

Ending Homelessness committee

November 4, 2015

Present: Olga Cruz, Jessica Karwatske, Wendy LeBlanc, Magaly Rios, Kevin O'Meara, Richard Rutter, Gale Silvia, Chris Gartland, Samantha Cassista, Doug Howard, Laurie Goodman, Hilary Keating, Bob Mack

Call to order 9:00AM. Introduction made by all. Minutes of the October meeting were reviewed. R. Rutter motioned to accept the minutes G. Silvia seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Save the date for Project Homeless Connect - January 27, 2016 at 45 High St. Discussion as to why it's still called "Project Homeless Connect." The name "Project Homeless Connect" is known federally so that is why we keep it. Scott Slattery will be helping this year. November 9th at 2:00pm at 45 High St. is the first planning meeting for this event. Planning the event to coincide with the Point in Time count (P.I.T) but the State of NH PIT committee has not yet let us know the day for the PIT so we picked one as we have to start the planning process going.

Discussed marketing PHC event and outreach. Doug can help with outreach to those individuals/families that are living in the streets to get them to PHC, so they can get connected to resources. The Manchester VA can help by asking veterans questions such as, "Where are you sleeping tonight." The Nashua City Public Health Van can ask that same question as they are driving around helping people. Rick is going to the woods letting people know where they can have a meal to eat. The Patient Navigator form HHI can also let clients know as many are homeless.

As a group we decided to change the name of Coordinated Assess (CA) to Coordinated Entry (CE) as this is what HUD is calling it and many others are using this name. S. Cassista went through the HMIS data and noted that some clients that are on HMIS also used CE. It is evident that CE is working and is helping many people get connected to services.

Winter over flow- Shelters are maxed to their capacity. The City of Nashua continues referring families to local motels. A suggestion was made that the Mayor and the Board of Alderman should be aware of this issue. B. Mack will bring this matter to the Executive Board so they can educate the Board. Some Alderman have concerns that places clients are being referred to are not safe. This is a complex issue as there are not many alternatives for homeless households as shelters and other housing programs are at capacity.

Discussed processes of housing/shelters and maintaining certain standards. The city inspects housing units on a complaint basis to investigate a unit is up to code. The Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter always washes client clothing before entering their shelters to avoid passing bedbugs. We have people come to Nashua from different parts of the state or from out of state with no clear plans for housing expecting the city to pay for a motel or thinking we have shelter space available. Need to try to address this at the CE level.

Doug explained to the group how he can help students stay in their school district even if they are outside of their school zone. Even if the child is in Hudson and not in Nashua, Doug can provide a point of contact to that school outside of Nashua.