

GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE

Meeting Minutes

Nashua City Hall Auditorium

November 2, 2005

www.nashua-coc.org

1. Call to Order: 8:08 a.m. by Chair Klaas Nijhuis.
2. All present introduced themselves and visitors were welcomed.
3. Minutes of October 5, 2005: (handout) D. Lozeau motioned the minutes be accepted, G. Hicks-Grogan seconded and the motion carried.
4. Report of Executive Committee: K. Nijhuis reported that the Executive Committee met on October 19th. They did not work on the Guidelines. D. Lozeau presented a document describing how agencies should do leveraging letters. As they are still waiting input from BOSCOG at their meeting, it has been posted on the GNCOC website for all to use. At their next meeting they will discuss dividing up the work between new committees for carrying out the Ending Homelessness Plan. K. Nijhuis referred to a handout of a memo from Paul Newman, Manager of Urban Programs, asking Nijhuis to step down as Chair of the COC “due to the demands of other Urban Program’s responsibilities”. Discussion ensued. B. Mack stated, notwithstanding other commitments within the Division of Community Development, it seemed appropriate for a representative from Urban Programs to remain in a leadership role in the GNCOC as this seems relevant to the role of that department and stressed the importance of K. Nijhuis as an invaluable resource for the group. D. Cull asked if a letter could be written to Newman. D. Lozeau felt this would set a bad precedent for the COC. She motioned that the Executive Committee take this item up at their next meeting, B. Mack seconded the motion. More discussion followed including a sentiment that the City feels the GNCOC is not important enough to invest in. It would be different if a private agency were saying this. B. Belton-Jette suggested the Executive Committee write a letter and asking for them to reconsider. Nijhuis called for a vote on the original motion and it was carried.
5. Ending Homelessness Committee Update: B. Mack reported they are working on the Ending Homelessness Plan, looking at the Action Steps and outlining progress and time frames. Some items in the Plan have been completed ahead of schedule. They are working on three strategies, Prevention Strategy, Rapid Re-House Strategy and Wrap-around Services Strategy with a new committee suggested to work on each strategy. About ten currently are on the Ending Homelessness Committee; more are welcome. Mack reminded everyone that the Tool-Kit is on line now. The committee will meet again today at 9:00 am.
6. Project Homeless Connect: B. Mack reported that an ad hoc committee has been formed to work on this event, which is scheduled to take place on December 8th

from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Main Street Methodist Church. This event includes a lunch. A flyer has been sent to invite agencies to participate. The ad hoc committee will meet again on November 15th at the Nashua Pastoral Card Center. There will not be any press at this event, but will be written up afterward. K. Nijhuis asked Mack to e-mail the GNCOC membership about this event, inviting participation.

7. Healthcare for the Homeless Grant Update: M. Durso introduced Dr. Ed Scully from the Nashua Area Health Center. Dr. Scully reported that he is the one working on this grant and is presently trying to get a sense of the community's needs. Durso said that they are now seeing 225 homeless clients and have noticed an increase in street homeless and more people doubling up in apartments. She explained how they work with these clients. This grant was applied for twice before without success. They hope, with Dr. Scully's assistance to be successful next time.
8. HMIS Update: L. Newell reported that 21 providers statewide have been trained on HMIS already. CSCNH (the HMIS Administrator) have hired a new project coordinator. The agencies in the GNCOC that have received training are Harbor Homes, Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter and Marguerite's Place. They hope to train with Southern New Hampshire Services next. 1,038 clients have been entered into the system so far. The benefits of using HMIS include better reporting by State, COC, total homeless counts, services provided, demographic information, shelter stays, case management, accounts of types of housing and services used. It helps for scoring on the SuperNOFA. B. Mack asked that samples of reports be brought to the next GNCOC meeting. Their website is: NH-HMIS.org where L. Newell can be reached and forms can also be seen.
9. Katrina; local realities: S. Mead reported that the Community Council is now connected with Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams (DBHRT). M. Durso reported that Nashua Area Health Center has had contact with 3 people, but only 1 accessed their agency. The biggest barrier seems to be overwhelming stress for these people.
10. Continua Reports: T. Epaphras reported that the Manchester COC is in the process of reorganizing their committees and will be meeting next week. M. Auer reported that BOSCOC cancelled their meeting so there is no report.
11. Upcoming Meetings:
 - a. Executive Committee Meeting – November 16th , 8:00 am – Harbor Homes board room, 78 Main St, Nashua.
 - b. Ending Homelessness Committee – November 2nd, 9:00 am Room 208, City Hall.
 - c. Medicare D Training – November 15th, 9:00, St. Joseph (register with Bonnie Locke at 225-9694 x 229).
 - d. General Meeting GNCOC – December 7th, 8:00 am, City Hall Auditorium

- e. Homelss Wrap-around meeting, November 15th, 10:30 – 12:30 at Community Council.

12. Announcements: R. Daning explained her new organization called Mentorship Inc. Trained mentors help people who have made bad decisions. This organization is based in Concord, NH. She passed around brochures and asked to be on the agenda for next month.

D. Lozeau announced that the Big Brother/Big Sister group has a long list of boys looking for Big Brothers. She asked if there were any men interested in being a Big Brother for a least one hour a week.

K. Nijhuis passed out copies of e-mail from P. Newman offering used office supplies and fixtures that were available for pick up on November 17th at 11 Riverside Street in Nashua from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

K. Nijhuis announced the annual Dinner/Auction for the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter taking place on November 12th. Tickets are \$50.

M. Brown introduced Joi Harris, the new assistant in the Milford Welfare Dept.

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

Minutes prepared by Linda Jeynes/Urban Programs