. Health Services and Coordination Committee – Bob Mack
      1. At their last meeting, the Health Services and Coordination Committee discussed coordination of housing supports for patients experiencing homelessness. There have been successful conversations resulting in housing placements, including into motel/hotel or shelter. They reviewed availability of shelters and possible accommodations at each.
      2. The committee discussed the end of winter overflow shelter beds and warming stations and how to prepare for impact on individuals in need.
      3. SNMHC reported on a recent grant received to increase support for patients with SUD increase supports for folks with sub use disorder, which is a 1-year grant supporting peer recovery services and offering additional support to individuals with SUD moving through Emergency Departments.
      4. Gatehouse shared that they do have some respite beds available for people who are actively seeking to access recovery programs. There is a larger conversation about Respite Beds at the State level, which is looking at Medicaid funding to support.
   4. Outreach Subcommittee – Bobbie Bagley
      1. The Outreach Subcommittee met the last Tuesday in March and had a great conversation those who are unhoused in our community, with specific updates on encampments including Celina Ave, Pine Street, the Bridge in Hudson, Crown Street, and behind Citizens Bank. They are looking to connect individuals in those encampments with resources and monitor the encampments to see which are still active.
      2. They are finding a lot of trash being left behind at encampments and discussed putting a process in place so we can streamline outreach supplies such as tents and sleeping bags not coming from multiple organizations to reduce waste.
      3. There was a conversation about how Park and Ride places are being used across NH to allow people to sleep in their cars/RVs/other vehicles, and considerations around identifying similar locations in Nashua for this.
      4. With closure of winter warming stations/overnight shelters, there was discussion of the impact on the unhoused population.
      5. At the next meeting, they will present a tool that tracks encampment locations.
   5. Coordinated Entry Committee – Doug Howard
      1. The committee didn’t meet in March, but will be meeting on Wednesday April 24. They will be discussing enrollments into Coordinated Entry. Coordinated Entry is a program in HMIS that you can enroll someone in just like other projects. The Community Queue is something that you then add someone to post Coordinated Entry enrollment to add them to the prioritization list. There are hundreds of people who have been added to Coordinated Entry who were not then added to the Community Queue. They are going through list of those on Coordinated Entry to determine who needs to be added to the queue and who needs to be eliminated from Coordinated Entry.
   6. NH Veterans Committee – Katie Tovar-Paciulan
      1. The last meeting was on March 26, where they had a brainstorming session discussing landlord engagement and barriers from the perspective of the landlord. They are working on ideas for roommate matching and shared living for veterans across NH. Benefits for landlords could be multiple security deposits, different leases, etc.
      2. Next meeting they will have two providers from Florida and DC via Teams who will discuss successful implementation of shared living for veterans in their communities. The next meeting is May 21, the third Tuesday of the month instead of the normal fourth Tuesday of the month due to the Memorial Day holiday weekend. The meeting will be 2 hours to accommodate out of state partner presentations.
   7. Employment Committee – Tom Lopez
      1. The Employment Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of the month, and the next meeting will be on April 24 at 9:30 at Nashua Public Library with a virtual option.
      2. They are currently focused on collaborating with the Economic Development Office and Chamber of Commerce to create best practices that can be shared among job programs and employers to encourage those to have equitable hiring practices (such as Recovery Friendly Workplace, Federal Bonding Program, etc.) They are discussing an award from the Economic Development Office, Chamber of Commerce, and GNCoC to recognize employers with best practices.
      3. They started initial conversation about the next Employment Connect event, specifically adding professional development component for employers as well. In addition to a Job Fair, they could have afternoon sessions on supporting a diverse workforce, managing individuals with disabilities, fair hiring practices, and more. They want Employment Connect to have a more intense focus on the Business Community than they have had in the past and build credibility for the event for partnerships.
      4. Email Tom Lopez for more information on the event at [Nashuaemploymentconnect@gmail.com](mailto:Nashuaemploymentconnect@gmail.com)
2. **Capacity Openings and Updates** 
   1. NSKS – Two female beds
   2. Hope Center – three female beds
   3. Mercy house – six male beds
   4. Marguerite’s Place – At capacity but have multiple families graduating from Phase 2 this summer so will have movement this summer/fall
   5. Front Door Agency – Full with five-person waitlist
   6. Family Promise – Full with a waitlist
   7. Veterans TH – 11 openings between all three buildings, two move-ins scheduled tomorrow which will reduce vacancy to 9
   8. Bridges – Have a unit open (but should be filled today), TH is still full
   9. Harbor Care – PSH is full, but is actively pulling from the Coordinated Entry list
   10. Coordinated Entry/Rapid Rehousing– Doug Howard and a Sharon Brodeur from Harbor Care pull the prioritization list biweekly and review.
   11. SNHS shared they also have Rapid rehousing and accept referrals.
3. **Announcements** 
   1. The Tree Streets Block Party is on June 15 – contact Tom Lopez to participate.
   2. Iraida Munoz shared about the City’s upcoming Housing Conversation on April 17 in City Hall auditorium between 11-2 and 4-7pm. Food is included, so please register using digital link in flyer.
4. **Adjournment**
   1. Wendy LeBlanc adjourned the meeting at 10:28 am.