

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care  
Ending Homelessness Subcommittee  
12/7/16

Present: Wendy LeBlanc, Hilary Keating, Rosemarie Dykeman, Pat Murphy, Olga Cruz, Bob Mack, Christina De Los Santos, Elisabeth Martin, Peter Kelleher, Chelsea St. George, Donald Paré, Mike Apfelberg, Pamela Small, Mandy Reagan, Rick Rutter, Doug Howard, Sandra Delosa, Scott Wellman, Abigail Alicea, Michael Reinke, Tom Lopez, Laurie Goodman

Bob Mack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. Introductions were made. Minutes were reviewed from the November 2, 2016 meeting. Mike motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Pamela. All were in favor.

Bob asked about agency capacity and winter overflow. Elizabeth mentioned that new Horizons in Manchester always has overflow space available. Rosemarie talked about the Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network giving out gift certificates to McDonalds so folks have a place to go and stay warm. Olga said that they have 5 overflow spots at Ash St and one at Kinsley St so even if the shelters are full, it is worth it for Coordinated Access workers to call for these spots although they are also first come-first served.

Peter shared that Medical Respite is now open at Harbor Care clinic. There are 11 beds. He explained some of the criteria and said that for now, Carol Furlong is the contact person. Rick asked about someone on the CA email loop that would determine if the person is appropriate for Respite. Peter will be sure someone is added to the email loop from that program. This led to discussion regarding homeless persons being discharged from the hospital and how that is being handled. Peter stated that the program is still in the early stages and some details regarding referrals are still being worked out.

Peter also shared that the most recent data from Maple St shelter show that 60% of people exiting the shelter are moving into permanent housing. This is the best figure in quote some time.

Peter spoke about the upcoming Point In Time (PIT) count and that Harbor Homes (HHI) currently has 3-4 apartments for homeless veterans, so if anyone can refer any homeless vets to HHI before the count, please do so- we really want to be able to document no homeless veterans this year. He shared that according to HMIS, there were no veterans in shelters last night but there were 9 chronically homeless persons.

Bob asked if there were any updates from Rapid Re-Housing programs. Sandra reported that the Front Door has openings for 4 more families in their program. They must have income and the ability to increase their income over time. They also must be homeless to be eligible. Peter and Abigail talked about the Bridge program for those with Mental Illness. They must be a client of Greater Nashua Mental Health Center (GNMHC), willing to engage in services, and have a

diagnosed mental illness. Unfortunately, many folks who would be eligible for the assistance do not want to engage in treatment so cannot access the program.

This led to a discussion of the Housing First model, the benefits and challenges associated with this model. A lengthy discussion then took place regarding the unique challenges for registered sex offenders and how most federally and state funded programs prohibit sex offenders. It is also very difficult for them to gain employment in positions other than day labor or dishwashing jobs. Tom explained a bit about the federal bonding program and how that can help.

Michael asked if we have a designated SOAR worker (Social Security Outreach, Access and Recovery) in our community. He was told that we do not although many staff at various agencies have been trained in the model.

Bob stated that additional data will be more forthcoming at future meetings from Coordinated Entry.

Additional discussion took place regarding youth homelessness and trying to get accurate data. Doug is working on getting some additional resources as traditional shelters or rooming houses may not be the best option for this population. Doug talked about his work with K-12 kids and the challenge of there being no youth shelters in NH. He is also working on exploring a "Host home" or respite program and has info on best practices from other states.

Doug also met someone at a conference who has their HMIS linked to their Coordinated Access program and he will give this info to Peter to follow up.

Bob also mentioned that Project Homeless Connect will be held on January 25, 2017. The first planning meeting will be this Friday, December 9, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00AM.

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