**GNCoC Health Services & Coordination Meeting Minutes**

*Thursday, August 29, 2024*

**Attendance:** Mark Perkins, Ashley Jackson, Jane Goodman, Bob Mack, Andy Frederick, and Henry Och.

**Recruitment/Participation:**

* Bob Mack mentioned that getting health care providers at the table is critical.
* Jane mentioned that she thinks that we are missing representation from the local emergency departments in the Greater Nashua area.
* RM will reach out to representatives from Lamprey, both hospitals and emergency departments.

**NSKS:**

* Jane mentioned that sometimes she gets cases where emergency departments will send individuals in a taxi over to NSKS.
	+ - There was an individual in a wheelchair that was sent to NSKS from the Elliott Hospital in Manchester, NH.
		- Jane would like to know the emergency department’s process for discharging individuals that are experiencing homelessness.

**Southern NH Rescue Mission:**

* Mark announced that the Rescue Mission is no longer going to be doing overflow beds which was about 11 beds.
	+ They are only allowing individuals to stay in their program for 60 days.
	+ Employment program participants can stay 6 months to a year.
	+ Discipleship program is 9 months to a year.
* Rescue Misson has 3 openings at the moment due to no shows.
	+ Mark said that he will investigate the reason as to why these individuals couldn’t make it.
* Mark mentioned that he has seen an increase in folks with dementia coming to the Rescue Misson.
* Referrals form outside of Nashua as well as from Massachusetts.

**Subpopulations /What’s happening in our community/Updates:**

* Mark mentioned that when a social worker calls from out of state for an individual, he asks what their plan is and unfortunately due to no plan or process on how to help them they end up returning to the hospital.
* City welfare has seen quite a few cases where individuals come from Massachusetts for assistance when they get all their services and medical assistance from Massachusetts.
* There has been an increase in individuals with physical disabilities like wheelchairs, canes, etc.
* Jane mentioned that there is an increase in individuals that are aging out of programs or are elderly and have physical disabilities.
* SNH Services has programs for elderly individuals experiencing homelessness that may be beneficial as wrap around services for folks aging out.
* Bob mentioned that in special cases the City welfare department can temporarily put individuals experiencing homelessness into hotels but it’s very expensive.
* There is a lot of sober housing programs in Nashua and not all sober living programs are equal. If you are using in sober living programs you get kicked out.
	+ The sober living programs in Nashua are disproportionate to those experiencing homelessness that may have substance use disorders.
* Mark mentioned that he has seen a few cases where people are coming from Manchester due to the new ordinance where people get fined if they are seen camping out in their cars.
* Bob mentioned that they have encampment meetings every month where community health workers continue to go out and find people and try to help with services for them.
* The City would like to do another walk-in warming center to prepare for winter and it helped about 33 individuals each day last year, between the months of February, March, and April. This year they are hoping to open it up sooner.

**Southern NH Medical Center:**

* Andy mentioned that he is seeing more individuals that are having longer stays, not always due to homelessness but due to unsafe housing.
* There has been a steady flow in the emergency department at Southern NH Medical Center.
* Andy mentioned that when he does have a case where someone is homeless, he always makes sure to call Denise at NSKS or Mark at SNH Rescue Mission.
* There has been an increase in individuals coming from Massachusetts who like their medical plan in Massachusetts and when asked to switch over to the NH health plan they decline. They can get their prescriptions filled in NH still but can’t bill for medical care.

**Harbor Care:**

* Henry mentioned that they don’t have the home health program anymore, and that they have sold it over to the home health agency. That agency provides services in NH and other surrounding New England states as well.
* A few weeks ago, Harbor Care opened the floor at Cynthia Day that was closed for about 2 years with 16 beds dedicated to pregnant and parenting women. These 16 beds can support one to two kids per adult. Harbor care is ramping up their employment to help run this program.
* The HC Recovery House on Hamilton street has 10 beds dedicated to men with substance use disorders.
* Harbor Care has recently hired new Medical Providers – A Family Nurse Practitioner and a new Medical Doctor. They are in the process of hiring a Medical Director as well.

Meeting adjourned at 9:59am