

GNCOC Executive Committee
Minutes
March 15, 2006
Harbor Homes Inc., 45 High Street

PRESENT: Lori Cardin, Nashua Children's Home, Chair
Wendy Furnari, HIV Task Force
Klaas Nijhuis, Harbor Homes, Inc.
Linda Jeynes, Urban Programs
Bob Mack, Nashua City Welfare
Lisa Christie, Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter
Donnalee Lozeau, Southern NH Services, Inc.
Heather Nelson, Keystone Hall
Maryse Wirbal, Nashua Pastoral Care Center, Inc.
Alphonse Haettenschwiller, Private Citizen
Sr. Sharon Walsh, MP Housing
Mariellen Durso, Nashua Area Health Center
Bridget Belton-Jette, Neighborhood Housing Services of G.N., Inc.

L. Cardin opened the meeting at 8:05 am and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The minutes (handout) from the February 15th meeting were reviewed. Corrections were noted and D. Lozeau submitted a written paragraph, which the clerk read aloud, to be added to the minutes explaining her statements regarding the agency definition issue. L. Christie then motioned to accept the minutes as amended, W. Furnari seconded, and the motion carried.

HIV/AIDS Partners Harbor Homes: W. Furnari reported that the Southern New Hampshire HIV/AIDS Task Force has become an affiliate of Harbor Homes, Inc. They will be a separate legal entity, but be governed by Harbor Homes, Inc. board of directors, which now includes two members from the HIV/Aids Task Force board. P. Kelleher will be the Executive Director. The change was made as a reaction to possible loss of federal funding due to the restructuring of geographic areas. They will move their office into 12 Amherst Street and retain the same phone number.

Health Care for the Homeless: M. Durso spoke of the problems Dr. Scully had encountered in writing the proposal for the homeless health care grant, which is due March 31st. She said that because of the way it has been structured, it would not work for them at this time. Others applying were finding similar problems. They have decided not to apply, but will continue to pursue funding for the future. L. Christie asked if the letter from the GNCOC still might help. Durso replied that it would help and L. Cardin agreed to write the letter.

M. Durso reported that the Discharge Planning Committee has developed a process for questioning incoming patients at the hospital's emergency rooms about the housing situation in order to gather homeless information. The staff from the Nashua Area Health Center will work with the staff at the hospital's to teach them. They plan to start a pilot program at St. Joseph's in May.

L. Cardin asked if anyone on this committee would volunteer to be the State Discharge Planning liaison for the GNCOC. B. Mack agreed to fill this position.

Super NOFA: L. Cardin announced that the first meeting to begin work on this year's application would be on March 22nd at 11:30 am at Harbor Homes, Inc. Lunch will be provided by the Merrimack County Savings Bank. Logic model training is scheduled for March 16th at HUD. K. Nijhuis said that this year's application was more quantitative and less narrative. There can still be a bonus project, but it will be the same criteria as last year. He said the GNCOC scored 88.5 points on last year's application, the lowest for funding being 82 points and the highest awarded was 95 points. Our APR's need more work in order to bring our score up. M. Auer is comparing last year's to this year's. It was agreed to have the Super NOFA team look at the APR's before they are submitted this year.

Revolving Loan Fund: L. Cardin talked with Alderman R. LaRose and asked about putting resolution before the BOA for \$1,000 to help start this fund, which will be administered by Nashua Pastoral Care Center. He suggested a letter be written explaining how this money would be used to leverage more money. M. Wirbal offered to put together a list of potential funders to be contacted. B. Belton-Jette said that Neighborhood Housing Services does foreclosure counseling and it might be a good idea to refer people to them first.

Homeless Count: K. Nijhuis reported that the GAPS committee met again to review the numbers collected at the January census. They found a small number of homeless had not been included in the final figures and have corrected the report. It will be available for the next GNCOC meeting in April.

Small Group Tours: L. Cardin led a discussion about the possibilities and benefits of having a few volunteers from the GNCOC take small groups of legislators, school officials, and business owners on a tour of the various COC agencies in the greater Nashua area. K. Nijhuis suggested we involve the intern we are seeking to work with the COC on this. He will report back in April.

Committee Sign Up Sheets: L. Cardin (handout) referred to the committee sign up sheets she has designed and asked for suggestions. She would like to use them at the next GNCOC meeting. There was a short discussion and it was decided to put a brief explanation of each committees responsibilities and how often they meet on the sign up sheets. L. Cardin will revise the forms and have ready for the next GNCOC meeting.

Announcements: L. Christie reported that John Nelson, from the Nashua School Department would be the liaison to the GNCOC replacing Betsy Korn.

Sr. Sharon spoke of the recent death of David Darling and it was decided to send a letter from the GNCOC to the editor of the Telegraph about his contributions to the community. M. Wirbal suggested we give members of the GNCOC an opportunity to donate money to Habitat for Humanity in his honor at the next meeting. L. Cardin will take care of these two items.

W. Furnari spoke of Ruth Morrissette's leaving Marguerite's Place and this committee. It was decided to send a letter of appreciation from the GNCOC to her. L. Cardin will write letter.

K. Nijhuis said he would research issues around the HMIS invoices and report back. He will also contact Fred Gibbs and ask him to come to the next Executive Committee meeting to help answer questions.

Next Month's Meetings:

The next Executive Committee meeting will be April 19, 2006, at 8:00 am, at Harbor Homes Inc., 45 High Street.

The GNCOC will meet April 5, 2006, 8:00 am in the Nashua City Hall Auditorium.

The EHC will meet March 30, 2006, 8:30 am at Harbor Homes Inc., 45 High Street and on April 5, 2006, 9:00 am in Room 208, Nashua City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.