

Committee on Ending Homelessness Meeting December 17, 2003

Present at the meeting were: Eileen Brady, Bill Grey, Alphonse Haettenschwiller, Linda Jeynes, Peter Kelleher, Bob Mack, Bob Marks, Ruth Morrissette, Klaas Nijhuis, Miles Pendry and Ray Peterson.

K. Nijhuis called the meeting to order at 8:05 am in Room 208 of City Hall. The minutes were reviewed; B. Mack motioned to accept the minutes; E. Brady seconded and the motion carried.

E. Brady announced that a new movie about homelessness by Preston Heller would be shown at the next CoC meeting on January 7th in the City Hall Auditorium at 8:00 am which would be important for all to see. P. Kelleher added that representatives from the State of New Hampshire, Fanny Mae, Legislators, and the CoC in Manchester have been invited to attend. This should be a controversial film based on interviews with real homeless people in New Hampshire and may eventually be shown on PBS. It may be an opportunity to recruit more volunteers for this committee.

B. Mack reported that winter plans for additional numbers of homeless people would be about the same as last year i.e., they would be putting people in motels again if it became necessary. The Greater Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network (GNIHN) hopes to be up and running before the winter is over and may be able to help with some of the overflow of families. No State money is available for this year.

E. Brady reported that the NH Coalition to End Homelessness Annual Meeting will be January 21, 2004 in Concord at the Holiday Inn. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and promote communication on the subject of homelessness with the legislators, state agency representatives and homeless people themselves who attend. She also reported of memorial services for deceased homeless persons taking place on December 20, and 21, 2003 in Manchester and Concord. Cindy Carlson is in charge of the one in Manchester. This is a way to bring awareness to the homeless people who died in the past year.

B. Mack announced that Stefan Russakow has not had time to attend these meetings because the lack of staffing in the Health and Community Services Division but recently hiring a new staff member should give him the time to join us again soon.

B. Marks announced that GNIHN has just purchased a used 14-passenger van to transport families once they are ready to start this winter. They are hoping to be up and running sometime between February and April, once the day facility has been obtained. They are looking at a ninth church to become a host facility soon. The calendars they are selling as a fundraiser include photographs by Preston Heller and will be made available at the next CoC meeting.

B. Mack handed out copies of the draft as it appeared at this time on the CoC website. They are still waiting for more input/feedback from the various subcommittees and agencies in the CoC to be able to clearly identify the agencies, their services, what they can provide, etc. They might need to devise a form for polling the agencies.

P. Kelleher said the subcommittees were making good progress and should have results ready soon. They are also designing a system using a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to track progress monthly after the Ending Homeless Plan is completed. He asked this group for

permission to approach the various towns in the Greater Nashua area to collect their homeless data to include in this plan. The members agreed by consensus. They also asked that a draft copy of this MOA be e-mailed to the members of this committee to look at before the next meeting.

K. Nijhuis remarked that under Section III we should show where the public investment is going in our community and how the money is being used to eventually save money.

A. Haettenschwiler suggested we include an appendix.

P. Kelleher suggested we not confine ourselves to thinking only in terms of ending homelessness in ten years. Some things may be possible sooner; others may take longer.

The Statistics Committee met and P. Kelleher indicated that collecting data related to prevention might be too difficult to do at this time, but they have devised a simple means to collect and report sheltering.

There was discussion about how to format all this information for the web page.

P. Kelleher announced that Fannie Mae would be willing to provide financial assistance to the fight to end homelessness and suggested we pursue this offer.

E. Brady suggested we give multiple answers/solutions to each cause of homelessness as stated in the history section of the plan. There followed a discussion about the housing situation and temporary vs. permanent solutions. We need to set bounds on how much information/data needs to be included in the plan to meet the objectives. We can't include everything. K. Nijhuis suggested we consider anything and everything about the subject and then edit it later.

E. Brady told of how tenants help each other to understand how to stay housed by forming Tenant Associations. She will write a paragraph on this for the next meeting.

M. Pendry reported that he is working on the revised Crisis Map and hopes to have it finished soon. Corrections to listings are being requested.

E. Brady asked people to call Representatives Bass and Bradley to thank them for signing on to support ending homelessness.

The next meeting will be January 7, 2004 in room 208 of the Nashua City Hall after the CoC meeting (about 9:00 am).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 am.