

Committee on Ending Homelessness Meeting December 03, 2003

Present at the meeting were: Eileen Brady, Maria Brown, Tara Davis, Alphonse Haettenschwiller, Agnes Han, Grace Hicks-Grogan, Linda Jeynes, Donna Juskiewicz, Peter Kelleher, Bob Mack, Bob Marks, Laura Nault, Klaas Nijhuis, Miles Pendry and Ray Peterson.

K. Nijhuis called the meeting to order at 9:12 in Room 208 of City Hall. The minutes were reviewed; Peter Kelleher motioned to accept the minutes; Bob Marks seconded and the motion carried.

M. Pendry said that he would be coordinating the information gathered from the “Wheel of Responsibility” exercise done at the CoC meeting today. He will then distribute to the CoC e-mail list for any corrections or additions. He would like people to e-mail him the names and e-mail addresses of any agencies that may not be on the CoC listing.

A. Haettenschwiller commented on some of the previously e-mailed drafts for the Ending Homelessness Plan from the sub-committees for editing. These comments were accepted and will be taken under advisement when rewriting the final draft. He also suggested that the committee set a goal and work backward to come up with a working plan, keeping in mind the people for which the plan is being written. He mentioned the possibility of writing summaries of the plan specifically targeted for groups such as the policy makers and funding sources as a chance to identify the gaps in the system that these groups may be able to help fill.

Discussion followed about who the target audience should be. Some suggestions were: committee members and agencies involved and their clients, the New Hampshire Collaborative working on a plan for the state, people who fund the non-profit agencies and their projects, local businesses and private citizens, and government officials. A suggestion was made that different executive summaries (or the use of different wording) might be needed for each of the different audiences. A written “Memorandum of Understanding” might be the tool used to connect the various types of audiences with the recommendations of the proposed plan.

B. Mack restated the three goals as stated in the Strategic Planning Sub-committee draft: 1) Prevent homelessness whenever possible, 2) Rapidly re-house people when homelessness cannot be prevented, and 3) Provide wrap-around services that promote housing stability and self-sufficiency. The committee then accepted these goals by consensus to be used in the final draft of the plan. He suggested that an outline be agreed upon first and then start filling in the blanks.

P. Kelleher stressed that we want this to be a real working document, not one that just sits on the shelf. It needs to be followed up, after it is finished in March, with monthly progress reports to keep it moving forward. He further related that the State is also

working on a plan for New Hampshire and he would like to be able to present our process for them to combine with what they have from other CoC's to be used in their state-wide plan.

K. Nijhuis suggested that with the help of M. Pendry, we put our drafts of the various report sections on-line on the CoC web site for the committee members to read and edit. He asked that all the subcommittees submit the written drafts to M. Pendry who will develop this page on the web site as soon as possible.

B. Mack volunteered to talk with the Mayor to gain his support for this group and the Ending Homeless Plan they are developing.

A discussion ensued about the possibility of having the Welfare Departments and Police Departments in the greater Nashua area towns play more of a role in collecting data on the homeless population.

A. Haettenschwiller put forth a format for the plan starting with the history, then the goals, the current problem, and finishing with the solutions, both short and long-term.

K. Nijhuis handed out a copy of the suggested Table of Contents from B. Mack's draft for consideration.

The Statistics, History, and Resource committees are still gathering information and did not have a formal report at this time.

E. Brady volunteered to write the agenda for the next meeting, which will be on December 17, 2003, 8:00 am, in Room 208 at the Nashua City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 am.