**GNCOC Minutes**

November 6, 2024

1. **Call to Order**
	1. Wendy LeBlanc called the meeting to order at 9 am and led attendees in a round of introductions.
2. **Approval of the Minutes**
	1. Wendy LeBlanc shared the October 2, 2024 GNCOC meeting minutes. Mike Apfelberg made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Sue Mead. The motion carried.
3. **Subcommittee Updates**
	1. Youth Subcommittee
		1. Youth Subcommittee Chair Mike Apfelberg shared that the committee meets the first Thursday of each month at 9 am on zoom. All are welcome to join and they are always seeking new members. The Agenda consists of updates from community liaisons, the YHDP Grant, and wrap around services for specific cases. Hannah Stohler is the co-chair.
	2. Health Services Coordination
		1. Health Services Coordination Committee Chair Bob Mack shared that this committee discusses wrap around services and gaps for people in hospitals/medical facilities experiencing homelessness. They work to identify resources for safe hospital discharge. Attendance includes hospitals, FQHCs, Mental Health, Public Health, Welfare and Shelters. This meeting is not a replacement for formal, case specific wrap around meetings which can be planned in the interim.
	3. Outreach Committee
		1. Outreach Committee Co-chair Magna Krieger shared that they most recently met on October 21, where they primarily discussed encampment updates. A new announcement is that restroom access near city hall has been extended to 8 pm. There was discussion of safety concerns for buildings around canal street, and they talked collaboration with the United Way including kit distribution and resources during winter months. Public Health has specific outreach workers visiting known sites and working to build relationships to increase access to resources. There is active clean up happening at abandoned sites by DPW, and overall improved communication between individuals in the encampments, workers, and the city. There are approximately eleven encampments, six of which have known substance use. United Way is running a coat drive to increase access to cold weather gear for those unsheltered this winter; these coats are being delivered to Public Health.
	4. NH Veterans Committee –
		1. Committee representative Danny Santiago shared that this statewide committee is currently working with Manchester mayor to create landlord incentives for SSVF program to house more veterans. Manchester currently has 52 homeless veterans, 19 of whom are in Manchester housing. Sue Mead asked if any of the housing options allow for alcohol use? Danny responded no.
	5. Coordinated Entry/Data Committee
		1. Committee chair Doug Howard shared that they last met on October 30th. Meetings do not have a set schedule. They recently had conversation with a SNHHS social worker who may begin entering into HMIS which would help provide more frequent updates for those experiencing chronic homelessness. They also did some light case conferencing. Doug shared that the local prioritization list changes regularly.
		2. Wendy shared that the Data Committee is on pause due to gap in leadership. The HMIS team has been cleaning up data errors and improving data quality, so that our reports are as clean as they can be. Doug shared that our data has improved drastically over the past year and is happy to support by running reports as needed.
	6. Executive Committee
		1. GNCOC Chair Wendy LeBlanc shared that the Executive Committee meets monthly and is focused on high level strategic items. We recently completed and submitted our CoC application at the end of October in advance of the deadline, and are feeling positive about increased funding and potential bonus funding based on our use of a new application consultant.
		2. Wendy shared that we are beginning Technical Assistance with HUD this month, which will help us look for ways to improve our data outcomes. One example she shared is that we score low on length of shelter stay based on the number of longer length Transitional Housing programs in our community, which HMIS categorizes as Shelters. They will work with us to find ways to improve our data collection and metrics.
		3. We have funding from Rotary to do a GNCoC Strategic Plan. We have selected a consultant, who will begin by surveying the Executive Committee. The consultant will then come to our December 4th meeting. In addition to our holiday party, the consultant will discuss our goals, timeline, ask some questions of the wider group, and coordinate focus groups. The purpose of this strategic plan is to create a collaborative strategy to coordinate efforts to address emerging critical issues surrounding homelessness in our community. We would love diverse perspectives in this process so please attend our December meeting!
