**GNCoC General Committee Meeting Minutes**

*Wednesday, August 7, 2024*

Call to order- Introductions were made.

**Approval of the June 5th, 2024, Meeting Minutes-** There was a motion to approve the minutes by Mike Apfelberg, seconded by Heather Nelson. All were in favor.

**Action Items/Agenda:**

* **Presentations**
  + Nashua Community College- **Amy Vazifdar:**
    - The two most common scenarios for students at NCC are couch surfing and living in cars.
    - NCC student referral process-
      * Students who report that they are experiencing housing insecurity to any faculty of staff at NCC can be brought to the basic needs’ coordinator (Amy V.) via a CARE referral.
      * CARE Referral- Concern Assessment Response Evaluation through the NCC website.
      * If staff or faculty have a referral, they must ask the student permission if NCC can call them or give out their information for help, since they are adults and have privacy guidelines.
    - **Resources:**
      * NCC Food Pantry-
        + They get regular donations from organizations within the Greater Nashua area.
        + The food pantry is open regularly whenever the community college is open.
        + They don’t have any requirements for individuals to get food. All are welcome.
      * Clothing Closet- Professional clothes for interviews or internships.
      * Emergency Basic Needs Funding- from the CCSNH Foundation. This is a quick process, and students are able to get funds right away.
      * Scholarships from the NH Charitable Foundation- Usually is a longer wait time due to a larger amount of funding.
        + Must fill out an application and have references.
      * Grocery store gift cards for immediate shopping needs- CCSNH Foundation and other donors.
      * Unrestricted Scholarships Funds- for students who have a small balance on their account which prevents them from registration or graduation.
      * Free Lunch- once per week for Day students.
      * Free Snacks- available nightly for evening students.
      * Questions- What happens to students that are experiencing homelessness? Amy will help the students fill out applications and NCC does allow students who are homeless to park on campus since they don’t have any dorms.
      * This PowerPoint will be sent out.
  + Southern NH Health-**Viktoriya Dribinskaya:**
    - Viktoriya works in the department of Workforce Development at SNH Health at SNH Hospital.
    - The purpose is to elevate the workforce by breaking down barriers and building programs that will support individuals in their career development.
    - **Programs**-
      * Apprenticeship Program-
        + Medical Assistance Apprenticeship is very active, and they have a high volume of participants in this program.
        + They work with Nashua Community College to get students into this program.
        + This program is stricter than the LNA program with a Monday through Friday schedule.
        + A medical assistant is more administrative.
      * Licensed Nursing Assistant Apprenticeship-
        + This program is a little bit flexible with day and night shifts provided.
        + The difference between the two positions is that an LNA is strictly clinical skills not administrative work.
      * Programs in the making are the Medical Lab Tech-
        + Phlebotomist
      * Facilities Apprenticeship Program (this isn’t a healthcare program)
        + Plumbing and trades programs.
      * Nashua Adult Learning Center-Provides ESOL classes for our employees within SNH Medical.
      * Beyond the Stethoscope: Career Pathways within a Health System.
        + Rising high school seniors are provided an opportunity to learn about different career paths in their organization.
      * **Question-**How is the pay compensation for the two- year contract? -
        + Each student gets four pay increases within the two-year contract.
        + Everyone starts at $17 an hour. Not only do they get their hourly pay, but they can also get support for apprenticeship funds for individuals that are in need- For example if they lost their housing, need book/materials, and transportation.
      * **Question-** How often do you provide these apprenticeship programs?
        + These apprenticeships programs occur every 1- 2 times a year depending on how many people are hired that year within their health systems.
      * Food Services Job Fair- On August 15, 2024, at 2:00pm- 4:00pm. Located on 8 Prospect Street, Ground Floor (Outside of the Cafeteria).
      * **Question-** Do you recruit at the local and surrounding high schools for high schoolers?
      * **Question-** When should high school students apply for this grant? They should apply in the spring time of their senior year.
      * The PowerPoint slides will be sent out to this group through the GNCoC Mailing Distribution List.
    - Vyktoria left some business cards for the group.
  + **Open Position for the Data Committee Chair:**
    - Kyle Farrell is moving onto another opportunity from Harbor Care and so we’re looking for a new data committee chair.
    - The position description would require about 2 hours a month for meetings, and about an hour of work in preparation for each month’s data committee meetings.
    - The data committee chair will be on the Executive Committee as well.
* **Capacity/openings and Updates**
  + Shelters-
    - 3 openings at the women’s shelter (Hope Center)
    - 1 opening at the men’s shelter (Rescue Mission)
    - Harbor Care: Veterans Services- There are 9 openings for veterans experiencing homelessness.

**Announcements/Updates:**

* FY24/25 CoC NOFO Competition has been Announced-
  + The NOFO is our annual notice of funding opportunity within the Greater Nashua CoC.
    - It’s over 2 million dollars that provides permanent housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.
    - After this year we are going to every two years for the CoC NOFO Competition.
  + We are looking for grant writers within each of your organizations in the GNCOC geographic area to help with the CoC Application (Exhibit 1).
    - The 1st NOFO meeting for grant writers will be held virtually on August 22nd at 1:00pm.
    - We are looking for non-biased individuals to participate on the GNCoC NOFO ranking committee as well. This meeting will be taking place sometime in early October.
      * We are looking for people with lived experience to join the ranking committee. If you know of anyone please reach out to Wendy LeBlanc (GNCoC Chair).
* NeighborWorks (NeighborworksSouthern.org): This building is at 249 Main Street, Nashua, NH with 47 units.
  + Only 11 are fair market rate and the rest are affordable housing units.
  + Fair Market Rate- Does have to provide two months’ worth of rent but the affordable housing has different requirements.
  + Please apply online on their website.
  + They do take housing vouchers and section 8 vouchers as well.
  + Contact information will be provided asap.
* HEAL is looking for new members up to the age of 25.
  + Members will get paid for their time with compensation.
* The City of Nashua- has a $10 million trust fund for the opportunity to provide affordable housing in our area. The deadline for applications closed on July 5th and the committee will be reviewing applications at a sooner date.
* LaTonya Muccioli mentioned that she was at the Board of Alderman for Economic Board meeting to education and address the needs within our community regarding housing services and homelessness.
  + - Safe parking
    - Warming Centers
    - Etc.
  + They are looking for community members to speak on behalf of the public as well at these meetings.
* Donna Marceau announced the human services transportation survey for the locally coordinated transportation plan (LCTP) and was looking for individuals in this meeting to provide their feedback.
* Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter is having a backpack drive- On August 19th for more information please reach out to Pam White at NSKS.
  + They are also hiring so please look on their website for job opportunities.
  + On Main Street there has been an awning for homelessness for those sleeping out on the streets of main street in front of business.

*Meeting adjourned at 10:30am.*

*Minutes by Ashley Jackson, GNCOC Coordinator*