

**Committee on Ending Homelessness**  
**Minutes of the February 24, 2005 Meeting**  
Harbor Homes, 78 Main Street

Present at the meeting were: Lisa Christie, Alphonse Haettenschwiller, Linda Jaynes, Donna Juskiewicz, Bob Keating, Peter Kelleher, Bob Mack, Jeanne Maestranzi, Klaas Nijhuis, and Miles Pendry.

K. Nijhuis called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and had everyone introduce him or herself and welcomed Jeanne Maestranzi from the Gathering Place who was joining the meeting. Minutes from the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting were reviewed. L. Christie motioned to accept, P. Kelleher seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The minutes from the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting were not ready for review at this time. B. Mack will have them for approval at the next meeting.

K. Nijhuis gave everyone a copy of a letter he drafted to the legislators in Washington entitled “Strengthening America’s Communities Initiative”. He asked everyone to e-mail him with any corrections, additions or suggestions immediately since the letter needed to go out today to meet the deadline. He will incorporate the changes before mailing. There ensued a discussion about the content of the letter. P. Kelleher felt the letter needed to include something more obvious and assertive, demonstrating what was being done and the facts that support the effectiveness of CDBG funding in our community. There was a lengthy discussion around how best to convince legislators, businesses and citizens to help with this effort to secure federal funding by showing them how it will effect the community if we should lose it. Also discussed were issues around funding education vs. finding employment for the homeless, the affordable housing shortage, and the need for a home for single men in the city.

The discussion continued including subjects listed below:

- Economic growth marginalizing the most at-risk

- Getting to the business community to help share our perspective/develop an understanding of our concerns

- Prepare a presentation targeting business community – backed up with economics of economic development UNH/SNHU Economists participating – ask for money from CDBG Planning for this at ConPlan Workshop

- Could Concord Coalition be helpful in attracting participation of business community in CoC matters? Should State ICH contact Sen. Rudman?

- Life skills training at Gathering Place

- Acknowledge that we may have to give in certain areas to achieve goals in others:

- Should we have families on Section 8 in perpetuity?

- What about incentives to get off Section 8, and relief to help make it possible – say tenant co-payment going down to 10% if they were in a training program that leads to likely employment

Developing community supported paths out of homelessness – a model could be health training consortium in preliminary discussions between Healthy at Home, St. Joseph Hospital, Rivier College, etc. Could be a model for other job training programs targeting the homeless/at-risk

Do things that develop both human development programs in parallel with adequate housing of the sort needed by the at-risk/homeless community. First step: “Joseph’s House” (Mary’s House for men). Blacksmith/Rescue Mission might be developer (per B. Mack)

Status of the Homeless Count? Are the numbers down? – Data gathering described where we are, what still needs to happen, likely release date (April 1)

Endorsed Health Care Training Consortium – PK to convene for preliminary discussions

Endorsed Men’s Transitional Housing (Joseph’s House) as a priority.

B. Mack to report on the Committee’s work at March 2 Meeting

K. Nijhuis announced that the Mayor and the Alderman would also be sending letters to the State delegation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am

The next meetings will be March 31, 2005 at 8:30 am at Harbor Homes, 78 Main Street and April 6, 2005 at 9:00 am in room 208 of the Nashua City Hall.