

GNCoc/ EHC Meeting Minutes

April 7th, 2021

Erin Segaloff called to order the meeting at 9:00am.

Reviewed last month's GNCoc/EHC meeting minutes (March 3rd) - Approved by Mandy Reagan and seconded by Bob Mack. All were in favor.

Stephanie Savard, Melissa Hatfield & Jamie Blackburn presented on "Developing a new Action Plan to End Homelessness 2021-2024" from the New Hampshire Council on Housing Stability Committee.

Presentation Agenda:

- Purpose of CHS and the New Action Plan on Homelessness
- Methodology and Timeline for Input
- Guiding Principles
- Potential Priority Areas (Direct Intervention/System level)
- Questions and Feedback

Governor's Council on Housing Stability

Established in December 2020 by Governor Sununu

Four Working Groups

- Housing Instability and Homelessness ← Responsible for drafting the new action plan
- Data
- Planning and Regulation
- Regional Coordination

Action Plan is Due to the Council and Governor by June 1st

Full Housing Stability Plan by June 30th

GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE SUMMARY/FEEDBACK

Guiding Principles

Adoption of language from the Universal declaration of human Rights was suggested.

No objections to the proposed guiding principles of:

- Homeless response and service delivery should be person-centered, and trauma informed.
- Strategies should be data-driven wherever possible and based on national best practice models.
- Careful consideration should be given to issues and associated strategies relating to racial equity and reducing disparities.
- Perspectives and input of people with lived expertise will be actively solicited as the plan is updated.

Alignment/Integration with existing state action plans including the *Council on Housing Stability Action Plan*, *The NH Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs Action Plan* and the *10 Year Mental Health Plan*.

Identifying Priority Areas

System Level:

- **Funding and Policy**

- *Mayors Challenge regarding landlord outreach and engagement.*
- *Raising the minimum wage*

- **Cross-System Collaboration**

- *SUD treatment integration,*
- *"True Navigation" via a paid position to navigate among systems and agencies.*
- *FUSE Discussion (www.CSH.org/FUSE)*
- *Many sober living opportunities do not accept individuals on Medication Assisted Treatment (some shelters operate under these rules as well). This is a huge barrier for many people who use MAT to maintain sobriety.*
- *Improving timeframe around documentation requirements.*

Direct Intervention:

- **Housing Stability through Prevention:**

- *Better integration of Local Welfare and Cap Agencies for prevention*

- **Housing Creation and matching.**

- Statewide Incentives for landlords
- Diversity of housing options.
- Transitional housing for youth 18–24-year-old men.
- DCYF Youth Villages. Increased use of housing navigators.
- Nashua safe station is mentioned as a successful model. No wet (low barrier) shelter?
- Having a universal low barrier definition adopted by all will greatly help how we all work together. eligibility and service delivery. There is an existing requirement that shelters that accept Bureau dollars are required to follow housing first principles.

Population Specific:

- Define priority populations,
- Additional discussion of veterans indicated a need to align with the Veterans Bill of Rights passed in the NH Legislature and the USICH strategic plan to end veteran’s homelessness. Adoption of some of the language and goals from that plan into NH’s plan was suggested.
- Folks in state hospital or inpatient mental health cannot exit due to lack of community-based housing options.
- Criminal History barriers to housing.
- ESL needs or refugee/immigrant populations.

Identified measurable goals:

1. Reducing chronic street homelessness and length of time homeless
2. Ending Veterans homelessness within 3 years.

Transitioned into the Ending Homelessness Committee:

Shelters:

- Nashua Rescue Mission- Has 9 openings.
- NSKS- One family of 5 available.

Transitional:

- Norwell- Has one opening.
- Marguerite’s Place- Has one opening (Child & Mom)

Rapid Rehousing:

- Front Door Agency- Doug Howard has been applying to SNHS but clients haven’t showing up.
- Mary’s House- Has 5 openings and needs proof of homelessness.
- There are 2,300 applications for SNHS back from March.

Permanent Housing:

- GNMH- Has a housing program and maybe able to assist with housing stability.

Outreach Effort:

- *Starting to meet as a larger group with 26 outreach individuals to talk about outreach issues.*
- *If you come in contact with homeless person, get them into the bi-name prioritization list.*

Announcements:

- *Meghan Morrow from ICA discussed the potential switch of HMIS systems with a vote to upgrade to Bitfocus. The GNCoC General Committee proposed a motion to have the GNCoC Executive Committee to make the discuss and vote. All were in favor.*
- *ICA will present the HMIS switch information to the GNCoC Executive Committee and they will vote to accept or decline the switch to Bitfocus from Wellsky.*

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30am