**GNCoC General Committee Meeting Minutes**

*Wednesday, October 2, 2024*

**Call to order –** Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes from September 4, 2024, Meeting- Mike Apfelberg made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bobbie Bagley. All were in favor.

* **Trauma-Informed Outreach- LaTonya Muccioli:**
	+ We had a moment of silence to respect and honor the Indigenous people of the land on which we work and live which is called land acknowledgement.
	+ Adverse childhood experiences and homelessness-
		- Childhood trauma-
			* Experiencing violence or abuse, neglect and it is likely that those that have childhood trauma are more likely to experience homelessness.
		- How do we support someone who is experiencing trauma?
			* As providers we want to have a level or predictability and a schedule for those with trauma.
			* We also want to allow people to have that time and space to be themselves and have the ability to say no to a case worker.
			* We don’t want to make decisions for people that we are living with trauma, we want them to feel that they can make their own decisions.
	+ This not that-
		- We don’t want to judge individuals with trauma or make them feel guilty about what they are going through.
			* We need to allow them to feel safe with their basic needs met: Like food, water, housing, etc.
			* We don’t want to see things as right or wrong when working with an individual with trauma because they could be displaying that behavior due to their trauma.
			* We want to look at that behavior of a person and use it as a way to help them get to the root of the issue.
	+ Principles of Trauma Informed Care:
		- Safety-
			* Physical setting- away from hazards
			* Psychological safety- Identify yourself and offer privacy for when collecting data.
			* We don’t want to discuss finances in front of other homelessness individuals because it could jeopardize that individual being assisted at risk.
		- Trustworthy-
			* System operations-
				+ We want to be transparent with the individuals about services and referrals to other agencies within the GNCoC to help that individual in need.
		- Peer support-
			* Build trust
			* Enhance Collaboration
			* Use their lived experience
			* Help establish and maintain safety
		- Collaboration & Mutuality-
			* Shared power & decision making
			* Value partnership
		- Empowerment, Voice & Choice-
			* Recognize personal strengths
			* Shared decision-making
			* Offer choices
			* Goal setting for housing and services
			* Never assume
			* All for “no’s”- we need to be comfortable with ‘no’s
		- Cultural, Historical, and Gender Issues-
			* Service delivery models can perpetuate biases
			* Respectful and responsive to-
				+ Beliefs & practices
				+ Sexual orientation
				+ Disability statues
				+ Age
				+ Gender identities
				+ Cultural preferences
				+ Linguistic needs
			* Recognize racial inequalities and disparities and costuming efforts.
		- CoC Analysis Tool: Race Ethnicity-
			* New Hampshire is a predominately white state and there are about 2% of Black and African Americans that live in NH but there are about 23% of Black and African Americans who are experiencing homelessness in NH.
	+ If you have any questions, please reach out to LaTonya Muccioli at mucciolil@nashuanh.gov or at 603-589-4569.
	+ The slide presentation is going to be sent out to the entire GNCoC mailing distribution list.
	+ It was mentioned by Sue Mead that we must be aware of individuals triggers and if they react in a certain way, it most likely has nothing to do with you and everything to do with their trauma and triggers.
* **Holiday Programs- All**
	+ Front Door Agency (Becky)-
		- FDA has already met their capacity with 500 kids for their Christmas party.
		- Their age limitation is 18 or if they’re still in high school.
	+ NSKS-
		- Once a month they give out a food box to each family and/or individual. For Thanksgiving they will be giving out meals on Thursday November 21st - November 27th. They have their normal business hours for food at 11am to 2:45pm daily.
		- They serve about 135 families and collaborate and communicate with other programs within the community for the Thanksgiving food boxes so that individuals aren’t double dipping.
	+ Boys and Girls Club-
		- On October 19th, they will be having their trunk or treat for the kids, and community organizations are welcome to participate.
		- For Thanksgiving they are reaching out to organizations for assistance with turkeys and dinners for families.
		- Their teens want to be a part of the holiday stroll in Nashua, NH and are open to volunteering within the community through other agencies.
	+ Scared NH-
		- Is an organization that donates Halloween costumes to children and families who want to participate in Halloween.
		- This event is on October 25th at 5:30pm - 7:30 located at the Arlington Community Center. If you would like to participate, please reach out to Jessica.
	+ Veterans Promises-
		- Is trying to help individuals feel more vetted living in Nashua after serving.
		- The Saturday morning on the day of the holiday stroll is where veterans have the opportunity to decorate their doors and hallways at Dalianis House.
			* They will be putting out bins for organizations to donate any decorations for the veterans as well.
			* They also have a hoodie program for veteran too.
	+ Waypoint-
		- They have a Halloween event on October 17th 4-6pm at Waypoint on Chestnut street in Manchester, NH.
	+ DHHS- is doing a holiday program too.
	+ Family Promise-
		- For those older teens and young adults who age out of any holiday program within the GNCoC area, can reach out to Joanne who will then give them gift cards from amazon, or target.
	+ Harbor Care:
		- Has their Thanksgiving Dinner on November 26th from 11:30am -2PM at 45 High Street.
* **COC officer election/NOFO Updates -Wendy LeBlanc**
	+ The NOFO process is going well and we’re about halfway through the CoC competition season thus far and Wendy let the group know that we will be having our ranking meeting this afternoon, with no competing projects this year.
	+ Wendy let the group know that LaTonya Muccioli has showed interest in becoming the new vice chair once this term is up because Scott Wellman is stepping down from being the vice chair for next term. The only criteria for being the chair or the vice chair for the GNCoC is that you have to have sat on the executive committee for a year prior before becoming the vice chair then the chair.
		- LaTonya explained why she though that she would be a great fit for the vice chair position.
			* The City understands that there is a housing crisis, and LaTonya has a lot of knowledge about homelessness and housing opportunities within the GNCoC geographic area.
			* LaTonya started working for the City of Nashua in January 2024 as the housing stability officer.
	+ Wendy mentioned that we will have an official vote on the slate of officers at our next GNCoC meeting in November.
	+ Wendy also shared the slate of officers for the GNCoC Executive Committee to the group as well and let everyone know that we are looking for a new youth/young adult member for the executive committee.
* **Capacity/openings and Updates:**
	+ Shelters-
		- Rescue Mission: Men’s Mercy House-
			* 1 bunk open
			* 3 beds open at the Women’s shelter
		- NSKS- no openings
	+ Transitional Housing-
		- Harbor Care- 6 openings at Dalianis House for veterans.
			* No openings at Buckingham but they do have about 9 individuals on their waiting list.
		- Family Promise- we are at capacity and have 9 families on the waiting list.
		- Front Door Agency- is currently full and they may have two families transitioning out soon.
		- Marguerite’s Place- is full at the moment.
	+ Permanent Supportive Housing-
		- Harbor Care-
			* Heather couldn’t be here today due to working on some NOFO documents.
			* They continue to work with agencies within the GNCoC to help house individuals. The permanent housing program has housed about 110 households with CoC funds.
	+ Rapid Re-housing-
	+ Other:
		- Programs/services your agency provides to homeless and at-risk households not identified currently.
		- Wrap-around services
			* Wrap-around services-
				+ If anyone has any client cases, they want to discuss wrap around services with please reach out to Bob Mack.
* **Encampment Update- LaTonya Muccioli**
	+ We have 17 active sites in Nashua, where people are living in tents, cars, and outdoors.
	+ They have been working with Revive and Public Health to pick up any syringes they find when doing outreach or cleanup at the encampment sites.
	+ It’s been realized that the encampment site at the Nashua Public Library as an increased number of individuals experiencing homelessness with behavioral challenges and debris/trash issues.
	+ There are about 5 or 6 encampment sites where individuals aren’t using substances.
	+ On October 9th: LaTonya will have more data as to how many individuals are in each of these encampments.
	+ The rail trail is a hotspot for an encampment site but individuals are not allowed to stay there since it is private property.
		- Question- What are we doing with the Narcan boxes within the City of Nashua? There are multiple Narcan boxes at quite a few organizations in Nashua including St Pat’s church, Public Library, NSKS, Harbor Care, and United Way.

