

Ending Homelessness –Nashua City Hall

June 1, 2016

Present: Wendy LeBlanc, Magaly Rios, Bob Mack, Doug Howard, Olga Cruz, Richard Rutter, Lianne Bower, Hilary Smalls, Sandra Delosa, Jessica Karwatske, Elisabeth Martin, Mandy Reagan, Scott Slattery, Scott Wellman, Melissa Johnstone, Mike Apfelberg.

Introduction was made by all. The May 3, 2016 minutes were reviewed. W. LeBlanc made a motion to accept the minutes with minor correction (P5). R. Rutter seconded it. All approved.

Committee reviewed Continuum of Care Website and noticed the “Project Homeless Connect event” was listed. Will have IT remove that event as it already occurred. We are currently waiting for the state to give us the hotline number to the other Coordinated Access (CA) programs around the state so when we have folks calling from out of our area we can refer them to the appropriate hot line number. Placing folks in hotels is not helpful. There is no structure at the motels, no supportive services; it’s better for people to connect to programs as they become available.

Point in Time Count (PIT) was reviewed. Noted the unsheltered with children was 9 families made up of 13 individuals with 4 children under the age of 18, in the past we have had up to a total of 100 unsheltered families. We had a total of 6 chronically homeless individuals that day. Two people identified to be homeless and dealing with Domestic violence. One person who was HIV positive was counted, that individual had a HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People living With AIDS) voucher and was looking for an apartment while staying in a homeless shelter. Now in this coming September there will be an additional 8 people that will no longer have their HUD vouchers because HUD is taking away those two Permanent Housing programs that were just awarded a year ago. Harbor Homes Inc. (HHI) is working on getting these folks placed but it will be challenging. The GNCOC will also follow up with our representatives to ask about having this funding reinstated as there is a need.

HMIS was explained to the committee for people who are unfamiliar with the database system and how we pull the data out for this PIT. Many places don’t use HMIS so they fill out a spreadsheet instead and Miles at Harbor Homes compiles all the data. HUD does not include all the homeless people such as those staying in a motel or couch surfing. Many youth are couch surfing, which includes people ages 12-21 years of age. In Manchester there are resources for the youth such as clothing, showers, case management, and Transitional Housing. In Nashua we very limited for this type of assistance for this population.

A discussion was had regarding people who have their housing voucher are finding it very hard to find a place within the fair market rent as many apartment in the community are very expensive. Also the vacancy rate is at 1% right now which drives up the price of rent.

Keep in mind we have the wrap around services for folks who are not moving and are stuck, in whatever situation but primarily in regards to their housing situation.

A concern citizen talked about an individual who got kicked out of a local homeless shelter and that person has nowhere to go. It was recommended that that person talks to the local homeless shelter as in many cases if a person gets kicked it out is only temporary depending on the situation.

Availability:

We currently have a Transitional Housing unit available through the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter in Kinsley St for \$625 a month and they are currently taking applications. They also have two other units for \$525.00 a month.

Family Promise has some openings in the Rockingham and in Concord. Anyone with kids can qualify for this program.

Marguerite's Place currently has a 3 bedroom apartment available. This is for single females with children.

No meeting in July