

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care Executive Committee

Family Promise of Greater Nashua at Anne-Marie House

180 Lowell Road, Hudson, NH

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

In Attendance were: Heather Nelson, Mandy Reagan, Ashley Gauthier, Magaly Rios, Dawn Reams, Jill O'Neill, Pam Wellman, Michael Reinke, Jessica Karawtske, and Julie Esp.

Call to order 10:06am

Minutes from our May meeting were reviewed, Jill motioned to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Heather. All were in favor.

1.) 2019 NOFA/COC Application Prep:

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Interim Rule published in the Federal Register (July 31, 2012) formally established the Continuum of Care as the planning body responsible for meeting the goals of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH): Continuum of Care program. Every year HUD will publish a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) with its requirements, timeline, and breakdown of points for the annual CoC competition. The CoC must submit an annual CoC Consolidated Application consisting of the CoC Application, Project Applications and Priority Listing that ranks the projects in priority order. To prepare for this competition the CoC will take steps throughout the year. Ideally, COCs will review the NOFA at several points during the process of application preparation. This scoring indicates HUD's priorities and policy directions for CoC planning and for the targeting of CoC project funds. In effort to be inclusive of the work happening in the Greater Nashua COC, two NOFA questions will be presented at the executive meetings moving forward, for input and updates from the executive members to be included in the application narrative. Release of the NOFA by HUD TBD.

Questions: 1B 1-a: Applicants must describe the specific strategy the CoC uses to solicit and consider opinions from organizations and/or persons that have an interest in preventing or ending homelessness.

1B-2. Open Invitation for New Members. Applicants must describe: (1) the invitation process; (2) how the CoC communicates the invitation process to solicit new members; (3) how often the CoC solicits new members; and (4) any special outreach the CoC conducted to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join the CoC.

Discussion around methods the GNCOC currently uses, and opportunities for additional solicitation of members. Current uses included posted the schedule of meetings and description of the COC on the City of Nashua's website, social media, agency websites and individual members promoting the GNCOC/soliciting new members through meetings and events. Discussed publicizing the meetings in local newspapers such as the Nashua Telegraph and increased presence on social media such as the GNCOC Facebook account. Discussed the need

to solicit an individual with lived experience for the executive committee. Ashley will send request to the General Assembly.

- 2.) Coordinated Entry: Concern has been expressed from providers and persons experiencing homelessness seeking services about the response time with our local Coordinated Entry. There is confusion on who is currently answering the phones for general inquiries. Currently, the Nashua Soup kitchen and Shelter has Juana answering phones on Thursday, Harbor Homes/Safe Stations staff answering the phones on nights and weekends, SSVF answering for veteran callers, Bridges for domestic violence callers. Discussed the lack of general outreach for response to general inquiries, and brainstormed solution focused approaches. Michael proposed creating action items to move forward. Current efforts in the Manchester COC, who also does not have general outreach discussed. The MCOC drafted a letter and submitted it to the city regarding funding to put outreach and a COC coordinator in place. Discussion on executing a similar approach within the GNCOC. Discussed approaching partners such as the city, and other projects for a possible sharing of resource or pooling of funds to sustain a position. Discussed the importance of a position for outreach and data collection for coordinated entry and further funding opportunities.

Action items: Ashley and Mandy will go Manchester's general assembly meeting for update on their Mayor's task force- scheduled for June 20th at 9:00. They will obtain the drafted letter from the COC and the current Mayors committee report from the MCOC leadership, to share with the GNCOC executive members. Ashley will create an updated list of program within the COC with eligibility, contact information and potential to help support those roles financially. At the next executive meeting, these documents will be reviewed and a proposal drafted for a position to help support outreach/CE. Action steps from there to be determined.

Announcements:

Data committee update- this week's meeting has been cancelled. Currently reviewing the ranking worksheet for the upcoming NOFA. Once edits have been made the proposed worksheet will be presented to the Executive Committee for review and approval..

ICA HMIS has hired a local New Hampshire position and is currently training. This role will be attending all NH COC meetings and data subcommittee meetings.

Michael informed us that the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter got \$500,000 in tax credits. Will have about 1.4mill or 1.9mill by the end of the year. In late next spring they are planning on starting renovations at the St. Patrick school location for affordable housing as well as some educational services. Michael will be happy to do a presentation on this sometime.

Bridges talked about their renovation. It is expected for the renovations to be done by June 30th. They bought the old Red Cross building because they have outgrown their space. Will also have 3 new staff members join their team. They will also be implementing a new model that is being used for the first time in New England.

Upcoming Meetings:

Ending Homelessness Committee-August 7th @ 9:00AM NO MEETING IN JULY

General GNCOC Meeting August 7th @ 8AM NO MEETING IN JULY

GNCOC Executive Meeting – July 17, 2019 @ 10:00am

Meeting adjourned at 11:00