

Ending Homelessness Committee

May 3, 2017, Nashua City Hall Auditorium

Present in meeting were: Bob Mack, Doug Howard, Abigail Alicéa, Lianne Bower, Kevin O'Meara, Donald Pare, Mandy Reagan, Scott Wellman, Akshat Gadgil, Bobby Gagnon, Hillary Keating, Sandra Delosa, Rosemarie Dykeman, Anne Buckley, Stephanie Kearsley, Rachel Duffy, Tom Lopez, Melissa Johnstone.

Meeting called to order at 9:15am by Bob Mack.

Minutes: Reviewed and accepted. Motion by Mandy Reagan, Second by Doug Howard. Accepted.

Coordinated Entry: State is working on state-wide process. Meeting held last month and all indications are that State is moving toward HMIS system to produce accurate data.

Program Availability: Rapid rehousing – Front Door Agency reports at capacity until July. Southern NH Services has a rapid rehousing program but unclear about openings. Ongoing challenges with quick filling programs
Rent Utilities Arrearages: Front Door, Salvation Army and Mental Health Center have all seen a decrease in applications – unclear why this is at this time – funds are available. Program will pay up to \$1,000 in rent arrearage or \$500 in utility arrearage maximum.

Nashua Area Financial Assistance Network (FAN): Pooling resources between agencies to collaborate, group meetings every 4-6 weeks. Referral form starts at time with Nashua local welfare but there are some direct referrals via participating agencies.

Safe Haven – report people transitioning out so may have openings soon – stay tuned. Individuals may apply with the Harbor Homes Application to be added to waitlist.

Brief discussion related to issues with consistent receipt of CE intake referrals. Clarification re: EH_Submit and EH_Action contact group. It is meant to be efficient but there may be a difference in recipients.
Lianne reports she makes direct calls to program referred to follow up on contact.

Senior Housing – Rosemarie inquired whether there is a greater need not being met in this population. Discussion ensued that there are gaps in insurance or billing but not much else with this population.

Affordable Housing: Development locally is mostly luxury apartments versus affordable. Zoning bypass is provided for senior or elder housing. Housing 55+ versus 65+ are different in the amenities or accommodations they are required to provide. Creates more units all around such as workforce housing. Increasing stock for future anticipated need.

Bridge Program: Reported ongoing challenges with hospital discharges for those with medical or mental health struggles. Ongoing conflicts with Bridge program mentioned. State is considering modifying criteria but not there yet in terms of expanding population eligible for this program.

Landlords: There is pushback from landlords not taking vouchers in payment of rents. This is preventing some individuals from attaining or sustaining housing.

Youth Homelessness Presentation: Thank you to Doug for an excellent presentation. Youth homelessness has been identified by HUD as a priority population at this time.

St. Patrick's Parish Bicycle Program: Don Pare mentioned the program started two weeks ago; accepting donations of bicycles in any condition. Bikes are refurbished and donated and are using St. Pat's school for storage. The longer term plan is to teach kids to clean, fix and maintain bikes by developing a school for bike repair for formerly incarcerated persons. Ron Becker from Hudson is running the program. First donations go to Nashua Children's Home and Nashua Police Athletic League participants. Donations to program call Don at 321-3888 or send an email to Donaldjpare@comcast.com

Motion to Adjourn: Lianne Bower; Second Doug Howard

Minutes by Abigail Alicéa, Greater Nashua Mental Health Center at Community Council of Nashua