

## Ending Homeless Committee

May 4, 2016- Nashua City Hall

Present in meeting were; Wendy LeBlanc, Magaly Rios, Bob Mack, Abigail Alicea, Richard Rutter, Lianne Bower, Pamela Small, Kevin O'Meara, Donald Pare, Jessica Karwatske, Silvia Gale, Laurie Goodman, Tom Doucette, Cherrie Fulton, Mandy Reagan, Mike Apfelberg, Melissa Johnson, Michael Uraine, Cindy Moher

Introductions were made by all. Sylvia G made a motion to accept the minutes J. Karwatske seconded and the motion passed.

Coordinated Entry (CE) - At the state-wide workshop it was reinforced that we are working in the right direction and doing great with what we have. It was interesting to see what other regions are doing. The North region has a wonderful outreach team. A list of other CE numbers will be provided to our local CE workers in case folks call from that region they can get redirected to their region CE hotline. T. Doucette talked about a situation with one of his clients he worked with recently, the person got housed in a program in Portsmouth where he/she paid 50% of their income. He will be finding out what program this is and who found it. Something to keep in mind is that depending on the person's medical health or veteran status they can get housing faster depending on the subpopulation. For instance the Southern NH HIV/AIDS Task Force has HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS) where the waiting list for that subsidy is shorter than your average Section 8 waiting list. However the HOPWA waiting list right now is on a standstill for at least two years.

NH 211 is aware of the CE number, folks calling 211 looking for housing they get referred to this number. It is very important you update your agencies information with 211 so they are giving people the right information.

In the state of NH we try to get folks housed first such as Veterans. The process with veterans continues to improve. We know once we house folks then they can work on other issues such as their health. We currently have zero homeless veterans and this year's state. P.I.T (Point in Time count) shows that the numbers of chronically homelessness have decreased significantly since 2015. This year's count showed 12 people who are classified as chronically homeless compared to last year's number of 49.

The Rescue Mission encourages folks while they are in their shelter and working to pay off their debts. One individual was able to pay off \$10,000 worth of debt over the past year or so while at the shelter. This was noted as a success even though the guest's stay may be considered lengthy.

The issue is that we are lacking affordable housing. Many have to work 2 - 3 jobs to keep their apartment and is still not enough to make ends meet. Another big issue is that HUD gave us a grant last year to house 8 individuals and they are not renewing it this year. Now we need to come up with what to do with these 8 individuals. HUD will not tell us why they are doing this. At the COC meeting we talked about getting our congressional delegation involved.

Discussion took place in regards to a family that called the CE hotline and was referred to Family Promise for an intake but never showed up. This type of information is good to note in case that person calls again we can then ask why they did not follow up.

Agency Capacity- Currently we have 4 openings for the Transitional Housing for veterans and 8 vouchers for veterans through the SSVF program

Family Promise Rockingham and Seacoast has openings