

Committee on Ending Homelessness Meeting November 19, 2003

Present at the meeting were: Klaas Nijhuis, Bob Mack, Linda Jeynes, Donna Juskiewicz, Maria Brown, Eileen Brady, Alphonse Haettenschwiller, Miles Pendry, Bob Marks and Grace Hicks-Grogan.

K. Nijhuis called the meeting to order at 8:10. The minutes were reviewed; Bob Marks motioned to accept the minutes; Bob Mack seconded and the motion carried.

K. Nijhuis handed out a proposed meeting schedule through March and the committee agreed to accept the schedule as printed.

Notes from recording of meeting:

K. Nijhuis noted that the committee is operating without a project manager yet we need to complete the task. He proposed these meetings be used for the individual committees to get input/feedback from the others and share what they have done so far and also a place to check in and see if anyone needs help.

M. Pendry explained the color chart passed out to everyone, which he made up from the group exercise on the “Wheel of Responsibility” at the last meeting. He felt this should be introduced at the next CoC meeting for their input. It was decided to first e-mail a copy to everyone on this committee asking their input be added and e-mailed back to M. Pendry within twenty-four hours. He would then consolidate it and e-mail it to all the CoC members for them to peruse before their meeting in order to save time on the CoC agenda. He proposed bringing pre-printed sticky tags to make it easier and quicker to place their suggestions on the chart.

Some concerns/additions voiced at this meeting were: not all the agencies have been included – don’t want to leave anyone out, correct “Nashua City Welfare” to include all Welfare Departments, need to add a new category for “families in Crisis” (nothing in the gaps analysis indicates that there are families in need of shelter), “Bridges” should be a direct agency, Norwell Home spelled wrong, Chamber of Commerce on list because of downtown business being affected by homeless people, need to be careful of not expanding wheel too much, but any agency involved should be included, some agencies only serve women, Elderly Affairs needs to be added.

B. Marks said he is presently working on a chart for the Statistics committee and they will be meeting tomorrow to start the planning process. There are four people on this committee.

M. Brown hasn’t received any feedback from their handout on the History of Homelessness at the last meeting. It was decided to have a copy of it e-mailed to all the members of this committee today asking them to provide feedback and e-mail back to M. Brown.

The Strategic Planning report from last meeting was discussed. The goals need a little more flushing out. B. Mack took suggestions from group to integrate into his report.

The Linkages committee brought booklet from Lawrence, MA entitled “Making a Home For Yourself” which is a guide for future tenants put out by the Housing Consumer Education Center of MA. E. Brady wondered if there might be funds for Nashua to put something like this together. This kind of training for future tenants would be a great help to the many young families with children looking for housing. It would also help the landlords understand how it works.

One of the strategies of ending homelessness is to get all this information together in one resource place where people could find where to go for their particular needs. There was a discussion about a Social Services Mall. B. Mack spoke of how he would like to see the three main goals addressed in terms of which agencies do these things, and what they do listed under each of the three goals. There needs to be a clearinghouse of agencies and their services. Using the elementary school approach to help clients vs. the high school approach, i.e. sending them to one well informed place rather than several separate places. Information and referral, which has been absorbed into SNHS information bank, was working on creating a binder for use by case managers in the various agencies. Could HMIS software be used as a future resource? Each agency would have to enter their information into the HMIS program. It could also track each client’s history of previous referrals. A current database needs to be formed. If anyone could get an existing one to start with, it would be a big help.

Once a central resource has been established, a portion of each CoC meeting should be set aside for agencies to update this resource.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am. The next meeting will be December 3rd immediately following the CoC meeting in room 208, Nashua City Hall.