

Committee on Ending Homelessness Meeting February 25, 2004

Present at the meeting were: Eileen Brady, Lisa Christie, Alphonse Haettenschwiller, Linda Jeynes, Donna Juskiewicz, Peter Kelleher, Bob Mack, Klaas Nijhuis and Miles Pendry.

The minutes from the Feb. 18th meeting were reviewed and P. Kelleher motioned to accept, L. Christie seconded and the motion was carried.

Attendees were asked to look at the latest copy of the invitation list (handout) for the upcoming CoC retreat on March 3, 2004 to see if there were any names missing of people who should be invited. A few names were suggested and are to be contacted by those who suggested them. Mary Auer and Linda Jeynes will make final phone calls to guests to finalize the list this week. P. Kelleher suggested inviting the Governor. After a discussion, it was decided not to invite him at this time because this was meant to be a working session with local organizations from the greater Nashua area. It might be more appropriate to invite him to a later function when the Ending Homelessness Plan has been finalized.

The group next reviewed the proposed agenda (handout) for the retreat. L. Christie agreed to do the welcome and give the opening remarks. It was decided that Chris Ortega, NSKS Board President would speak briefly after L. Christie about the history of homelessness in the area and relate his own personal interest in the subject after which the film "Give Us Your Poor" would be shown. Bob Keating will bring the film; M. Pendry will set up the equipment to show it. Next P. Kelleher, Bob Mack, and K. Nijhuis, with help from others, will give an overview of the Plan to End Homelessness. There would then be a fifteen minute break during which time the guests would move into focus groups for discussion around specific questions (handout) lead by a facilitator. Names of facilitators so far are: Bob Keating, Carol Stewart, Klaas Nijhuis, Jennifer Boyer and Russell Haight. At least three more are needed. There will be a brief training session for these people before the retreat. At 11:00 am the focus groups would report back the results of their discussions. At the end of this, John O'Brien from HUD in Boston would say a few words about what is being done at the state and national level and Bob Keating would do the wrap up with a charge to the organizations represented to sign their Good Neighbor Agreements by April 15, 2004. L. Christie would then end the retreat by announcing where the lunch and movie "Home Before Winter" would be shown as well as announcing the time and date of the next CoC meeting.

There was much discussion about the draft of the Plan (on line) and the draft of the Good Neighbor Agreement (handout). These two documents will continue to be edited, taking into consideration the suggestions received from the committee and other CoC members. These documents as well as handouts about the CoC, it's web-site, the Executive Summary of the National Alliance To End Homelessness, the contact list, the list of milestones for the Plan and the agenda for the day will become part of the packet each

guest will receive when arriving for the retreat. Mary Auer and Linda Jeynes will make up these packets and distribute them on March 3rd.

P. Kelleher asked if anyone had any objections to banners being hung, such as for Fannie Mae (our sponsor) and the Nashua CoC. The committee agreed to put them up and asked L. Christie to publicly thank Fannie Mae in her opening remarks.

P. Kelleher announced that he had developed a list of ideas for an executable plan with elements that could help stimulate discussion. The committee decided this would be a useful tool to give the facilitators to use if needed to keep the focus groups talking.

K. Nijhuis agreed to collect all the flip chart information after the retreat, organize it on one document, and after this committee has reviewed and accepted it, he will send it to M. Pendry to be posted on the CoC web site by Monday, March 8, 2004.

The next meeting will be April 7, 2004 at 9:00 am in room 208 of the Nashua City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

Minutes prepared by Linda Jeynes/Urban Programs