**Announcements:**

* The Boys and Girls Club has a community clothing closet called Katie’s Closet where they provide clothes and basic needs to pre-school aged kids up to age18.
* There will be a Mental Health training provided at UNH for about 8 hours if you are interested, please reach out to Iraida at 603-589- 4566.
* October is the community transportation month- They have a resource called commute smart NH where you can track your miles, etc.
	+ There is a meeting on October 24th regarding transportation.
* The GNCoC Youth Homelessness meeting is tomorrow, October 3rd at 9am via zoom.
	+ United Way continues to get technology for individuals that are in need.
	+ United Way will be hosting their 24-Hour Radio Show- it will be held on the Sunday after Thanksgiving at 5:00pm until Monday at 5:00pm.
* 603 Legal Aid and Shaheen and Gordan Attorneys at Law- are providing free legal name change services for low-income members of the LGBTQ+ community and others looking to change their name for safety reasons. This is called the 603 Name Change Project.
* Wendy mentioned that this Monday that she and Doug Howard presented at the Nashua Rotary Club about the GNCoC. The GNCoC has received $30, 000 for a CoC consultant and we will be interviewing consultants in the next couple of weeks.
	+ Be on the lookout for emails from us regarding your input for the CoC consultant.
* The GNCoC Coordinated Entry meeting will be held on October 30th at 1:00pm virtually.

*Meeting adjourned at 10:20AM.*

*Minutes taken by Ashley Jackson.*