**GNCoC General Committee Meeting Minutes**

*Wednesday, February 5, 2025*

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM, and introductions were made. The minutes from the meeting held on December 4th, 2024, were approved following a motion by Bobbie Bagley, which was seconded by Jane Goodman. There were no abstentions, and the vote was unanimous.

**Subcommittee Updates:**

**Youth Committee:** Mike was unable to provide a detailed update as he did not attend the last youth committee meeting. However, he mentioned that there will be an update on all YHDP matters at tomorrow’s youth committee meeting. Doug noted that he provided an update on YHDP projects at last month’s meeting, and that the Front Door agency is working on policies and procedures. They hope to continue receiving technical assistance on how to proceed with YHDP projects. Additionally, Doug mentioned that they were able to house another young person within the YHDP projects. Chertina Walker reported that youth and young adults served through YHDP funds may need to be placed in another program due to an executive order.

**Health Services & Coordination Committee (Bob Mack):** The Health Services Subcommittee meets on the last Thursday of each month at 9 AM via Zoom. The committee discussed concerns about patients needing discharge and potential placements. They also discussed the lack of a robust respite care system in the state and emphasized the importance of having representatives from all healthcare providers and hospitals on this committee. Bob reinforced the need for offline wrap-around meetings to coordinate services as needed. Shelters are generally at capacity, making transitions from hospitals challenging. Motels may not be the best option.

**Outreach Committee (Bobbie Bagley):** The Outreach Subcommittee meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 18 Mulberry Street from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM. The subcommittee met three times in January to coordinate the PIT and hold the regular outreach meeting. Twenty-four volunteers participated in the PIT, conducting outreach in groups of three and covering 26 sites and fixed locations, including NSKS, Day Café, The Elm St. Warming Station, the Ash St. Warming Station, the Mission, and Nashua Public Library. Groups went out in two shifts on January 23rd: 10 AM to 12 PM and 2 PM to 4 PM. Sue Mead and Bobbie completed the PIT data entry. Thirty-five surveys were initiated, but only 27 were entered due to data collection errors. During the monthly meeting, the committee discussed conducting coordinated joint outreach. NSKS hired two new outreach staff, and Harbor Care hired one new outreach staff. St. Joe’s Hospital has started offering a monthly meal with their mobile outreach van. Chertina sent an email to agencies for PIT reports, which are due tomorrow. Most of the PIT data looks okay this year. PIT reports are only for emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens.

**NH Veterans Committee (David):** David reported no updates at this time.

**Coordinated Entry/Data Committee:** The committee met on January 22nd and discussed housing subsidies available to the community, such as those through Harbor Care. Doug will meet with Harbor Care to discuss housing subsidies for the year and their role in the CE/Data Subcommittee. The committee also did some case conferencing on the local prioritization list. It was noted that the other two NH COCs are entering individuals into Nashua CE. Doug reported that Nashua is doing a good job with data management, but there is still work to be done. Doug will be meeting with Heather Nelson in the coming weeks regarding Harbor Care and subsidies. The GNCOC is still seeking a chair for the Data Subcommittee to help analyze system performance measures. HUD looks at this data during our annual application. We are looking at data quality for Coordinated Entry and how we can improve our data outcomes.

**Executive Committee:** Wendy provided an update on the GNCoC strategic planning process, referencing the focus group surveys and virtual focus groups distributed to the GNCoC mailing list. The executive committee has been engaging with HUD TA regarding system performance measures to enhance data quality and secure additional funding. Unfortunately, the GNCoC NOFO scoring was insufficient to obtain two bonus projects, despite having a well-crafted narrative. The primary issues were related to data quality within the SPMs. Wendy also announced that the GNCoC is seeking a new data committee chair to oversee data quality reviews.

