

Committee on Ending Homelessness
Minutes of the December 7, 2005 Meeting
Nashua City Hall, Room 208

Present at the meeting were: Bob Mack, Peter Kelleher, Wendy Furnari, Donna Juskiewicz, Eileen Brady, Maria Brown, Klaas Nijhuis, Mary Andosca, Laura Nault, Anne Quinn, Gene Murray, Ruth Lee, David Cull, and Jean Russell.

After some delay due to getting agendas and minutes photocopied, the meeting began at 9:20 AM.

Prevention: Bob reported that he will track action items on the Ending Homelessness plan.

Revolving Loan Fund: Bob reported that the plan for the fund is moving forward. Attorney Bill Barry came to the last meeting. The RLF sub-committee has changed the initial idea of rental loans so that this program will primarily focus on mortgage loans. The plan is more complicated than they initially thought, and are looking at eligibility criteria as well as an application process. The thought is that folks with mortgages are those who will likely not qualify for welfare assistance or other rental assistance programs. Pastoral Care will be the administrator of the program. Eileen asked if anyone has looked into HUD homeownership money. Peter suggested getting data re: how many people have become homeless due to foreclosure vs. people that have become homeless due to eviction. After much discussion about this topic, Wendy suggested that most of these decisions should be made by the RLF sub-committee and folks with strong feelings about it should attend those meetings. Klaas reminded us that it is up to the EHC to hear the sub-committee reports and give feedback. In this case, the message from the EHC is to take another look at this and be sure there is data to back up the need for providing this assistance only for mortgages.

Introductions were made and the minutes from the November 2, 2005 meeting were reviewed. Peter made a motion to accept the minutes, Klaas seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

Rapid Re-Housing: Bob reported that Germano Martins had asked Bridget Belton-Jette to co-chair this sub-committee with him but that it will not be possible for her.

Maria mentioned that an apartment complex in Milford with affordable apartments is being sold. The current landlord contacted her to let her know. She contacted Bridget Belton-Jette at neighborhood Housing Services to get her involved in trying to get the new owner to also offer affordable rents. Bob mentioned that Brook Village has just about paid back their loan to HUD, making it possible for them to increase rents.

Bob reviewed the EH plan and mentioned that one of the goals for January 2006 involves conducting a public forum to determine how to best address the question of intra-state and inter-state homeless resources. Peter mentioned being aware of a city somewhere just

over the border that refuses to help folks who say they were from NH. Eileen mentioned the upcoming New England Housing Network retreat in January. Klaas suggested that Eileen ask Martha Yaeger to send info to the GNCOC re: specific partners to get involved. Klaas also suggested that we charge our Rapid RE-Housing Chairperson with conducting a public forum.

Wrap-around Services: The chair for this sub-committee is vacant. Klaas suggested that at the next EHC meeting, we take some time to come up with job descriptions for the roles we need filled so that we can recruit for the positions more effectively. We need to start assigning tasks and have benchmarks.

Donna discussed the wrap around services (formerly known as SPOW) committee. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 27th from 1-3 PM, with the location still to be determined. The group is ready to begin inviting clients to meetings, so that the group can work together to find solutions to the client's challenges. Maria asked if she could refer a client. Donna said that anyone wanting to refer a client should call her, but should also plan to attend the meeting with the client.

David asked to have some time on the next agenda to discuss the housing needs of developmentally delayed persons. He feels that the Ending Homelessness Plan doesn't address this population as it should. Peter then suggested that we should set aside one month each year to review the plan, make edits and amendments. Bob commented that we are supposed to constantly be reviewing and that we had talked about adding a column to the plan to add updates and results. What about an intern to be responsible for tracking the plan and making updates? Klaas said we could get an Americorps volunteer for \$4300 annually and made a motion that the EHC ask the GNCOC for permission to approach folks about applying for grants to fund an Americorps volunteer. Bob was unclear on what the volunteer would do. With no second, Klaas withdrew his motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:00 am on January 4, 2005 in Room 208 at Nashua City Hall.