

Ending Homelessness Committee

June 3, 2015

Present in meeting were: Wendy LeBlanc, Bob Mack, Abigail Alicea, Richard Rutter, Kevin O'Meara, Sandra Delosa, Donald Pare, Sylvia Gale, Jessica Karwatske, Samantha Cassista, Barbara Alves, Pamela Small, Hilary Keating, Robert Cioppa, Cecilia Svendbye, Cindy Thomas, Michael Uraine, Kathryn Byrne, Chris Gartland, Jane Bizeur, Tony Paradiso

Call to order 9:15am. Introductions were made. Minutes from the May 6, 2015 meeting were reviewed, with one amendment to the list of attendees. Abigail moved to approved the minutes, seconded by Jane, motion approved.

Discussion continued from the earlier GNCOC meeting in regards to the data presented about the Coordinated Access project. Samantha indicated that 14% of women using the CA line answered "yes" to the question regarding Domestic Violence and wondered if she should share that data with Bridges. Jane indicated that more than likely 100% of homeless women have had some DV experience in their life. Bob reiterated that Bridges can only shelter women fleeing a DV situation, not someone who was displaced due to a DV incident and that this is an example of how most programs have very specific eligibility criteria.

Barbara indicated that Marguerite's Place is going to be joining the CA team, and other agencies are getting more involved and are willing to participate.

Bob asked about current capacity at housing programs. Barbara shared that Marguerite's Place will have a 3-bedroom available in about 2 months and maybe another apartment in October. Pamela said that Family Promise (Ann-Marie House) has space for a single dad and child, or two small children OR a single mom with one child or two small children. She also expects a large family space to be available late summer. Chris reported that Maple Arms is full but is always changing so folks should always call. Rick said that the Rescue Mission always makes room, even though they are at/over capacity.

As a reminder, folks should always apply for mainstream housing options (Section 8, Public Housing), because even if the wait is long, they will never reach the top if they aren't on the list.

Bob reiterated the opportunity for a wrap-around meeting/consultation for challenging clients.

Cecilia brought up the Housing First model and mentioned how successful other states have been at ending homelessness with this model, particularly Nebraska. Abigail indicated that several programs in our COC use this model and several others agreed that their program uses this model. Bob reminded us that for many programs, it needs to be a balance because poor success rates in a program can jeopardize funding. Cecilia suggested that the state adopt this model and Sylvia indicated that she expects that is unlikely, and that the state legislature would not be likely to adopt or fund this model but that local programs in the GNCOC are working on this independently and should be a model for other areas.

Brief discussion took place about the logistics of submitting the CA form so that the data gets populated in the database. This will be ironed out at a CA subcommittee meeting.

Rick made a motion to adjourn, Barbara seconded and all approved.

Minutes taken by Wendy LeBlanc, Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force