

## **Greater Nashua Continuum of Care**

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday January 18, 2023

### **Attendees:**

Wendy LeBlanc, Harbor Care; GNCOC Chair

Ashley Jackson, GNCOC Coordinator

Heather Nelson, Harbor Care

Violet Aureli, HEAL

Bob Mack, City of Nashua

Mike Apfelberg, United Way of Greater Nashua

Cathy McNamara, St Joseph Hospital

Maryse Wirbal, Front Door Agency

Kathy Farland, Stepping Stones

Khristyn Way, Veterans Services at Harbor Care

Tonia Knisley, Community Member

Shelby Brown, McKinney Vento Coordinator Nashua School District

Dawn Reams, Bridges

Pam Wellman, Family Promise of Southern NH

Henry Och, Harbor Care

Scott Wellman, Greater Nashua Mental Health; GNCOC Vice Chair

Michael Reinke, Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter

Hannah Stohler, Marguerite's Place; GNCOC Clerk

### **Minutes:**

1. **Introductions:** Wendy LeBlanc opened the meeting at 10:02 am. Attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Approval of December Minutes:** Wendy LeBlanc asked for a motion to accept the December 2022 Executive Committee Minutes. Bob Mack made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Mike Apfelberg. There was no discussion. All were in favor. The motion carried.
3. **Update on COC Merger Discussion:** Ashley Jackson requested TA from HUD to discuss potential merger and are awaiting a response. BOS COC and Manchester COC are also interested in participating in this TA.
4. **COC HUD Required Trainings:** Review of COC required trainings; important to ensure we offer and log participation in all trainings to ensure we score high for NOFO. Topics include:
  - Mandatory training for ESG service providers on reducing family separation. Maryse Wirbal stated as an ESG funded organization, she was not aware of this training but will reach out to Mandy Reagan from DHHS for more information. Discussion was had on including non-ESG funded agencies in this training as well.
  - Training on Safety Protocols for Serving survivors of Domestic Violence. Wendy asked Dawn if she could weave this information into her upcoming presentation at the February General Committee meeting.
  - Coordinated Entry Staff Training for Serving survivors of Domestic Violence. Ashley Jackson and Heather Nelson will take information from Dawn's presentation at the February General GNCOC meeting and present it at the next Coordinated Entry Committee meeting to ensure that this information is received by those who did not attend the General GNCOC Meeting.
  - Equal Access Final Rule Training - Equal Access Final Rule is new HUD rules on discrimination on sexual identity, gender identity, and marital status. Wendy will ask our HUD TA Ben to do a training on this for the GNCOC.

- Required Training on Foodstamps/Mainstream Benefits - we will add this into our September GNCOC Meeting that focuses on Resources.
- Other trainings:
  1. Heather Nelson shared that there was an upcoming training on Human Trafficking through ARC New Hampshire. Ashley will share details of this training through the listserv and will ask COC members to report their attendance.
  2. HUD has a lot of free training archived on the HUD exchange that would cover some of these topics, and we could weave it into GNCOC General Committee Meetings. Hannah suggested we have each sub topic presenter ensure we are covering the HUD required training topics relevant to their subtopic.
  3. Maryse Wirbal and Mike Apfelberg asked about HUD's definition of "training" versus presentations, to ensure we are in compliance. Heather Nelson offered that it is mostly about the integrity - as long as we are doing our best to actually educate our community on the required topics rather than just "check the box", then we can write the NOFO honestly.

#### **5. Updates to GNCOC General Meeting Presentation Schedule**

- Wendy LeBlanc updated that February's General Meeting topic will no longer be Youth Homelessness as Kathy Farland will not be able to attend. We are moving Youth Homelessness to April and February will focus on Domestic Violence and Trafficking, with presentations by Bridges and Brigid's House of Hope.
- March will focus on data with a presentation by ICA.
- April will be focused on Youth Homelessness with presentations by Kathy Farland, Violet Aureli, Shelby Brown, Nashua Children's Home, United Way of Greater Nashua, and Heidi Young from DHHS to present on the Statewide Youth Count Data.
- May will focus on Mental Health, with presentations by GNMH, Harbor Care, and anyone else who is providing mental health services. Scott Wellman and Wendy LeBlanc will lead planning of this meeting.
- June will focus on Substance Use.

