

## GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE

Meeting Minutes  
City Hall – Room 208  
December 4, 2002

Call to Order – 8:00 a.m. by Lisa Christie, Chair

Introductions – Those present introduced themselves and stated their affiliation.

Presentation by Robert Keating, Member of the Land Use Advisory Committee – Bob, a founding board member for French Hill NHS, a board member for the Soup Kitchen and now a citizen representative to the Advisory Committee for the update of the City's Land Use Code gave an overview of the process that he has been part of since its August 2002 start. The City's Community Development Division has engaged Mark White, an outside consultant, to review and revise Chapter 16 – "Planning" (zoning regulations) of the Nashua Revised Ordinances. This process includes getting and incorporating input of stakeholders such as City Administration, developers, and the general public.

A draft version of the proposed Code that will replace Chapter 16 was completed on November 11, 2002. At this point, in recognition of other public discussion going on within the City, nothing has been written in the Code to address Affordable Housing. Comments are requested by December 12, and Bob asked the CoC (Continuum of Care) to offer its input. A second draft is scheduled to be ready on December 24, with the next round of public comments anticipated for January 23, 2003. The Board of Aldermen will be considering the Code update in March.

According to Bob, Mr. White has provided some sixty pages of information on the range of possibilities covering the affordable housing section.

During Bob's presentation there was much discussion around how the deliberations of the parallel public effort of the Mayor's Housing Task Force headed by Donnalee Lozeau could find their way into the Code given the Code's short schedule. The Mayor's Task Force anticipates it will be have completed its work no sooner than 18 months from now. There was consensus that Donnalee should at least gather her subcommittee chairs and other key members to craft a letter that would address that committee's concerns and the CoC's list of issues prior to December 12. The CoC was reminded that they earlier this year endorsed the Mayor's Task Force as the vehicle to address affordable housing in this community.

Lori Cardin asked if Nashua Housing Authority was at the table for the discussion, and if they were invited to CoC. She was informed that they have been part of CoC in the past. Klaas Nijhuis volunteered to follow up with the new Executive Director to see if she or other staff would be able to attend regularly.

Minutes of 11/6/02 – On a motion by Peter Kelleher, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the minutes of the last meeting were accepted as written.

New HUD Staff Assignments – Correspondence from HUD’s Manchester office was enclosed with the CoC board package and described new staff assignments to CoC. Kathy Baumgardner continues to serve us on for HOPWA (Housing for People with Aids). Charlene Brodeur will replace Kathy as our HUD representative.

Balance of State Continuum Meeting Report – Tony Epaphras reported that because of confusion in communication he did not make it to the Balance of State meeting this month, but will do so moving forward.

Report from Ending Homelessness Committee – Klaas Nijhuis has sent e-mail invitations to everyone who expressed interest in working on the End Homelessness Committee as listed in the November 6 minutes. A kick-off meeting follows the CoC meeting in Room 208. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss what direction the committee would like to take, to begin to define its mission and possible approaches to action. Also to be discussed is the election of committee leadership and to plan the first meeting. Anyone who hasn’t yet signed up but is interested in working on the committee is invited to attend. (The committee did meet after the CoC meeting and has set a next meeting date of January 8, 2003 after the CoC meeting, in Room 208 of City Hall)

Welfare Study, Next Steps – Klaas reported on the next steps that will be undertaken in the study currently underway in the City’s Welfare Department. The study’s purpose is to find explanations for the dramatic increase in local social welfare expenditures over the past two years. About ten members from the provider community as well as representatives from local and state government, many of whom are members of the CoC have been invited and are coming together for a focus group discussion on December 16 to look at the results of the quantitative analysis of budgets, costs, demographics and general economy, to help offer policy explanations as well as observations of economic life that might help explain some of the changes in the amount of welfare provided at different times over the past 15 years (the equivalent of one business cycle including both expansion and recession in the economy). Participant observation and interviews of welfare recipients will also be attempted over the next few weeks. The purpose of that part of the research is allow us to tell the human side of the social welfare story (not just the numbers side) to general public, legislators and administration. The study is targeted for completion by mid January.

42 Pine Street – Peter Kelleher announced that Alderman Plamondon approached his and other agencies about reusing the property located at 42 Pine Street (now or soon to be owned by the City for taxes owed). He invited anyone interested along to view the property. If interested, please contact him after the meeting.

Data Gathering Committee – Wendy Buice invited anyone interested to join members of last year’s Data Gathering Committee to meet with her at the end of the CoC meeting to set a date and time for a kick-off meeting for planning the process that will get us the 2003 Homeless Count. (They decided on their first meeting on January 8, 2003 at 9:00 am in the Community Development Conference Room, City Hall)

HUD's response to Congressman Sununu's support letter – Mary Auer made us aware of the letter which was attached to the last board package.

Request for Corresponding Secretary – Klaas Nijhuis asked that the CoC consider creating this position. Among the responsibilities would be to ensure that all inquiries made to the CoC either through the web, or through more traditional means is followed up on. Since the website is under Harbor Home's maintenance, a request was made of Peter Kelleher to identify someone from that agency who might serve in this capacity. Peter will report back.

Number of Homeless Children in Nashua – Kelly Ordway of Youth Council asked the CoC for our current number of homeless children in Nashua. The gathered confirmed the number reported in the gaps analysis as the most current and best number.

Other –

Peter Kelleher mentioned that TAC is offering free technical assistance to CoC's prior to the SuperNOFA announcement. To request their assistance the CoC needs to write a letter. Bob Marks made a motion, seconded by Peter Kelleher, to have the Corresponding Secretary write such a letter. The motion passed.

Peter Kelleher reported on the TAC provided, HUD funded Main Stream Resources training held at the Yard Conference Center on December 3. A very useful binder of information on Federal programs was provided. Sue Mead had asked the training providers to provide the binder content on disk. If it made available in that format we could distribute it to the CoC mailing list.

Klaas Nijhuis mentioned that at the training he learned that Congress has made it a policy that 30% of McKinney-Vento money must go to permanent housing.

Wendy Furnari of So NH HIV/Aids Task Force announced that the agency has hired a new Executive Director: Joyce Keeman, who is expected to join us at our next meeting.

Next Meeting – January 8, 2003, 8:00 to 9:00 am in Room 208 of City Hall.

Adjournment – At 9:00 am.

*Prepared collaboratively by Linda Jeynes, Mary Auer and Klaas Nijhuis*