**Capacity/Openings and Updates:**

**Shelters:** The NSKS shelter is currently at capacity. They have recently accommodated two family units, and their winter shelter is fully occupied. There are 21 mattresses available for men and nine for women, with an additional five beds for women in the overflow space. Jane announced several pieces of state legislation that may impact local shelters and affordable housing: SP 113, which was passed to support winter shelters, as well as HB 531 and HB 688.

**Transitional Housing:** Bridges has a one-bedroom unit available, potentially for a small family. Family Promise is at full capacity and undergoing construction in Derry, NH, which may provide additional support. Marguerite’s Place currently has no vacancies. Harbor Care Veterans program has 11 vacant units for veterans, including eight single rooms for men. Their two-bedroom units will be occupied by the end of the week. There are 14 veterans on their referral list. Front Door Agency is at capacity but continues to accept individuals for their waitlist.

**Permanent Supportive Housing (Heather Nelson’s email update):** The mainstream housing program is near capacity. While consolidations have opened some additional slots, the PH 6 grant will close due to lack of funding. No participants will lose their housing; they will be transferred to other funded PSH programs. Currently, staff are screening 4 individuals and searching for available units. Heather Nelson, Harbor Care's Housing Director, will meet with Doug next week to review the active Coordinated Entry list and verify homelessness status as required by HUD.

**Rapid Rehousing:** The Front Door agency selects applicants from the local prioritization list. Please ensure your clients are entered within Coordinated Entry (CE) to facilitate their housing placement. Doug is collaborating with Bob Mack on the landlord incentive program.

**Other Updates:**

**CoC Builds Update:** Harbor Care has applied for CoC builds funding amounting to $5 million for new construction and is collaborating with the city on local zoning guidelines. Approximately 20 new units will be made available. They have yet to receive a response from HUD regarding the acceptance of the CoC builds funding and will keep the group informed of any updates.

**Encampment Update (LaTonya Muccioli):** There are 11 active sites, including 8 substance use sites. The Crown Street site has been closed due to health and population concerns. The overnight warming station hosted 47 guests in January, with ages ranging from 20 to 67, and approximately 20 active participants per night. They have also been coordinating with the St. Joe’s mobile clinic.

**Greater Nashua Mental Health Needs Assessment (Sheila Considine):** The community needs assessment at GNMHC began in 2021 with a four-year SAMSA grant. In 2023, they used this grant to examine access to care. Heather Conley, GNMHC’s consultant with 20 years of experience in data management for strategic planning, presented to the group. They have two external surveys distributed and are seeking partner surveys that have already been sent out. They request individuals to take the partner survey and share it with others. The survey is available on their social media page, and there is a QR code for clients. The next steps include organizing a focus group in the second week of March.

**Announcements:**

**GNCoC Strategic Planning Focus Groups (Andy Armstrong):** Andy Armstrong attended today’s meeting and noted that individuals can continue to take the surveys and participate in the focus groups. He mentioned that if anyone has questions or wants to meet one-on-one, they should reach out to him and Mike Williams (GNCoC strategic planning consultants).

**Transportation Regional Commission (Donna Marceau):** Donna Marceau expressed gratitude to everyone who participated in the transportation survey. A meeting will be held this Friday at 10 AM at 30 Temple Street in Nashua to discuss funding for the next two years. Additionally, on Thursday, February 27th, there will be a meeting at the National Regional Commission. Donna also distributed calendar handouts for the Cultural Connection Committee.

**United Way (Mike Apfelberg):** United Way is partnering with the community college on technology initiatives. They are providing low-income tax assistance appointments via 211 for tax returns. The "Over the Edge" fundraising event is scheduled for late June 2025.

**City Of Nashua (Tom Lopez):** Addressed the need to improve the city’s budget system and the spending cap impacting grants and charitable events. The discussion included focusing on a budget cap for property taxes. The new members of the registrar and city clerk's office are conducting regular outreach to register voters and facilitate voting.

**Impact Presents:** They are hosting a snowball event at White Birch Catering in Hudson, NH.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 AM.