#### **6. 2023 PIT Count**

- We reviewed the 2023 PIT Count which will take place next week on January 26. Sue Mead is leading the charge on the unsheltered account, and we are well staffed by volunteers.
- Mike Apfelberg, Bob Mack, and Cathy McNamara are all on the Elder RAP meeting and report concerning rise in homelessness in the elder population in Nashua. They asked whether hospitals are reporting to the PIT Count since they receive much of this population. Wendy will clarify whether this is supposed to be counted per HUD's PIT Count regulations.

#### **7. GNCOC Letter of Support for Harbor Care Grant Per Diem Program**

- Wendy LeBlanc requested a vote to approve a Letter of Support for the continued funding of the Harbor Care Grant Per Diem Program. Mike Apfelberg made the motion, Cathy McNamara seconded the motion. All voted in favor, Wendy LeBlanc abstained. The motion carried.

#### **8. Other Business**

- Suggestion was made that announcements at the General Committee meeting be limited to any new updates from programs, not general program descriptions, and that comments be limited to one minute. If an organization needs more time than this, they will be asked to request time in advance so it can be added to the meeting agenda.
- Bob Mack reported on the Elder RAP meeting that some committee members attend. He stated that elder homelessness is on the rise in Nashua, and needs for housing, health care, and home care needs are increasing. Maryse Wirbal echoed that they are seeing a significant increase in needs from elderly needing rental assistance or other stabilization resources. Tonia also reported that they are seeing this at NSKS as well. Bob stated that Harbor Care is not providing respite at this time, and while NSKS's new facility will be more handicapped

- accessible, people will still need to be able to care for themselves. Wendy LeBlanc mentioned Harbor Care's *Healthy at Home* program, that provides home care for people experiencing homelessness as one other resource; Bob recommended they begin attending the Elder RAP meeting as well. There was discussion of how to support those aging in place with housing vouchers; Permanent Supportive Housing vouchers may be available for those who are no longer eligible for mainstream vouchers after 62.
- Tonia Knisley asked whether it is possible for two single adults with vouchers for 1 bedroom apartments to use both vouchers together in two bedroom apartment. Heather Nelson stated that unfortunately per HUD's rules there can only be one head of household. There was group discussion about the challenges of finding housing despite having voucher in hand and limitations of voucher usage based on HUD regulations.
  - Bob Mack shared that ERAP Funding will be ending for those living in hotels/motels; April 1 is the end of funding for individuals and June 1 is the end of funding for families. Bob will get data on how many people are currently in hotels/motels through Southern New Hampshire Services. We need to be aware/ready for this. Bob also clarified that this hotel/motel funding is separate from municipal welfare funding. Municipal welfare pays on a weekly basis until alternative shelter ends, not like ERAP on a longer term basis. Heather Nelson noted that anyone who has been in a hotel/motel for 12 months (or a combo of shelter, hotel/motel, etc.) are then chronically homeless and could qualify for vouchers. Important to make sure that these individuals are in HMIS to qualify; CAP agencies are not inputting into HMIS. Eviction notices are moving individuals up the voucher waitlist.
  - Mike Apfelberg shared that he is looking for a new chair of the Youth Subcommittee and welcomes anyone interested in leading this group to step forward. Mike is working with Heidi Young and the Balance of State to put together a Youth Summit specifically focused on the topic of young people in higher education experiencing housing insecurity. It will take place on March 24, 2023, at SNHU in Manchester. It will have a 230-person capacity; invite coming soon!
  - Mike Apfelberg asked if we could get a structured update on our Persons with Lived Experience Subcommittee at next month's Executive Committee Meeting. Last year we had discussed creating a PLE Advisory Board with compensation for participants. Mike suggested last year that all organizations kick in a few hundred dollars so that we had a pool to pay participants out of and UWGN could administer funds. Wendy LeBlanc said she would add this to next month's agenda.
  - Henry Och shared that one of the topics emerging in NH is PACE programs - programs for all inclusive care for the elderly, which are prevalent in Mass but nonexistent in NH. The PACE model helps seniors to live in their home, and then go to PACE facility during the day where they have access to primary care, behavioral health, other health and human services, coupled with home care services. Funded by Medicaid. More comprehensive than adult day care.
  - Heather Nelson suggested we include aging in place as a topic for one of our larger meetings; it was determined that we can include it in our special populations meeting in November.

## **9. Adjourn**

- Wendy LeBlanc asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Heather Nelson moved to end the meeting, which was seconded by Scott Wellman. All were in favor, the motion carried, and the meeting ended at 11:05 am.