

GNCOC General/ Ending Homelessness Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 4th, 2021

Meeting called to order at 9:02am

Reviewed last month's meeting minutes- Michael Apfelberg motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wendy Leblanc. All were in favor.

Collaboration with the other NH CoC's:

- Michael Reinke had lunch with the other CoC leaders throughout NH and they mentioned-
- We work together regarding the HMIS system but not regarding the Youth Grant. (They work in close collaboration with the other NH CoC's)
- What would it look like if we did the NOFA Application together as all three CoC's?
- Any other ideas on how we can all work together as a NH CoC-
 - It appears in the future that HUD will be asking for more collaboration between all the NH CoC's.
 - The Veteran's subcommittee also works closely with the other NH CoC's.
 - Nashua and Manchester CoC's are always asking about the movement of clients and Meghan Morrow-Raftery (ICA) won't e able to change that unless there is a uniform definition that's answered the same for all the COC's.
 - Maybe pull a report that shows the last zip code or address to see who's coming from Manchester or Nashua? Meghan can pull a report from the last zip codes within the last year between the CoC's.

HUD PIT answered flagged-

• *There was a large decrease in the sheltered number of homeless people, from 271 to 177. Please verify these figures, and if they are correct, please explain the decrease.*

• *There was a large decrease in the number of people in Transitional Housing, from 142 to 72. Please verify these figures, and if they are correct, please explain the decrease.*

• *There was a large decrease in the sheltered number of homeless people in households without children, from 141 to 87. Please verify these figures, and if they are correct, please explain the decrease.*

- The increase of trainings on why the number decreased
- The methodology changed and better education on trainings, and definition was understood better.

- NSKS reduced the number of beds because they didn't 18 beds to 10 beds due to social distancing from COVID.
- Outreach- There has been more collaboration within the GNCoC working together better than any of the other years previously. Outreach was able to respond more effectively during the PIT because there was better communication and collaboration.
- The homeless connect event was stopped because there were more housed individuals showing up instead of it being the unsheltered homeless individuals.
 - Shelters had to reduce their number of beds
 - The methodology and education more effective with trainings.
 - The financial benefit from stimulus under unemployment allowed for people to pay for their own motels, which probably resulted in them not being counted.
 - Some data that we didn't capture
 - We had an eviction moratorium that we never had in the past years due to COVID.
- Individuals were staying in motels that were paid from other agencies that aren't within the GNCoC Community. We have a lot of homeless individuals that are staying in hotels that weren't made available to the rest of the GNCoC. The homeless moratorium could have also been a reason why there was less homeless individuals because they couldn't be evicted due to COVID.
- Did Manchester and BoS have the same issue with decrease
- Harbor Care has been able to house 84 individuals within the last year.
- Michael Reinke mentioned the Landlord Incentive Survey that he attached in the chat box
 - A lot of the transitional housing programs were undergoing renovations during our time of the PIT Count.
 - GPD and Family Promise- Had to reduce their bed count due to COVID.

The Ending Homelessness Committee Meeting (Transition):

Emergency Shelters:

- The Rescue Mission-10 beds available. They did have 6 beds that were removed due to COVID social distancing.
- Rescue Mission- purchased the old Teen Challenge building, as a Women's Shelter and they're renovating the building. It will open up sometime in the year of 2022.
- Rescue Mission has been doing "on the go meals" and they are moving back into the dinner room soon, for in person meals.
- NSKS-Starting renovations in the second week of September.

Transitional Housing:

- Bridges- is currently full.
- Front Door Agency- Applications have been coming in for Norwell.
- Marguerite's Place- Currently full. Expecting openings soon due to about 4 families getting the Emergency Housing Vouchers.

Permanent Housing:

- Harbor Care-

- 34 CH individual
- 13 vouchers in hand (apartment searching)
- 1 individual housed
- 2 in process
- 6 waiting on getting documents
- 13 waiting to connect with
- 25 vouchers have been received and there are 5 more vouchers that remain. NHHFA is still
- FYI vouchers are still available as well.

Rapid Rehousing:

- Family promise- Enrolling people into the program. Not too much to report on this month.
- SSVF- 4 Veterans who are in the area for their housing list. One has a voucher with difficulty finding a place.

Outreach:

- Path- Sue Mead is very busy this time of year. Coordinated Entry is a lot of work with entering individuals but it's nice to see that process unfold and be a success is very nice to see.
- HOP- Coordinating outreach efforts within the GNCoC- Jessica Lorento is very busy this time of year as well.

Landlord Incentive Survey:

28 respondents to the Survey-

1. Do you see housing as a challenge in the community? Yes, 100% from Respondents
2. If yes, what do you see as the biggest challenges to housing in our community? Check all that apply.
 - Inventory/low vacancy rate
 - Transportation
 - Lack of "low income" housing
 - Lack of resources to help people move into housing
 - Lack of resources to help people sustain housing
3. What challenges do you see in securing housing for your clients? Check all that apply.
 - Not enough availability
 - Rents too high
 - Landlords will not accept subsidies
 - Landlords will not accept clients
 - Client poor credit history
 - Other (please specify)
4. Do you think an incentive program for landlords to accept Housing Choice Vouchers (i.e.: Section 8) would be beneficial in our community?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I'm not sure

5. If yes, what do you think an incentive program should include? Check all that apply.
 - Sign on bonus for landlords to accept HCV
 - Damage loss mitigation above and beyond security deposit
 - Grants to assist with bringing rental unit up to HCV standards
 - Funding to hold rental unit for 30-days
 - Other (please specify)
6. Would you/your agency be willing and able to participate in a landlord incentive program?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I'm not sure

Announcements:

- Low-income housing, we need to raise the need for that. New developments are putting pressure against the populations that our GNCoC community service. We need to advocate for our targeted population.
- There is a group of people from “Imagine Us” that have been advocating for low- income housing with new developments. There is a Nashua interfaith housing meeting directly after this meeting.
- There are a lot of people from out of state- Looking for jobs and housing but there isn't any housing available.
- The CDC has extended the Eviction moratorium per the CDC tracker. If they go moderate for 14 days, then the order doesn't apply. If a tenant is being threaten with eviction, then you can connect Candace Gebhart because they can't get evicted.
- The 6th annual BrasilFest will be on August 28th from 12 pm to 6 pm at Greeley Park in Nashua. Come and enjoy Brazilian Food, music, and vendors – see attached flier!
Does your non-profit organization have information about services you'd like to share at the event? For \$10 you can be an exhibitor – please note we prefer that organizations don't have restrictions as to immigration status, but all are welcome!
If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please reach me (Bruno) via telephone at 760-848-4797 or via e-mail at bsouares.nh@gmail.com
- Gateways Community Services is a non-profit created in 1981 to establish and maintain programs and services promoting growth and independence for individuals with developmental disabilities. Gateways now delivers services for over 3,000 individuals with disabilities, families coping with autism, and seniors in need of care.
This year, you are invited to join us for **Gateways' 40th Anniversary Celebration!** On Friday, **October 15th**, we will have a **virtual fundraising event** as we celebrate 40 years of providing programs and services to the Greater Nashua Community!
We need sponsors and items for our silent auction. Please let me know if you can collaborate!
For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.gatewayscs.org/> or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GatewaysCommunityServices>
- Over the Edge Event- Is coming up in about 2 weeks. Please check it out to support other GNCoC agencies that are participating.

- United Way- Is having their annual homeless experience by sleeping in a box in November to support the homeless population.tf
- NSKS- Back to school Backpack Event on August 24th everyone is welcome.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:30am