

GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE

Meeting Minutes

Nashua City Hall, Room 208

January 4, 2006

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1. Call to Order: 8:03 a.m. Chair Lori Cardin.
2. All present introduced themselves and visitors were welcomed. L. Cardin introduced the new GNCOC Aldermanic liaison, Richard LaRose.
3. Minutes of December 7, 2005: (handout) Sr. S. Walsh motioned the minutes be accepted, G. Hicks-Grogan seconded and the motion carried.
4. Report of Executive Committee: L. Cardin reported that HUD has asked GNCOC to verify and register any Katrina evacuees in the Greater Nashua Area. Harbor Homes, Inc. meets the criteria set out by HUD and has assigned K. Nijhuis to verify that all evacuees in the area have been registered with FEMA. L. Cardin said the revision of the guidelines would continue at their next meeting.
5. Ending Homelessness Committee Update: B. Mack reported that progress on the Plan continues to move forward in the three categories of Prevention, Rapid Re-Housing and Wrap-Around Services, the three major subcommittees. The Revolving Loan Fund is actively seeking funding from the community. There was a discussion about the use of these funds and how they want the focus to be on rental assistance. The application form is near completion. Mack said they would look more closely at items identified in the Plan strategies and the dates for completion. The subcommittees could all use more members to help. The Wrap-Around Committee met with clients at their last meeting, which resulted in a very beneficial discussion. D. Juskiewicz said they received helpful information for clients, follow up was being done, and a support system formed through this technique. There was a discussion of all the ways it could help others. L. Cardin suggested the GNCOC reinstitute the Community Action Committee as specified in the guidelines. Mack further reported that the Project Homeless Connect in December was a very positive and successful event. The organizing committee for this event will meet on January 10, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the Mulberry St. office to talk about next year and how to make it even better. He expressed thanks to the funders and to the participants. Over 60 people attended with good comments from the state officials. M. Wirbal asked for a round of applause for B. Mack's work on this project.
6. GAPS Committee Report: D. Juskiewicz reminded everyone that the annual homeless census would take place later this month to coordinate with the State's dates of January 25-56, 2006. They will be meeting today to get the forms ready. K. Nijhuis spoke of how the figures collected could become part of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR handout), which is the national report to

Congress on the extent and nature of homelessness in the United States. It would be based on the HMIS data collected. He motioned that the GNCOC participate in this progress through the HMIS information. After a brief discussion, B. Mack seconded the motion and the motion carried.

7. SuperNOFA Preparation Committee: M. Auer announced that GNCOC was awarded every penny they asked for this year. They should be hearing about next years SuperNOFA in another month. She asked everyone to keep their records accurate and up to date so information will be ready when the time came. When the new goals are determined, she will see that everyone gets a copy. L. Piper offered her Bank as the meeting place again for next year's SuperNOFA team. Nijhuis reminded everyone that the sample leveraging letter prepared by D. Lozeau was posted on the GNCOC website.
8. Continua Reports: T. Epaphras said the Manchester COC would be meeting on February 22nd from 12:00 – 2:00 pm at the HUD building. M. Auer said the BOSCOG would be meeting on January 17th. P. Kelleher reported that the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness completed their draft of the State Plan to End Homelessness it was delivered to the Governor at a press conference on December 21st. GNCOC has been leading the way for this project and being held as a standard even beyond New Hampshire. There was a lot of media coverage, which brought new awareness to the necessity for a Plan. Kelleher further stated that being associated with this group has been one of his most rewarding experiences.
9. Upcoming Meetings:
 - a. Executive Committee Meeting – January 18, 2006, 8:00 am – HHI, 45 High Street.
 - b. Ending Homelessness Committee – January 4th, 9:00 am Room 208, City Hall and January 26, 2006, HHI, 45 High Street
 - c. GAPS Committee Meeting – January 4, 2006, 10:00 am Room 208, City Hall.
 - d. General Meeting GNCOC – February 1st, 8:00 am, City Hall Auditorium.
10. Announcements: B. Corman announced that she had some clients from the Greater Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network who were willing to testify to the legislature study of TANF coming up on January 12th and asked if any other agencies would be doing something similar. D. Lozeau responded that this meeting coming up was just to decide to form a task force to study the problem and it would not be necessary for anyone to testify until the task force was actually formed. M. Auer suggested everyone write their legislatures to encourage this study. D. Lozeau further suggested that when writing a letter, request your letter be read into the hearing minutes.
M. Durso announced that she has met with people from the hospitals to discuss discharge policies concerning the homeless and she has invited them to attend the

GNCOC meetings. B. Mack said he would check with the State to have it put on their agenda for discussion.

D. Lozeau announced the training programs available for these people at Southern New Hampshire Services.

M. Auer reported on the Homeless Memorial Day observance on the City Hall steps on December 21st. It was meaningful and well attended and they plan to do it every year.

L. Cardin announced that the New Hampshire Legal Assistance office was up and operating at 21 East Pearl Street.

11. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 am.