

## **GNCOC Executive Committee Meeting**

### Minutes

February 23, 2005

Harbor Homes, 78 Main Street

PRESENT: Klaas Nijhuis, Urban Programs, Chairperson  
Ruth Morrissette, Marguerite's Place  
Miles Pendry, Harbor Homes, Inc.  
Linda Jeynes, Urban Programs  
Bob Mack, Nashua Welfare  
Bridget Belton-Jette, Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.  
Donnalee Lozeau, Southern NH Services, Inc.  
Ray Peterson, United Way of Greater Nashua  
Marys Wirbal, Nashua Pastoral Care Center  
Mariellen Durso, Nashua Area Health Center  
Lisa Christie, Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter, Inc.  
David Cull, Soul Purpose

The Chairperson provided an agenda and called the meeting to order at 8:05 am. Minutes of the February 16, 2005 meeting were handed out. D. Lozeau moved to accept the minutes, B. Mack seconded, and the motion carried.

K. Nijhuis handed out copies of a letter of support he had drafted for the establishment of a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in Nashua. The letter is addressed to Senator Joseph D. Kenney at the New Hampshire Senate. L. Christie motioned that this letter be sent on behalf of the GNCOC, B. Belton-Jette seconded and the motion carried.

D. Cull asked for a letter of support for Soul Purpose to apply to the State of New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services for grant money for treatment services. D. Lozeau explained that there is a collaborative in Nashua, which applies for this grant money as a group. She suggested he contact this group. Although, generally there was agreement in the committee about the need of such facilities, the consensus was not to provide a letter of support. There also was a discussion about the criteria for this committee to approve such a letter of support. It was decided not to insist on specific criteria.

K. Nijhuis passed out copies of President Bush's proposed "Strengthening America's Communities Initiative" which outlines changes to the federal programs that serve homeless and low-income families across the country. The proposal is based on criticisms as to which communities are receiving aid and the lack of performance measurement. The new proposal targets communities with higher than average poverty rates. He asked for suggestions from the committee on strategies to prevent drastic cuts to these federal programs. Discussion ensued around the possibility of NH losing much of its funding. M. Durso asked if anyone takes a look at what good work has already been accomplished with this money. K. Nijhuis said that Nashua still has many people living below the poverty level. He suggested we send a letter with arguments around performance and how we are now using the logic model from HUD. L. Christie motioned that such a letter be sent and B. Belton-Jette seconded the motion. M. Wirbal suggested that the United Way's community assessment be incorporated into the letter. L. Christie said to include performance level examples. M. Durso said she would obtain the poverty level figures and forward them to K. Nijhuis to include in the letter. K. Nijhuis said he would e-mail the membership of the GNCOC for their input and include a description of the GNCOC and its work on homelessness in the letter. M. Durso stated that it was important the

basic needs of the homeless be met before they could be looking for jobs. D. Lozeau added that we must show everyone having access to these funds. K. Nijhuis called for a vote on the motion to send the letter and the motion was accepted.

K. Nijhuis reminded everyone of the ConPlan public meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the City Hall and invited all to attend and give input to the creation of goals for the community for the next five years. Questionnaires have been mailed out to several agencies in the city and the responses are coming back and will be included in the final document. He asked for volunteers to contact him if they would be willing to facilitate or record a focus group meeting at this event.

Planning for the SuperNOFA coming up was discussed. It was noted that M. Auer has headed this up every year and that, although all agreed the lead should come from the biggest recipient of these funds, which is Harbor Homes, someone else should begin to learn how it is done besides M. Auer. The SuperNOFA committee will convene again on March 8<sup>th</sup> to look at the results of last year's application. One of the problems they had last year was getting people to respond in a timely manner. The Executive Committee needs to take an active part in the writing. Getting a representative from HUD to come to a meeting to explain and answer questions about the process would be helpful. K. Nihuis agreed to contact HUD about having someone attend out Mary 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

K. Nijhuis asked for any suggestions for the upcoming GNCOC agenda.

B. Mack reported that the Overflow Shelter Committee of providers and outreach workers was meeting regularly regarding wrap around services in the community.

L. Christie expressed frustration about the results of the last meeting's vote on the guidelines. She objected to R. Peterson, who is not a member of the Executive Committee and had never attended a meeting before, making the motion to include a "Conflict of Interest" statement that had the effect of changing everything from what was originally agreed to.

The next meeting will be at **8:00 am on March 16, 2005** at Harbor Homes, 78 Main Street. Future meetings are scheduled for **March 30, April 20 & 27, and May 18 & 25, 2005.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25am.