4. **CoC Officer Election/Roster Vote**
	1. Our CoC officers slate is due for vote. The Slate proposed by the Executive Committee is Chair Wendy LeBlanc, Co-Chair LaTonya Muccioli, and Clerk Hannah Stohler, as well as the full Executive Committee. Sue Mead made a motion to accept this slate of officers, which was seconded by Bob Keating. The motion carried, with Executive Committee members abstaining from voting.
5. **Capacity Openings and Updates**
	1. Shelters
		1. NSKS:
			1. Kim Okonis, new NSKS Family Case Manager introduced herself. NSKS shelter is full. NSKS winter shelter opens December 1.
		2. Rescue Mission/Hope Center – no representative present.
		3. Bridges – Shelter currently full and will be for foreseeable future. Mike Apfelberg asked where to refer people fleeing domestic violence when their shelter is full? Response was that Bridges has limited funding to support emergency situations, but they also can coordinate with other domestic violence shelters in the state.
	2. Transitional Housing
		1. Marguerite’s Place – Full
		2. Family Promise – Full
		3. SSVF – 8 openings at Dalianis House, Buckingham Place is full.
		4. Front Door Agency has one opening for Transitional Housing, but it will most likely be filled by those who have already applied. They have 2 other openings anticipated.
	3. Permanent Housing
		1. Harbor Care’s chronically homeless list has 21 individuals, 6 with vouchers in hand and apartment searching, 3 in process (have an apartment) and 12 nonresponsive/out of contact. Total number of households housed by Harbor Care is 241, with 349 individuals.
		2. Neighborworks shared that 249 Main Street is ¾ way full, and accepting vouchers. There are 19 1-BR units and 26 2-BR units, with 6 floors, elevator access, community room with WIFI, and parking. 34 units are income restricted with the others at market rate. The range is $1150 – 1600 for 1 BR and $1400 – 1850 for 2 BR. There are 7-10 apartments still available. Questions were asked:
			1. Is income required? If the voucher covers the cost of the unit, no additional income is required.
			2. Does eviction prohibit tenancy? Circumstantial, depending on reason for eviction.
			3. Does felony prohibit tenancy? Circumstantial, depending on type of felony and how long ago.
	4. Rapid Rehousing
		1. Front Door Agency – no cap on how many families they can support, however have $60,000 left through FY24 (end of June 25). This money assists with security deposits and rent for up to 24 months out of a 36-month period. Have 8 families currently enrolled. All referrals must come through Coordinated Entry, with a completed assessment, and placed on the prioritization list.
	5. Other programs:
		1. United Way Technology Distribution Program.
		2. Mike Apfelberg shared that they have some HUD/City funding to support people who need to access laptop or tablet to assist with resume building, job search, applying for services, or work itself. They must be low-income. Currently distributing 10-15 devices per week. If you have someone who fits the need, connect with Mike to schedule an in-person appointment.
	6. Encampment Update
		1. 15 across city, 6 that have individuals actively using substances (that we know of). Library is posted as no camping and scheduled to be cleaned today. As of Friday, people will be trespassed.
6. **Announcements**
	1. Bob Keating shared that the Annual Harbor Care Thanksgiving meal will be Tuesday 11/26 from 11:30 am – 2 pm on High Street. Flyers are available in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Last year 300 people attended. Food is provided by Common Man, and raffles/giveaways are available.
	2. Southern NH Services changed name to CAPRC – Community Action Program of Rockingham County
	3. In honor of World AIDS Day, Harbor Care DEI group will be hosting an event on Tuesday December 3 at 45 High Street from 3:30 pm – 5 pm including educational information, a film, vigil, and refreshments. All are welcome to attend.
	4. Friday November 15 from 7-10 pm is United Way’s Care-o-ke Fundraiser at the Nashua Center for the Arts. Come watch people you know singing for a good cause. It is a competition with prizes, and will livestream on Nashua Access TV and YouTube.
	5. St Joe’s Mobile Health Clinic is hosting *ABCs on Diabetes* free community event with Nashua YMCA at November 14 at 11 am, which will include free blood glucose meters, testing, and education. They are also hosting a Smoking Cessation Program on November 18 at 10 am.
7. **Adjournment**
	1. Wendy LeBlanc adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am.